

## **Expelled Children in Hilton Head Island Rescued by Good Samaritans**

On December 30, 2019, NOC was ordered by the Oaks Apartments Board of Directors not to allow children (25 to 30 active students) residing outside the Oaks to attend NOC's after school and summer learning programs starting in January 2020.

Some of these innocent children lived in the Oaks Apartments previously and had participated in NOC's education programs. Other children are from nearby under-served neighborhoods and low-income households in HHI. The Oaks Board's action was heartless and a significant blow to the children and families affected. The Oaks Board of Directors is now controlled by a small group of investors who support short term rentals (mainly Airbnb).



NOC has operated at the Oaks for more than 10 years, supporting education programs for children, periodic health screenings for families, and workforce/community development activities. NOC has played a significant role in helping Oaks transform into a safe, stable community, with increased property values. NOC operates at no cost to the families involved in apartments that it owns and will continue to operate in one apartment for the children who live in the Oaks community.

Oaks is now transitioning toward short term rentals (including Airbnb) from a property that has previously provided affordable housing for working families and retirees living on modest incomes.

### ***The Good Samaritan: The Island Lutheran Church***

*NOC's journey to help those who are in need and vulnerable has often been aided by the actions of Good Samaritans, especially during periods marked by significant roadblocks and obstacles.*

*Within 2 weeks of the Oaks Board's decision to kick children out, as noted above, the Island Lutheran Church stepped up to provide a place for these children to continue with after school support. NOC signed a three-year contract with Island Lutheran Church, HHI, effective on January 20, 2020, to deliver its education program at their facilities. NOC started its after school program at this new location on January 21, 2020.*



### ***Our Special Thanks to the Island Lutheran Church***

***NOC, its supporters and friends, along with the children and families who participate in various programs at the Island Lutheran Church, appreciate the generosity and goodwill of the leaders, members, and friends of The Island Lutheran Church.***

***We share a common aim to reach out to others in the Hilton Head Island community, especially the children and those who are in need and vulnerable.***

