



# "What's Your Why?"

## What our members are saying.

Having been a member of the Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce since 1983 I have seen first-hand the impact the organization has on my business and the community; it is truly the cornerstone of our local business community. Investment in the Chamber is never a question for me, I am very passionate about the work and mission of the Chamber.

The Chamber supports business by advocating on their behalf and supporting them through good times and challenging times. The opportunities for business and personal growth, the connection to the business community, and the information provided by the Chamber are all reasons for my "why". Our Chamber is a strong representation of our local economy; it is a passionate and empathetic organization that puts the needs of the community, the businesses, and the people in the forefront of all they do.

### **Myra Ladd-Bone, Atlantic Realty**

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Originally, I joined the chamber because of what "my business" would gain from it - marketing, prospects, etc. However, I've learned so much more about all that the Chamber does, how it works hard for the members and their businesses and the community for legislative matters and economic development. I honestly had no idea all the chamber did! My "why" now - to be a supportive member, continue to learn what our chamber does, build relationships with other members and our community.

### **Laura Glatz, WFG Associate**

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Often people ask me WHY join the Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce? As a long-time resident of the Outer Banks, a 30-year employee of Kellogg Supply and a Chamber board member, here is my why ... The Chamber is a

**C**ommunity of  
**H**elpers  
**A**dvocating &  
**M**arketing for  
**B**usinesses through  
**E**xperiences &  
**R**elationships

Hope you will be a part of the Chamber community!

### **Amy Smith, Kellogg Supply/The Cottage Shop**

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Community is part of our name because it's at the heart of who we are. We are a member of the Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce to be connected to our neighbors in need, to our local business partners and to our generous donors. Just as lighthouses protect our shores, our bridges connect our communities. ICO bridges the gap, so no one faces an emergency crisis alone.

**Jennifer Albanese, Executive Director - Interfaith Community Outreach**

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The Outer Banks has such a unique culture where fishing and tourism collide. The Leadership OBX course allows local professionals to gain passion and knowledge to start collaborations to address the challenges that living on a sandbar presents while maintaining the uniqueness of the Outer Banks. I am so thankful for the individuals that were in my class and the individuals who took the time to share their thoughts, challenges, and experiences with us to show us the larger picture.

**Taylor McConnell, Volunteer Coordinator - NC Aquarium on Roanoke Island**

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Belonging to the Chamber of Commerce helped jumpstart my business success after relocating to the Outer Banks several years ago. As a sales professional, I rely on building relationships and networking with other professionals. The Chamber is that pipeline that always leads to meaningful relationships and keeps me in the know. Being a member of the Chamber allows me to continue to grow and learn more about the community through many different avenues such as programs and special events as well as email blasts. It keeps me connected to us.

**Amanda Cochran, Director of Sales - Comfort Inn**

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I am a proud supporter of the Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce. The growth of our area has been greatly fueled by small businesses, and the chamber's mission is to assist and empower these enterprises. By providing excellent opportunities for collaboration, the chamber allows us to work closely with business leaders from various sectors of our local economy.

**Chris Sawin, Outer Banks Community Foundation**

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I invest in my local Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce because being a member brings value to my business and community. Being involved with the Chamber of Commerce has grown my network immensely - allowing me to connect with community members, business owners and other professionals in my industry. One of the most meaningful events the Chamber of Commerce hosts are the Business Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies which bring together new and existing businesses on the Outer Banks to celebrate and honor milestones such as opening day, anniversaries or expansions. Being a member of the Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce connects me to my community from Hatteras all the way to Corolla and beyond the beach!

**Laurel Anne Hart, AVP/Branch Manager - First Bank**

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Dare County offers an exceptional environment for both living and working. Prior to KEES Vacations becoming a member of the Chamber of Commerce, we were relatively new to the area. However, since joining, we have experienced tremendous benefits by connecting with like-minded professionals in our industry and building valuable relationships throughout the community. This opportunity to network and establish our presence in Dare County has significantly contributed to the success of our business. Additionally, the Chamber's enjoyable events provide a platform to reunite with friends and associates in the vacation rental business, making it an all-around enriching experience.

**Denise Schnabel, KEES Vacations**

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