



BMS Newsletter

January 2026

## Fins and Feathers Update

Our 4th annual Fins and Feathers was an amazing success. The Crystal Coast Civic Center was a great venue to showcase the entertainment of Michael Schott and our incredible keynote speaker, Dr. Pat McLaughlin.

The Friendly Market provided a delicious menu and the fellowship was priceless. Thank you to our sponsors, donors, and attendees. We raised well over \$40,000 from the event and look forward to seeing the new scholarship applications for 2026.

Thank you all for your continued support and please join us in patronizing our incredible sponsors and donors.

*It was truly an honor to support such an important cause. Seeing the community serve one another in love is what life is all about.*

*Johnathon Brooks*

*Buddy's cousin and MC for Fins and Feathers*

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# Thank you!!

Dear Friends and Supporters,

On behalf of the BMS Board of Directors, thank you for your continued commitment to our mission. Because of supporters like you, we have been able to award \$150,000 in scholarships over the past four years to the children of Carteret County's first responders. This impact is extraordinary, and we are deeply grateful.

There are countless individuals and organizations who contributed to the success of our recent event. Though it would be impossible to thank everyone by name, please know that every presenter, performer, volunteer, sponsor, and attendee played an essential role. From setting up to breaking down—and everything in between—your dedication made this event not only possible, but meaningful.

Your generosity has changed lives. Students now have opportunities they might not otherwise have had, and their dreams are being realized because of your support. For that, we extend our heartfelt appreciation.

Thank you again for standing with us. We look forward to continuing this important work together.

With sincere gratitude,

Gary McKeel  
Chair, Board of Directors  
BMS

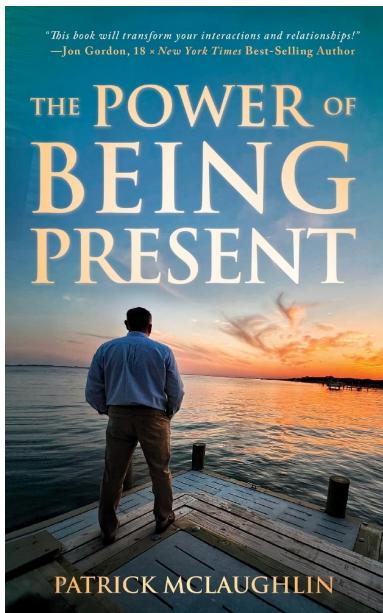


**The 2026 Scholarship is live.**

**Please visit  
[www.buddymckeelscholarship.org](http://www.buddymckeelscholarship.org)  
for further details and to see photos  
of past recipients.**

## Dr. Patrick McLaughlin

We are so blessed to call Dr. Pat McLaughlin a supporter of BMS and a friend. If you were unable to join us at Fins and Feathers, please visit our Facebook page to see his incredible keynote!



Dr. Pat McLaughlin has written a book called The Power of Being Present. Click on this link for more information: [https://www.amazon.com/Power-Being-Present-Patrick-McLaughlin-ebook/dp/B0FTQ288TX?ref=ast\\_author\\_mp](https://www.amazon.com/Power-Being-Present-Patrick-McLaughlin-ebook/dp/B0FTQ288TX?ref=ast_author_mp)

*The success of our Fins and Feathers fundraiser is a true testament to the generosity of our community. Because of this incredible support, we're able to create meaningful opportunities for the children of first responders, helping them pursue their dreams and build a bright future as well as honoring their families' service and strengthening the future of our community.*

Sandra Silman, BMS Board Member

## Michael Schott Music

*It was an honor to do a little something for all of the first responders who keep us all safe. Michael Schott*

For more information about Michael Schott music, visit his website: <https://michaelschottmusic.com/>

Thank you Michael and your band! You were incredible entertainment and we can't thank you enough! BMS Board of Directors



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Terri Vincent*



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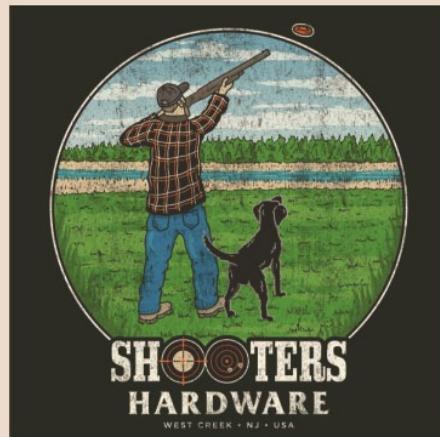
## Fins and Feathers Sponsors Continued

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# Fins and Feathers Donors



# Fins and Feathers Donors Continued

