making a difference

Submitted by Tom Shaw.





their whole operation, and I feel like less fortunate children are some of the most helpless people in the world. They're just kids! They deserve all the help they can get.

T. SHAW DESIGNS AND NOURISH NC

Partner to Feed New Hanover Students

We had the honor of sitting down with Tom Shaw, a long-time Wilmington musician, graphic designer, and Porters Neck resident, to discuss his partnership with Wahoo Screen Graphix to print a limited run of ILM tanks. Partnering with Nourish NC, there was only one mission in mind -- with the upcoming school year, Tom wanted to help feed as many New Hanover kids as possible.

Tom, tell us a little bit about the amazing act of service that you did and what cause you did this for:

I originally designed the ILM logo while evacuated from Wilmington during Hurricane Florence. I was stuck in a house without internet in the woods of Charlottesville, Virginia, and we were watching Wilmington get pummeled by the hurricane on the news. After the storm, we did a run of long sleeve t-shirts with the logo and ended up generating \$3,000 for local charities (Nourish NC, Vigilant Hope, and Good Shepherd Center). So I had the logo on-hand, and I knew I wanted to use it again in some sort of charitable form, but I wasn't sure exactly what for...

What inspired you to do this?

Well, I knew that I wanted to use this logo again for a charitable purpose, but I wasn't sure exactly what.

One hot July day, it just clicked -- tank tops! I knew back-to-school season was coming up, so I reached out to Steve McCrossan at Nourish NC to see if he'd be interested in the fundraiser, so we could make sure that they were fully stocked to send the less fortunate kids of Wilmington back to school with full bellies. He was on board, so we made it happen in a matter of a couple of weeks!

Why did you specifically choose to partner with Nourish NC?

After the Hurricane Florence fundraiser, I stopped by their facility to drop off a check, and Steve gave me a tour. I was thoroughly impressed by

Tell us about the outcome!

It started off kind of slow -- I think in the first week of the fundraiser, we sold around 25 tank tops. I had set a goal in my head of selling 100, but I wasn't sure if it would actually happen. Then, Port City Daily ran an article on it, and within about 30 minutes of the article going live, my phone started lighting up with orders. When I woke up the following morning, we had surpassed the 100 tanks goal!

That article led to Spectrum News picking up the story, and they came and interviewed me in my studio. I didn't see it, but apparently I was on the news statewide for a solid 24 hours. I had to turn notifications off on my phone for the last couple of days because I was getting an order every couple of minutes.

In the end, we sold 294 tank tops, and a very generous donor from Indiana named Mike Bauer (who, as far as I know, has never even visited Wilmington) matched each shirt sold with three additional meals and snacks, bringing the grand total to 2,352 meals and 2,352 snacks donated to local children. Amazing! We couldn't have done this without your support -- thank you!