

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Jacksonville Onslow Chamber of Commerce

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Belgrade Community Action Association Named Legend of Onslow 2019

Belgrade Community Action Association (BCAA) is located at 482 Spring Hill Rd, Maysville, NC. Their mission is to inspire and empower their community and surrounding area's health and social conditions through education, training and motivation enabling them to transcend their past and current conditions. On March 28, 1970 the citizens of the Belgrade Community established the organization, it was incorporated July 31, 1970, and received its 501c (3) status in April 1983. The purpose of the organization is to promote a better community, provide programs, and recreational activities for the youth and senior citizens. The BCAA has a rich history!

Under the leadership of Mrs. Dorothy M. Duncan, BCAA was able to secure grant funding and organize fundraisers that enabled the purchase of 3.5 acres of land, which was used to establish a recreational area in 1984 and used to construct a building to house their athletic equipment.

In 2000, under the leadership of Eldridge Paige Sr., BCAA began a strong effort to raise funds that would be directed solely to the Community Center Project. The land for that project was donated by Mr. Brack Dudley and they had the resources needed to start their long awaited dream. In October 2007, construction began for their facility, it was completed May 12, 2008, and dedicated May 16, 2008.

In July 2008, under the direction of Mr. Brennan and Ronda Williams, the summer program was implemented, and through the working partnership with Onslow County Schools, an after-school youth enrichment program was started that led to several success stories.

On February 28, 2014, BCAA held a ribbon cutting to celebrate its new technology center, made possible through efforts of the Boys and Girls Club who applied for a \$20,000 grant from the North Carolina Education Lottery. With major assistance from GTECH, BCAA received 12 computers, software,

and TVs, as well as funds for room renovations, to stand up a brand new technology center. This was a major hallmark for Belgrade, as it was the very first program of its kind in the State of North Carolina.

In 1990 funds were raised to build a 50x80-foot pavilion. The Pavilion provides a place for functions such as the Annual Gospel Festival, Family Reunions, Fun Day, Church Services and Youth activities. On May 17, 1997 the Pavilion was dedicated to the late Mrs. Dorothy M. Duncan through a ceremony organized by Ms. Gwendolyn Ellis Young and Mr. Lionell Mattocks.

On May 10, 1999 the Belgrade Community Action Association was officially recognized as a Community Health Improvement Process (CHIP) partner. The goal of CHIP was to bring concerned citizens together, forming synergistic partnerships to improve the quality of life in Onslow County. BCAA received a plaque from CHIP in recognition of their accomplishments in 2000 - 2001.

In 2009 and 2010, BCAA created a number of initiatives, to include a computer/technology lab that has been enhanced through the generous donations of Wachovia/Wells Fargo and ABA Rental Properties. They partnered with Onslow County to create the Seniors Program and formed strategic partnerships with Coastal Carolina Community College, Sylvan Learning, United Way of Onslow County and the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Onslow, further enhancing our youth and senior programs.

In 2011-2014, BCAA worked to enhance a number of important updates to their outdoor equipment, to include: improvements to the recreational facilities, new playground equipment, the addition of a raised bed garden, the construction of a patio and sitting area, and installation of a fenced-in play area.

In April of 2015, BCAA held its first Annual Appreciation Banquet honoring their partners: Onslow County Commissioners, Sylvan Learning, Boys & Girls Club, United Way & ABA Rentals (Mrs. Debbie Rouse), and more partnerships at their second Annual Appreciation Banquet in 2016 honoring partnerships with Wells Fargo, Coastal Carolina Community College, Best Buy, Onslow County Senior Services, Mr. Rodney Priester and Mrs. Martha Bynum, symbolizing continuous growth in their community. BCAA are looking forward to a rewarding future and hopefully you will fill the spot in their legacy that is reserved especially for you!