

ISC Seafarers' Log

The Official Newsletter of the International Seafarers' Center

ORCHESTRATED BY GOD

Vicki West

Well..... The car donation campaign is over. Whew!!! What a “ride” this was. You know God is in the details when you just can’t make something like this up. It all started by a casual visit with a friend on St. Simon’s Island. Dean Ropp, from Cumming, GA, was visiting with a local friend and eating at Mullet Bay Restaurant, on St. Simon’s Island. At the appointed time - God’s time - one of our volunteers, Van Black, came in with a poster promoting the car raffle. As he explained to the manager, other ears were listening. Dean questioned Van a little more and decided that The International Seafarers’ Center was a worthy organization that he wanted to support. SOOOO... he donated \$30 for one entry and the rest is history.

On Friday, October 30, 2020 at 7 pm, Representative Don Hogan plucked the winning name out of the hopper... Dean Ropp. As promised, I tried to contact the winner immediately but to no avail. A voicemail was left with my cell number. Later Friday evening, the call came. Pastor Dean Ropp, a Baptist Minister, was on the other end. The elation was undeniable as I assured Dean that it was true; his one entry of \$30 had just won him a \$30,000 Hyundai Santa Fe.

On Wednesday November 4, 2020, Dean and his wife Cherie met me at the Hyundai dealership in Brunswick, GA. to “seal the deal.” As the papers were signed, the excitement was building. FINALLY.... The car was theirs. As they pulled away, I felt God wink and say, good job!!

A special thank you goes to John Bozza and Carrie Heath from Step One Automotive for all of the support shown to the International Seafarers’ Center during the raffle.



ISC Executive Director, Vicki West, with car raffle winners, Pastor Dean Ropp and his wife Cherie.

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"Meeting Seafarers' Needs Since 1982"

A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR...*Vicki West***TIME KEEPS ON SLIPPING.....**

Wow! What a true statement that has been this year. Where did it go. This year, 2020, has been a discombobulated misstep according to everything we have seen and heard. But let's take another look.

As 2020 began the ISC was sailing high and in the best shape in the eight years since I have been here. Then...COVID-19 and everything started going downhill. Thanks to my innovative staff we came up with some solutions. I am so proud of the "family" we have gathered here and their unwavering commitment to the welfare of the seafarers coming to our port. Because so many of the seafarers are not allowed off their ships, we started a concierge service for them to be able to obtain the hygiene items and the snacks that will give them comfort during these difficult days. It has gone over well with the crews and the volunteers. This has truly helped to keep our head above water. This grew to not only purchasing things in our store BUT things at Wal-Mart, Winn-Dixie etc. We have also become a delivery hub for Amazon. The crews purchase items and have them delivered here. When they come to port, we deliver the packages to the ship. Thank you, Peter, for your many selfless hours in making all this happen!!!

We have overcome the very disappointing mandates associated with the virus. Our spring golf fundraiser was canceled as well as our annual fall fundraiser, The International Night Out. Looks pretty bleak, right....BUT, NO! Innovation kicked in again and a car raffle fundraiser was born. All this is being said to inform you that we are doing well, but our deficit is still approximately \$56,000.

If you have never partnered with us, there would be no better time than right now. A one time or a monthly donation will help our two centers continue to meet the spiritual, material and emotional needs of the 11,000-15,000 precious seafarers coming into our port yearly. To donate, go to our website www.seafarerscenter.org and click on the donate tab, write a check and mail it to 307 Newcastle Street, Brunswick, GA, 31520, call and make a donation over the phone or come in and say hello and let us show you firsthand what your donation allows us to do.

Last, but certainly not the least, we are in great need of volunteers. If you have ever wondered what it would be like to go onboard one of those ginormous car ships, well ship visitors go on them every day. Have you wanted to be a missionary but just, for whatever reason, have not been able to leave the country. You are in luck! God will bring the nations (approximately 70) to you and you will never have to leave our beautiful Brunswick. Just call Peter Boyton, Director of Volunteer Services at 912-267-0631 or 912-269-9230 and he will be more than happy to introduce you to one of the most unique and rewarding volunteer opportunities ever.

