“Meeting Seafarers’ Needs Since 1982”

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ISC Calendar

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More than two hundred volunteers and supporters turned out to enjoy the music, food, and festivities of the International Night Out (INO) Fall fundraiser for the International Seafarers’ Center. Sea Palms Resort and Conference Center was the new venue for the annual event, and drew much praise. “This is a beautiful setting and there’s so much room!” and “I hope we come here next year, too,” and “Well, I’m happy that we don’t have to pay a dam toll just to come here,” and “I love the convenience; Jekyll is just so far to drive,” and on it went with the thumbs up reviews!

A letter of thanks from Hyundai Glovis, the shipping line of the Golden Ray, was shared with recognition of and appreciation for the quick response by ISC volunteers when the ship rolled over in the St Simons Sound on September 8, 2019. Applause went up as the volunteers were praised for their selfless efforts to aid the crew. Our wonderful community donated clothing and other much needed items for the stranded survivors of the disabled car ship. ISC then distributed these donations (including the now much touted Santa Claus pajama bottoms the recipient refused to give up when offered a new pair of pajamas!) to the crew of the Golden Ray, which remains firmly stranded on its side in the sound.

Continued on page 5...
A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR...

**Vicki West**

“The Lord will fight for you, you need only to be still”

Exodus 14:14

During these last 2 months, Hurricane Dorian and the over turned Golden Ray came to our shores, chaos was not far behind....BUT GOD!!! In the midst of “chaos” there is Truth (Jesus) who says PEACE BE STILL. Dorian was due to come on shore as a fierce hurricane!! Just hours before impact, I was playing a game with a child through Alexa, called Animal game. We had played four or five times. You guess an animal and Alexa asks questions until she guesses it. The last time we told Alexa to play animal game we did not hear her voice but music started to play. The song was…..”This is How I Fight my Battles.” The song goes on to say, “It may look like I’m surrounded BUT I’m surrounded by God. That is exactly what he did!! This is how we began to worship and got assurance that all would be well. We have had worse thunderstorms than Dorian. When the Golden Ray overturned in St. Simon’s Sound, God made sure the shallows were there to park that vessel on. All lives were saved and the Port opened a few days later. That was a true miracle. There are no coincidences, only God fighting on our behalf IF we will only be still.

As we begin the Holiday Season, may we always remember the greatest Gift ever given, Jesus and His finished work on the Cross providing us Peace in our storms and an eternal home in Heaven. The ISC is a place of “peace” to so many seafaring friends visiting our centers 365 days a year. What a privilege to be here in Brunswick Georgia giving to the seafarers out of love, following the example of our heavenly Father…”For God so loved (us) He gave His one and only Son.” I am so very thankful to all of my staff, our amazing volunteers, a supportive Board of Directors and a community that knows no bounds when it comes to helping a “friend,” regardless of Race or Religious beliefs, in times of need.

Last, but surely not least, our Fall fundraiser, The International Night Out, is in the books. What an amazing night of delicious International cuisine, wine, music and dancing. The Silent Auction and Live Auctions were abundantly supplied with fabulous items. Thank you to all who came to make it such a success. Also, to Sea Palms Resort and Conference Center’s catering management and staff you met every expectation!!

To make it possible to continue our service to the seafarers, please consider a monthly donation or a one-time donation. No amount is too small. Thank you in advance.

Numbers 6:24-26: “ May the Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine on you and be gracious to you and give you peace.”

Love in Christ,

Vicki

LIVE LOCAL-REACH NATIONS
THE ISC Board and Management would like to express our heartiest thanks and gratitude to the following sponsors, donors, and volunteers who contributed to the overall success of our 19th Annual International Night Out:

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Seaboard Construction
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Jack & Jeanne-Earle McConnell
Robert & Suzanne Miller
Uli Keller & Becky Rowell
Marvin McArthur & Marcie Singletary
Patrick & Vicki Stokes
George Yarborough & Lynn Hamil

**INO 2019 COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**Chairman**
Vicki West

**Sponsorships**
Bill Dawson
Robert Graham
Matthew Henderson
Bob Miller

**Live Auction Coordinator**
Vicki West

**Silent Auction Coordinator**
Linda Haines

**Silent Auction Team Members**
Muriel Christin
Gail Cowan
Jack McConnell
Iris Shadrick
Bradley Hoyt

**Wall of Wine Coordinators**
Jack & Jeanne Earle McConnell

**Live Auctioneer**
Island Sound

**Event Volunteers**
Dan Battles
Van Black
Angus & Joan Campbell
Cherry Chambers
Muriel Christin
Gail Cowan
Lynn Hamil
Rick & Sharon Hindery
Susan Irwin
Dan & Diane Lawton
Joel Maddox
Carolyn Morgan
Bob & Wendy Reilly
Pat Riccardi
Paul & Annabelle Salter
Linda Sanders
Jo Scott
Jeff & Iris Shadrick
Greg Sorrow
Melanie Spivey
Larry Waldhauer
Molly Coleman Wilson
ISC Board and Staff

