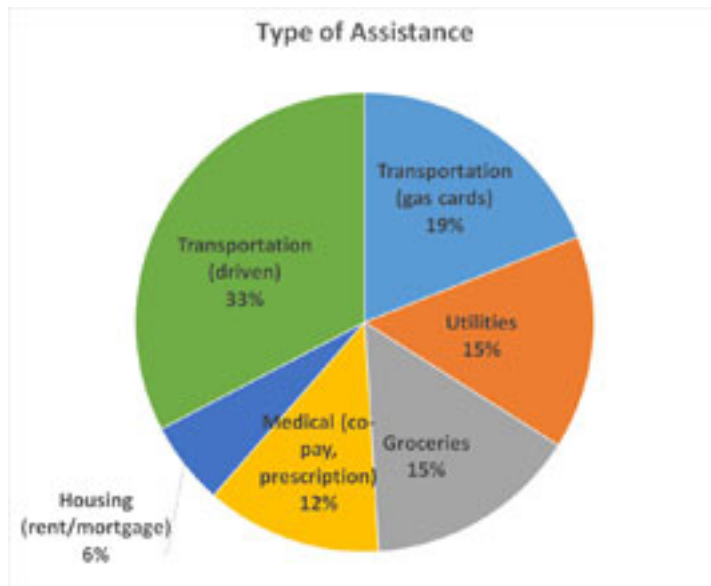




The beginnings of DragonBoat Beaufort were inspired by the documentary film "Awaken the Dragon" presented at the Beaufort International Film Festival in February 2012 which told the story of Dragon Boat Charleston's cancer survivor dragonboat racing team.

Several people quickly agreed to start a dragonboat team right here in Beaufort. With no resources and no equipment, the first practice was done sitting on chairs and paddling with brooms in Waterfront Park. All were sharing the same enthusiasm and desire to change one's focus of recovery and individual fight to a focus of common energy and love, community spirit, camaraderie and winning as a team. Just a few months later and with only a few practices under its belt, DragonBoat Beaufort competed at the Charleston Dragonboat Festival. Thanks to generous sponsorship, Dragonboat Beaufort celebrated the christening of its first dragonboat, Braveheart, in June 2012 and its second dragonboat, Dragonfly, in June 2015. DragonBoat Beaufort consists of very active and dedicated folks from all different backgrounds and ages. They all share the same passion for the sport, the desire of fighting as a team, the compassion for one another and the long lasting camaraderie. The mixed competitive team comprises many cancer survivors as well as supporters who practice three times per week. This year at the Charleston Dragonboat Festival, DragonBoat Beaufort won a gold medal for the Cancer Survivor Division and a silver medal for Division C as well as best tee shirt design. DragonBoat Beaufort will be competing at festivals in Richmond, VA, Carolina Beach, NC and Lake James, NC later this year.

What does DragonBoat Beaufort Outreach do?



Many cancer patients will agree one of the worst days of their lives was the day they were diagnosed. Emotions run heavy, as big decisions need to be made. The financial toll that a cancer diagnosis often brings can also be overwhelming. Some struggle to find transportation to treatments while others don't know how they will pay this month's bills *and* their new co-pay? This is what our friends and neighbors face right here in Beaufort County.

The DragonBoat Beaufort Race Day Festival raises funds to help cancer patients that live, work, or receive treatment in Beaufort County. This is our one and only fundraiser and the money we raise stays right here in Beaufort County, which means that our loved ones, friends and neighbors can receive your assistance.

Our all-volunteer force tries to be your good neighbor in a stressful time by assisting with the needs that insurance does not cover. In the past eighteen months DBB's Outreach Team has assisted 88 of our neighbors. Whether the need is as simple as gas to get to an appointment or help paying a mortgage, we can assist with the unforeseen expenses. We've assisted with groceries, utility bills, prescription costs, and even rides to get to treatment for those who can't drive themselves.

