

NONPROFITS | Good Friends

Group builds new partnership for people in need

BY CHRIS SOKOLOSKI  
COASTAL OBSERVER

A nonprofit that helps local residents in need has a new partner as it enters its third decade of service.

Good Friends of Georgetown County is teaming up with Helping Hands of Georgetown County starting in January.

"I think it's going to be really exciting," said Anne Mountford, chairman of the Good Friends board. "I think it's going to be an easy transition because Helping Hands is so organized."

Good Friends helps county residents struggling to keep up with expenses related to things like shelter, utilities, medical expenses and transportation. Helping Hands assists residents with food insecurity, utility support and dental care, while also providing job training and youth empowerment programs.

Good Friends used to get its referrals from the Department of Social Services, but DSS ended the partnership earlier this year.

"They said they really needed to concentrate on the programs that they had," Mountford said. "It was a shock that they weren't going to be able to help us any more. But at the same time it probably was really good because we could start thinking about going in a different way."

The Good Friends board considered hiring someone to process the requests.

"If we did that, that was going to take from us being able to say that 100 percent went back into the community," Mountford said.

The board also considered having members do the work. "Most of us are retired and don't want to commit to a job again," Mountford said.

The two nonprofits will continue to raise money separately and keep their funds separate. Helping Hands will research requests and provide referrals, and Good Friends will write the checks.

The first step in the new partnership is updating the Good Friends' bylaws and



Photos by Charles Swenson/Coastal Observer

Santa (Roy Seigel) and his elf (Anderson Wilson) unload a donation of toys for the sheriff's office outside the DeBordieu club. At left, Mrs. Claus (Beth Seigel) admires a baby Yoda.

lot of new people," Mountford said. "That was fun."

The Good Friends board has not made a decision on a luncheon in 2022.

"Perhaps we'll come up with something different," Mountford said.

Since its inception in 2001, Good Friends has

raised more than \$1 million, including \$213,000 last year, to help thousands of county residents.

To make a donation visit [goodfriendsofgeorgetown-county.org](http://goodfriendsofgeorgetown-county.org) or send a check to Good Friends of Georgetown County, P.O. Box 667, Pawleys Island SC 29585.

website to remove all references to DSS.

Good Friends usually hosts its largest fundraiser, an in-person luncheon in December, but the event was canceled this year and last year because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Instead of one event, supporters held small events, like cocktail parties and holiday drop-ins.

"We had a lot of people say 'I like doing it in the smaller groups because it was just cozier and you could actually talk to people,'" Mountford said. "With the large group, your friends were maybe sitting across the room from you."

Mountford recently went to Murrells Inlet to pick up checks from a fundraiser. It was the first event that she knows of held in Murrells Inlet.

"That was really nice because I got to meet a whole

INBRIEF | Waccamaw Library

**Music history** | Lloyd Kaplan, a music professor, author, and jazz musician, will explore how popular music influenced major social changes occurring during the 1920s, 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s at the Waccamaw Library next month.

"A Short Social History of U.S. 1920-1960 As Told Through Popular Songs" will take place on Tuesdays in January at 2 p.m.

The lectures are free and hosted by the Friends of the Waccamaw Library.

**Speaker series** | The Friends of the Waccamaw Library's First Thursday series returns on Jan. 6.

The lineup is:

- Jan. 6, "Global Gullah: South Carolina to Sierra Leone" with Dennzon Winley;
- Feb. 3, "All About Alice: Writing the Book on Alice Ravenel Huger Smith, Charleston Artist" with Dwight McInvaill, Caroline Palmer and Anne Tinker;
- March 3, "Corals, Tourism, and Coastal Flooding" with Phillip Dustan (livestreamed on Facebook);
- April 7, "A Poet and the Gift of Blindness" with Ann-Chadwell Humphries;
- May 5, "Romancing the Gullah: Images of Gullah Life in Popular Culture"

with Kendra Hamilton;

- June 2, "New Political Theologies and the Changing South" with Franklin Tanner Capps.

All events start at 10 a.m. and are free and open to the public.

**Classic films** | Friday afternoons at the movies return to the Waccamaw Library in January. They will be introduced by Bill Harvey, a local film buff.

The schedule for the Classic Film Series is:

- Jan. 7, "The Big Sleep" (1946);
- Jan. 14, "Duck Soup" (1933);
- Jan. 21, "The Magnificent Seven" (1960);
- Jan. 28, "The Philadelphia Story" (1940);
- Feb. 4, "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner" (1967);
- Feb. 11, "Blade Runner" (1982);
- Feb. 18, "Chariots of Fire" (1981).

Screenings take place at 2:30 p.m. and are free and open to the public.

Subscribe  
**TODAY**  
[coastalobserver.com](http://coastalobserver.com)

**WILSON & PARTNERSHIP**

**R. Trigg Wilson, Jr.**  
Market Sales Leader  
Senior Mortgage Lender  
Pawleys Island, SC 29585  
[Trigg.Wilson@wilsonandpartners.com](mailto:Trigg.Wilson@wilsonandpartners.com)  
[www.wilsonandpartners.com](http://www.wilsonandpartners.com)

**Call Me: 843.480.0864 or 843.480.0868**

**Home Mortgage**  
Equal Housing Lender  
NMLS ID: 1111111  
Equal Housing Lender

**TALES OF THE TIDE**  
A COASTAL OBSERVER SPECIAL

**Documenting the Southwestern Coast through Maps, Artwork, Photography, & Video**

**Prints by Award Winning Artist, Bruce Chastellat**

**Books, Prints, Merchandise, Framed Art**

**Online Museum Available**  
[journals.trentu.ca](http://journals.trentu.ca)

**From All of Us at  
PAWLEYS ISLAND  
LUMBER COMPANY**

**Merry Christmas  
& Happy New Year**

**May the magic of the Christmas season fill your homes with joy and peace. We wish you and your families health and prosperity in the coming year.**

**PAWLEYS ISLAND LUMBER COMPANY**

**Member - Since 1950 - 750-750-750-750**  
**Pawleys Island, SC 29585**