Our special thanks also go to Stan Walker and the Coastal Empire Orchestra and Ernie Elam for sharing their gift of music and to the staff and management of the Sea Palms Resort & Conference Center for their unwavering support and wonderful cooperation that made the evening memorable and most delectable.
INO 2019 SILENT AUCTION/LIVE AUCTION DONORS

Academy Sports + Outdoors
Ace Garden Center
Anne Conner
Blue Bay Mexican
Bonefish
Brogen’s South
Brunswick Actor’s Theatre
Brunswick Pilot Boat Corp.
Bubba Garcia’s
CJ’s Italian Restaurant
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Cheddar’s Scratch Kitchen
Christ Church Frederica
Coastal Islands Corvette Rentals
Coastal Kitchen
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Jack & Jeanne Earle McConnell
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Jekyll Island Boat Tours
Jekyll Island Club Hotel
Joel Maddox
King & Prince Beach Club & Golf Resort
Larry Waldhauer
Maggie Mae’s
Mallery Street Café
Marshside Grill & Bar
McGarvey’s Wee Pub Beach
Mellow Mushroom
Palm Coast Coffee
Palmer’s Village Café
Pat Stokes
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Rick and Linda Haines
Sandy Bottom Bagels
Sea Palms Resort & Conference Center
Seafarer Inn & Suites
Skippers Fish Camp
SouthEast Adventure Outfitters
Sugar Marsh Cottage Specialty Confections
Sunrise Grille
Tender Touches Pet Services
The Half Shell at the Pier
The Island Players
The Westin Hotel & Resort, Jekyll Island
Three Oaks Farm & Equestrian Services, Inc.
Tortuga Jacks
Tramici Restaurant
Turtle River Pottery by Jack McConnell
Village Inn and Pub
Weber’s Growler Factory
Willie Jewell’s Old School Bar-B-Cue
Zachry’s Seafood & Steak Restaurant

LIVE AUCTION DONORS

At Your Service, Jekyll Errand Girl
Coastal Georgia Inshore Charters
KAP Aerial Photography
Lake Blackshear Resort & Golf Club
Little St. Simons
Margaritaville Resort
Sea Island

TO OUR SILENT AUCTION SPONSORS ABOVE
THANK YOU
FOR YOUR SUPPORT
Music, provided by Stan Walker and the Coastal Empire Orchestra, along with Ernie Elaum, lifted the mood as those gathered drifted around the loaded silent auction tables looking for something they just couldn’t live without! Donated items included pampering, thrills, getaways, and food. Something for everyone, and everyone seemed to appreciate the chance to bid.

And then there was food—several banquet style tables of it, from the Mediterranean, South Pacific and North America. Predictably, the favorite was the laden desert bar feature with key lime pie, cakes, and a variety of sweets guaranteed to entice the most hesitant diner. Some of the guests appeared to be nibblers and samplers from the looks of their plates as they moved to the dining room, however they most likely slipped back for seconds as the food was almost gone when the evening drew to a close.

When the final silent auction item was collected and the highest bids paid up, more than $7,000.00 had been collected according to Executive Director, Vicki West. “Truly an amazing and overwhelming response to this fantastic event” she said. The most sought-after silent auction item turned out to be the Pilot Boat Ride which garnered the most bids, while the Live Auction bidding was even more brisk on the ½ day fishing excursion donated by Coastal In-Shore Charters. The closing bid of $410.00 was greeted with applause and cheers. “Somebody’s going to have a great time with that one!”

As the evening drew to a close, and the last notes from the live band faded, sighs of pleasure and cheerful farewells passed from room to room.

Many thanks to all the donors, volunteers, and patrons who made this year’s International Night Out another successful fundraiser and a very enjoyable evening out.

INO 2019 Photo Gallery
Jean’s wonderful tour of the RoRo ship “Victoria Highway” at Colonel’s Island, Brunswick, GA, USA
By Jean Huff

Victoria Highway is a huge ship when viewed from dockside! We, Doris Wadd, the Assistant Volunteer Coordinator, ISC Brunswick GA (my sweet sister) and I checked in and were given hard hats and reflective vests, and most important of all a Visitor Pass. We met our guide, 3rd officer Rahul Cpadhtay, who took us up to the top deck in a minuscule elevator. Wow, the view from above of the acres of new automobiles we had driven around to reach the dock looked like “Match Box” cars.

We met the Captain outside the wheel house who explained that tours were not permitted inside, but we could look through the windows, not a Sextant or Chronometer in sight. The Victoria Highway is a new ship, built in 2018 complete with the latest technology.

