



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Coastal Education Center Campaign Tops \$600,000 Goal

Wrightsville Beach, N.C. -- Volunteers, staff and contractors have been at work over the past year, transforming the historic Palmgren O'Quinn house into the N.C. Coastal Federation's Coastal Education Center. Many of them were so impressed with the project that they donated funds and services. These donations were the final push that sent the Coastal Federation's capital campaign over the \$600,000 goal with \$643,715 raised.

"The support and excitement for the new center has been incredible," stated Tracy Skrabal, coastal scientist and manager for the federation's southeastern office. "Once people hear about our project, they want to be a part of it. Our members, volunteers, foundations, contractors and vendors have been so generous. It's been a fascinating effort with terrific partners - from barging the house down the Intracoastal Waterway to incorporating low-impact development features into the landscaping."

While individuals and foundations donated most of the funds, several businesses made generous gifts or gave discounts. Phil Pzostak of Pzostak Design donated architectural design services for the Center. His artistic rendering of the center was used throughout the campaign.

Coastal Stormwater Services, Inc. donated the design, labor and materials for a comprehensive stormwater plan for the new center; and the fire and safety alarm system was donated and installed by Kellers, Inc.

Led by Olivia Holding, a federation board member, the campaign began in January 2013. Since then more than 300 people, foundations and businesses have given to the campaign. Some of the major supporters include: The

Blumenthal Foundation, The Cannon Foundation, CJB Foundation, The Marion Stedman Covington Foundation, First Citizens Bank, and the Shield-Ayres Foundation.

The \$643,715 raised provided funds to move the house by barge and truck to the Wrightsville Beach Town Hall, renovate and furnish the house, landscape the center grounds and develop new programming.

"It was an ambitious goal," explains Ms. Holding. "In addition to raising the needed funds and saving an important piece of Wrightsville Beach history, the campaign put the spotlight on the federation and all that it does in the southeastern coastal region. From helping to preserve Bird Island to reducing pollution in the Lockwoods Folly watershed, the federation has been working in the area for about 30 years. Our new center will allow us to expand our programs and reach even more people at a time when it's especially important. "

The grand opening of the Coastal Education Center is scheduled for Saturday, May 3 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., and everyone is invited. For more information, visit www.nccoast.org or call 252-393-8185.

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About the North Carolina Coastal Federation:

"Working Together for a Healthy Coast"

The N.C. Coastal Federation is the state's only non-profit organization focused exclusively on protecting and restoring the coast of North Carolina through education, advocacy and habitat restoration and preservation. The federation's headquarters are at 3609 N.C 24 in Ocean between Morehead City and Swansboro and the office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The federation also operates field offices in Wilmington and Manteo. For more information call 252.393.8185 or check our website at www.nccoast.org.

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