DragonBoat Race Day 2017

Written by Editor

Wednesday, 14 June 2017 07:11

Cancer does not discriminate by age, race, or gender. We assist patients that would never dream they would not be able to meet their basic needs but the expenses of treatment can quickly overwhelmed them. Cancer treatments can reduce your income, increase your expenses; or for many, both. Our Outreach Program works with the social workers at local hospitals to insure that we are the right organization to assist the patient. There are many charitable organizations in our area and we belong to the Community Service Organization to stay abreast of local resources.

DRAGONBOAT RACE DAY, JULY 24

7:30 AM Captain's Meeting

8:00 AM Opening Ceremony

* National Anthem by Velma Polk and Elaine Lake

* Drummer's Parade

* Dotting the Dragon's Eye

8:15 AM First Marshalling Call

8:30 AM Heat 1

10:30 AM Heat 2

12:30 PM Mid-Race Ceremonies

* Carnation Ceremony

1:30 PM Heat 3

4:00 PM Awards Ceremony

The Carnation Ceremony

The Carnation Ceremony is designed to allow time for reflection, prayer, and celebration. We remember the lives of our loved ones who have lost their battle and reflect on those who are currently in treatment and those who have survived. The Carnation Ceremony will begin with a survivor speaking words of encouragement about their cancer journey. Then Velma Polk and Elaine Lake will sing, while all participants hold a red carnations high over their heads. As we wave the carnations to the rhythm of the music, our thoughts and prayers will be felt by our loved ones. We will have tears; tears of loss, tears of joy, but mostly tears for a hopeful future free of cancer. After the ceremony each participant will have the option to keep their carnation,

throw it into the Beaufort River or return it to a member of Dragonboat Beaufort. All returned carnations will be donated to River Oaks Assisted Living in Port Royal.

The Carnation Ceremony honors our loved ones who have faced the battle with cancer. It allows us time to reflect on and celebrate the lives of our loved ones. This ceremony means something different to each participant. Everyone takes something different away from this touching and moving ceremony. Join us and have your life touched by this poignant and meaningful display of love.

Taiko Drummers



The Taiko Drummers from Charleston will be performing during Dragonboat Race Day 2017!

What is Taiko?

The rhythms of the heavy wooden Taiko drum have figured prominently in traditional roles from ancient times in Japan. On one end of the spectrum, during times of war, the Taiko's resonating pulse echoed through vast distances as both a call to battle and a tool of intimidation against the enemy. On the other end, Taiko was a component within the regional Japanese cycles of

festival life rooted in the agricultural seasons. Within these festivals known as Matsuri, its role ranged from a pulse to sustain the tempo of celebration to an astounding range of elaborate and intricate forms of drumming and dance traditions. Taiko also was a significant element within the theatrical traditions of Kabuki and Noh.

During the last, approximately, forty years, Taiko has gone far beyond its traditional role and emerged as one of the most energizing and innovative of Japanese art forms. Due to the vision and work of figures such as Oguchi Daihachi Sensei, referred to as the granddaddy of modern day Taiko, and widely renowned groups such as Kodo and others, Taiko has come into its own as an evolving, creative art form exemplifying passionate musical expression, precision, power and grace. Although contemporary Taiko known as "創作 Taiko" or "現代 Taiko" is rooted in and incorporates traditional elements of martial arts and dance, the expression and range of creativity is original and influenced by life today. Within the last two decades, hundreds of drumming groups within Japan and around the globe have formed as people are drawn by the intensity of the discipline and the unique camaraderie within a drumming group.

Taiko Charleston seeks to foster a diverse community of performers dedicated to physical, musical and creative excellence through the discipline of Taiko. We strive to honor the Japanese culture in which it is grounded and to connect and inspire across cultural lines through the power of this unique and vibrant art form.

DRAGONBOAT RACE DAY 2017 TEAMS

Beaufort Believers - Lady's Island

This is our first year as a team!! We are a group composed of YMCA Kick Boxers, Pleasant

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