We visited the loading ramp, where large pieces of heavy equipment were loading. Then we saw the crew quarters area, complete with day room for relaxing, watching videos and playing games. There is a gym for workouts, and a Heavy Bag, which Officer Cpadhtay said was used A LOT. We headed to the Galley and met the Chef. I asked if I could tour the area, he was delighted to show me around, all stainless steel. I explained that I come from the hotel industry and have seen hotels that did not have kitchens of this quality. He beamed. We saw the Crew and Officers mess areas, each with port holes to give an airy feel. There is also an area for a green garden, but this has not been developed as yet, since the ship has only been sailing for six months.

We ended the tour by offering to drive the Captain and First officer to the ISC office on the other side of the dock.

CHRISTMAS-AT-SEA OFF AND RUNNING
By Vicki West

Christmas-at-Sea is a program ISC runs each Christmas season to provide each seafarer visiting the port of Brunswick a small gift to help bring some comfort to them as they ply their trade far from home and their loved ones. On Saturday September 28, 2019 the task of preparing approximately 1,500 bags and boxes ready for our seafaring friends began. A group of ten volunteers, headed up by Anna Henry, from St. Simons Presbyterian Church, came at 9:30 am and began the process of re-stuffing bags with perishable items. In 2 ½ hours they reassembled and created a little over 300 ditty bags and gift boxes. What a great start to such a Glorious Season!!

Thank you all so very much.
Peter is a South African born American resident living on St. Simons Island with his wife Mary Jane. He and Mary Jane have five daughters and a son with six grandchildren living on the Eastern seaboard of the US. Peter joined the International Seafarers Center in October 2012 as a result of a recruiting effort at Coast Fest that year. ISC has allowed him to enjoy his fascination with all things mechanical and large. Peter relishes life and wants all of us to enjoy our time with ISC.

In July 2019, Peter joined the staff. Vicki and Peter have been working together for nine years now. Peter is most often seen, and known to be, at the bottom end of a kite string throughout the Golden Isles, often chasing ships.

Bonnie was born in Arkansas but relocated to the Golden Isles at the age of five. She graduated from Glynn Academy High School and attended Coastal Georgia Community College before starting a business of her own. For 13 years she operated Tender Touches Pet Grooming. Since February 2019, Bonnie has been pursuing her God-given destiny to help the orphans in Tanzania, Africa as the sponsor coordinator for His Hands Ministries. Bonnie is sure to be of value to the International Seafarer's Center with her leadership skills and servant's heart.
In the early morning hours of Sunday, September 8th, 2019, the unbelievable happened. A fisherman on the St. Simons pier was watching the approach of the car carrier Golden Ray, when, to his horror, the vessel suddenly tilted then rolled over. All but 4 crew members were rescued quickly. The remaining 4 were rescued after another 24-36 hours of intense effort. The seafarers were all taken to Southeast Georgia Health System hospital in Brunswick. Despite their terrifying and traumatic ordeal injuries were limited to a male crewmember’s broken ankle and the only female crewmember’s two broken fingers.

After thorough examinations, the crewmembers were released from the hospital and transported to the International Seafarers’ Center Newcastle Street facility in Brunswick with nothing but the clothes they were wearing, no personal items, not even their identification. ISC personnel and volunteers provided needed necessities, clothing, hygiene items, snacks, Bibles and a safe and nurturing place for the crew to gather.

Prayers with Seafarer’s Center personnel and volunteers gave comfort while transportation was arranged for a special mass to be provided by Father Timothy McKeown at the nearby St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church. He would present mass again at the hotel to which they were later taken.

During this time, there was an overwhelming response from our local and neighboring communities. Our citizens’ hearts went out to the crew, stranded in a foreign country, without any personal possessions and fearful they would never see their missing comrades again.

Businesses and individuals offered clothing, suitcases, hygiene items, snacks, gift cards and money. Restaurants such as Grandy’s, Southern Soul, Wee Pub, Zachary’s River House, Toucans, Sunrise Grill, The Wharf, and Tortuga Jack’s provided meals. Reily’s Soles 4 Souls, a non-profit, donated shoes. The local Filipino community prepared a Filipino-style dinner.

Prayer is a powerful force. Did we witness a miracle? We most certainly did!!! Thanks be to God, and to those who helped in this crisis: the rescue personnel, community benefactors, local restaurants, businesses, the Center’s volunteers and staff, and all of the thousands who prayed. Accolades for the quick and competent response, especially the International Seafarers’ Center’s Executive Director Vicki West.
Amazon Smile

Don’t forget to select the International Seafarers' Center as your supported charity when you shop at:

www.smile.amazon.com

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!!

Have a passion for the maritime life? Enjoy learning about world cultures? Like making new friends?

Call us at 912-267-0631 to find out how you can be involved in our mission.

Volunteer or Donate, we need your support. Please call 912-267-0631 today!

Breast cancer awareness is every day. Schedule your mammogram today!

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www.seafarerscenter.org
ISC MISSION STATEMENT

The ISC mission is to provide seafarers with a safe harbor that they can call home. The ISC provides services that meet the spiritual, emotional, physical and material needs of seafarers who visit the Port of Brunswick.