

## Letter from the President



### In this Edition

Letter from the President

Mary's Story

Back to School

Food Drives

Those Helped

How You Can Help

Let Me Help

### **Welcome to Bluffton Self Help's first newsletter!**

We have never had a newsletter. But we are finding that we have many people living in the Bluffton area who either have never heard of Bluffton Self Help or know very little about it. So three or four times a year, we'd like to send out this newsletter to make people aware of our clients, their needs and how we (and you) can help them.

Founded in 1987 by Ms. Ida Martin, we help people in the Bluffton area who are in need of short term, documented financial assistance. This may be help with their rent, utilities, etc. Clients can only receive help once a year. They must provide proof of employment, a rental history, statement of income and be interviewed by a staff member (one of our volunteers). As you can imagine, requests have increased in today's economy.

We also provide food and clothing to people, help seniors with home repairs, and work with school social workers to identify students who need assistance.

How do we do all this? A large number of organizations have held fundraisers for charities and give us either all or a portion of the proceeds. We have a number of churches, organizations and even businesses that have held food drives to help stock our pantry (which is getting very bare in these summer months). And many individuals donate money, clothing and food to help out.

Almost 92% of everything donated goes to those who need it. We can do this as over 30 staff members give their time throughout the week to help with giving out food, sorting clothing, stocking the pantry and

interviewing clients. Without these staff members, we could not do all that we do. Right now we could use a few more staff members, especially on Wednesdays and Fridays.

We hope you'll take some time to read our newsletter and see who we're helping. And we also hope that as a result, you will want to become a part of our family, either by becoming a staff member, bringing food or clothing, or donating money so that we can continue to serve the many clients we have.

**Linda Kaufman  
Bluffton Self Help  
Board President**



## Mary's Story

All of us know someone who has cancer. Get diagnosed, go through the surgery, come home to recoup and go back and forth for treatments. Many people have good insurance and a family to help them through these times. What happens when you're alone on a fixed income and have Medicare?

Mary was such a person and she turned to Bluffton Self Help.

Bluffton Self Help aided Mary in several ways. While she was in for surgery, Bluffton Self Help paid her rent. Before she could come home a wheelchair ramp needed to be installed in the house. So we contacted Mary's church, who arranged for their members to build the ramp before Mary came home from the hospital.

In another part of this newsletter, there are statistics on how many people we've helped with rent or utilities. But behind each of these is a story like Mary's – not just a statistic.

## Back to School

Assisting students going back to school with the necessary school supplies such as back packs, pencils, and paper is one way Bluffton Self Help stays involved in the community. Our executive director, Jenny Haney, works with local school social workers to determine how many kids need help and what they need.

This year, Bluffton Self Help will be helping out 60 kids at 3 schools in the Bluffton area. That's 5 kids from each grade. Many of you have shopped for your kids and remember the trips for clothes, shoes and of course, school supplies.

### **HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO SHOP FOR THESE ITEMS?**

- |                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 60 Back Packs                  | 155 Assorted Highlighters              |
| 225 Composition Books          | 245 Packages of #2 Pencils             |
| 160 Packages of Notebook Paper | 40 Packages of Pens (Red, Black, Blue) |
| 425 Pocket Folders             | 120 Boxes of Crayons                   |
| 90 3-Ring Binders              | 60 Pair of Scissors                    |
| 105 Divider Packages           | 60 Packs of Index Cards                |
| 155 Glue Sticks                | 40 Rulers                              |

As you can see Bluffton Self Help is not only about food, clothing, and rental assistance – we are here to help our kids, too!

In our next newsletter, we'll share how Bluffton Self Help assisted many families at Thanksgiving and Christmas and how YOU can help.



## Groups Holding Food Drives YTD June 2009

- ♥ All Saints Episcopal Church
- ♥ Congregation Beth Yam
- ♥ Curves for Women
- ♥ First Presbyterian Church of Hilton Head
- ♥ Gap Stores
- ♥ Hampton Hall Mens & Ladies Golf Societies
- ♥ J.B.'s 12<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party
- ♥ Lord of Life Church
- ♥ Low Country Community Church
- ♥ Old Navy
- ♥ Oldfield, Hampton Hall and Berkeley Hall Communities
- ♥ Pringle Family Reunion
- ♥ Resort Appliances
- ♥ Sew What Club of Sun City
- ♥ Shalom Club of Sun City
- ♥ Temple Oseh Shalom



Pictured are Jenny Haney, Bluffton Self Help Executive Director, and John Brooks "J.B." Aimar. J.B. celebrated his 12<sup>th</sup> birthday on June 6, 2009. He wanted to help the community so his guests were asked to bring a can of food instead of the traditional birthday gifts. We hope his generosity becomes contagious!



## Those Helped by Bluffton Self Help in 2009

<b>SUBSIDIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF CLIENTS</b>
RENT	100
ELECTRICITY	131
Gas	3
Water	19
Children's Programs	46
Medications	2
Miscellaneous	17
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>318</b>
<b>FOOD</b>	
Canned Goods to supplement Second Helping	14,369
People Receiving Clothing	5,704
People Receiving Food	4,352
Second Helping Deliveries*	78

*\*Second Helping collects food from supermarkets and restaurants and distributes to various food pantries.*



*Pictured is one of the many Bluffton Self Help Volunteers stocking the food pantry shelves*



**Bluffton Self Help, Inc.**

**Mailing Address:**

P. O. Box 2420,  
Bluffton, SC 29910

**Street Address:**

1264 May River Road  
Bluffton, SC 29910

**Phone:**

843-757-8000

**Fax:**

843-757-6600

**E-mail:**

[blfselfhelp@hargray.com](mailto:blfselfhelp@hargray.com)

**Website:**

[www.blufftonselfhelp.org](http://www.blufftonselfhelp.org)

## How You Can Help

### HELP WITH FOOD & CLOTHING

Everyone is encouraged to donate non-perishable food items as well as clean, seasonal clothing, clean linens, working small appliances and home furnishings.

### HELP WITH YOUR TIME

If you're interested in being a volunteer at Bluffton Self Help, please call 843-757-8000 or e-mail us at

[blfselfhelp@hargray.com](mailto:blfselfhelp@hargray.com)

### HELP WITH CONTRIBUTIONS

If you would like to help us help others, please complete the form below and mail to:

Bluffton Self Help  
P.O. Box 2420  
Bluffton, SC 29910

**LIVE UNITED** 

Bluffton Self Help, Inc. is a United Way agency



Pictured are the players from the Ultimate Frisbee Tournament held April 4, 2009.  
To enter, players brought a can of food to Bluffton Self Help.



(  ) Enclosed is my contribution\* of \_\_\_\_\_ to help Bluffton Self Help continue to help others.

**Donate \$150 or more and receive one of our signature red chef's aprons. Matching Corporate Gifts are greatly appreciated.**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **ST** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Bluffton Self Help, Inc is a 501 © (3) non-profit authorized charitable organization. Financial and in-kind donations are tax-deductible under IRS regulations.**