God Bless you and may 2021 be a joyous and prosperous year for us all!

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Christmas Present Gratitude

Peter Boyton

Christmas-at-Sea 2020 started on 25 November 2020 with the bulk carrier, MV Sirius, over at Logistec Marine Terminal. Sirius had a crew of 17 members from two countries, 2 Greeks and 15 Filipinos. We delivered packages to the crew and they all seemed appreciative. Three days later, I took the two Greeks, the captain and chief engineer to Walmart. Nothing was said about the gifts received when I picked them up, or during our travels to and from the store. However, when I dropped them off back at their ship, the captain turned to me and said he really wanted to thank us for the Christmas presents given to him and his crew. The captain told me he has been sailing for 34 years total and has only received gifts from two ports in that whole time, us now and in Philadelphia 20 years ago - makes what we as a community do all worthwhile.

The 2020 Christmas-at-Sea event lasted over 47 days, we visited 68 different ships and gave gifts out to 1431 seafarers. The seafarers represent 23 different countries. The chart below shows the numbers from each country. Fifty-nine ships visited Colonel's Island and nine visited Logistec Marine Terminal.

Thank you very much to all of our wonderful contributors who made this happen.

Country	Logistec	CI	TOTAL
Bahamas	0	4	4
Bangladesh	0	4	4
Belarus	1	0	1
Britain	0	2	2
Bulgaria	0	59	59
Burma	0	10	10
Greece	2	2	4
Hungary	1	0	1
India	0	139	139
Italy	0	12	12
Korea	0	73	73
Montenegro	0	2	2
Myanmar	0	16	16
Pakistan	0	2	2
Philippians	77	708	785
Poland	0	2	2
Romania	0	9	9
Russia	24	39	63
Singapore	0	3	3
Sri Lanka	0	2	2
Sweden	0	8	8
Ukraine	11	103	114
USA	15	101	116



REPORT



Whose Report Will You Believe.....

As we say anything but a fond farewell to 2020, I will acknowledge that the Blessing of the Lord has been upon the International Seafarers' Center.

As the year began we were well on our way to starting up our "regular" fundraising events. Then.....COVID-19 arrived. The first event to fall was our Spring Golden Isles Maritime Community Golf Tournament. This event usually nets us a profit of approximately \$20,000. The other major event to keep us viable for the year crashed, with a thud, as Sea Palms cancelled the International Night Out, our Fall event, due to the new owners deciding to do major renovations. This event gives us a great return of about \$58,000. So we lost a whopping \$78-\$80,000 last year.

As we began to scramble, trying to figure out what to do, God laid the answer in our lap. Almost at the same time, our office administrator and myself saw a car raffle put on by a Veterans organization on Face Book. The wheels began turning. An email was sent to our anonymous donor asking for help to purchase the car. The answer came back in two days. The answer was a resounding YES!!

As we began to unravel all the laws and regulations, we wondered if we had bitten off more than we could chew. But God! Hyundai of Brunswick gave us a great deal on a 2020 vehicle and helped to advertise and promote our raffle. Everything fell into place.

In the end, we had a net profit of approximately \$27,000, short of our goal but not bad for our first attempt.

As this new year 2021 begins, please help us get back on a good solid foundation with a one time or a monthly donation. No amount is too small. To donate you can go to our website at www.seafarerscenter.org, write a check and mail it to ISC, 307 Newcastle Street, Brunswick, GA., 31520, call and donate over the phone or come in and say hi and let us show you how your donation keeps on giving.

All of us here at the International Seafarers' Center, wish you and yours a very happy and prosperous new year.

LIVE LOCAL-REACH NATIONS

Blessings,



DON PASQUALE 'Delivery Service'

Edgardo Mendoza

ISC Delivery Services

As part of our ongoing efforts to serve and be a resource for the seafarers visiting our port we now accept packages at the main office ordered by seafarers from all over the world. Seafarers order from Amazon or other vendors and have the items shipped to Newcastle ahead of their scheduled arrival. We accept the packages, then load them in our van and deliver them to the ship when it arrives in our port. This has become very popular with some ships and the crews really look forward to visiting the Port of Brunswick!

Below is a short note received from the MV Don Pasquale. Edgardo organizes the orders for the entire crew and they have filled our van on two separate occasions now. There is a palpable excitement on board when our van drives up the ramp!

Good day!

I would like to thank you for all the help you have been rendering to us since the beginning of this pandemic. It such a big help to us and we cannot pay the ISC for the joy and cheerfulness of having you with us specially during this pandemic time. Hope to come again to Brunswick in the coming years.

Have a nice and pleasant day to you all!

Truly yours,

Edgardo Mendoza



Wallenius Wilhelmsen ship the 'Don Pasquale'

GSA

GEORGIA STEVEDORE ASSOCIATION

• SHIP • THRU • GEORGIA'S • PORTS • AND • SAVE •

Christ Church, Frederica is proud to sponsor the International Seafarers' Center!

Some went down to the sea in ships, doing business on the mighty waters; they saw the deeds of the Lord, his wondrous works in the deep. For he commanded and raised the stormy wind, which lifted up the waves of the sea. Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he brought them out from their distress; he made the storm be still, and the waves of the sea were hushed. Then they were glad because they had quiet, and he brought them to their desired haven.



Psalm 107:23-25, 28-30



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**Looking Out
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means that we are making safety very personal and are accountable for creating a safe and healthy workplace for our people and our communities.

LOGISTEC VISIT US AT LOGISTEC.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!



We Are Honored to Be Recognized as a High Performing Hospital
BY U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT





We are proud to provide the best possible health care to our community. Our Brunswick Campus earned "High Performing" ratings for COPD and Heart Failure in recognition of care that was significantly better than the national average. Thank you to our team of committed and dedicated professionals who made this distinction possible!

sghs.org/high-performing



**SOUTHEAST GEORGIA
HEALTH SYSTEM**

CHRISTMAS-AT-SEA (a "group" effort)

So it begins...and ends...Christmas-at-Sea. Oh, my "goodness". And that is what sustains this program, the Goodness of God displayed through so many people in our wonderful Glynn County and, in fact, the entire State of Georgia.

As most of you, who receive our newsletter, know, between Thanksgiving and Orthodox Christmas, every seafarer that comes into our ports receives either a ditty bag or a plastic shoe box filled with all kinds of goodies. Each box contains toiletries, snacks, a hat, socks or t-shirt, games, bibles and more. Last year we gave over 1,300 boxes and bags to our seafaring friends.

Two of the groups that help us make "Christ"mas very special for the crews onboard these ships are the ladies from Blackshear Baptist and the folks from Oakey Mountain Baptist Church. This year The Blackshear ladies brought 144 filled bags and the awesome folks from Oakey Mountain brought 150 filled ditty back packs. These two groups are not local and drive great distances to make the season a happy one for all of our International friends.



Oakey Mountain Church...



Pilot Club...



Blackshear Group...

In addition to these groups, local church groups and civic organizations keep us supplied in items needed for the bags and boxes. Several ladies' groups and yes, even a men's group from a local church came and put together over 400 bags. Our amazing volunteers, in addition to doing their shift(s) of hospitality, driving and/or ship visiting, come and assist in the bagging and boxing fun. A huge THANK YOU from the bottom of our hearts to you all!



*Pam Mueller and Hugh
Jekyll Island Lions Club*



Christian Renewal Ladies...



Northside Baptist Men's Group...

What does it take to make a successful Christmas-at-Sea program, a community!!!!
Glynn County, the State of Georgia and beyond,
YOU ARE THE BEST!!!!!!!!!!



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www.seafarerscenter.org

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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.