

BLUFFTON SELF HELP

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



The Path Forward





Beyond grateful

DEAR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS,

We write this letter with hearts full of gratitude for the overwhelming support our community has shown for the work of Bluffton Self Help this past year. In fact, we are beyond grateful.

Your support has not only allowed us to continue the work started by our founder, Mrs. Ida Martin, more than 35 years ago, it has allowed us to position our organization to meet the needs of many more people in many more places well into the foreseeable future. We call it our Path Forward.

After a generous donor funded a comprehensive needs assessment project for us in 2020, we took to heart the recommendations from The Riley Center for Livable Communities at the College of Charleston, and set our five-year plan in motion. Armed with disturbing statistics about the number of families in Beaufort and Jasper County who were surviving on less than a livable wage, we began the work of expanding our programs, service locations and partnerships in order to create communities where everyone has equal access to essential tools and resources to support their journey towards personal success.

With more neighbors economically at risk than financially secure, Bluffton Self Help is stepping up and stepping in to advocate for, support and guide Lowcountry residents on their journey toward self-sufficiency. We know by taking a holistic approach we can ensure that all our neighbors can thrive in their family, workplace, and community.

As we reflect on this past year, we are first and foremost gratified by the many lives that were positively impacted by the services we provided. Please look through the pages that follow for the numbers and stories that express this work better than we can in a few sentences.

Much of our impact came as a result of our merger with The Literacy Center. This first, and largest step to date, in our Path Forward plan has exceeded all of our expectations, and continues to provide new opportunities for increasing services and improving lives. We truly are stronger together.

Finally, we are thankful for the hundreds of volunteers and donors who make our work possible. We are thankful to live and work in this generous and caring community. With your help, we will continue to lead in providing community advocacy, research and solutions by expanding our reach and our services to tackle the interconnected issues of poverty, education, transportation, and housing. Thank you for making this all possible.

Sincerely,

Doug Adamson, Chairman

Kimberly Hall, Chief Executive Officer





THE PATH FORWARD



2020 **Strategic Plan | Path Forward**

Bluffton Self Help's Board of Directors and Executive Team embarked on a five year strategic plan. Working to identify the needs in the community, Bluffton Self Help began to pivot beyond basic needs to work to address and solve the root causes of poverty in our community.



2020 **Riley Center Research | Community Needs Assessment**

To understand the community, Bluffton Self Help partnered with The Riley Center for Livable Communities to gather research on service gaps, growth trends and needs in our area. The outcome was clear. Someone must take a leadership role in our community because more families are economically at risk than are economically secure.



March 2021 **Bluffton Self Help opens location in Hardeeville**

Bluffton Self Help expanded its Education & Training programs to residents of Hardeeville. Bluffton Self Help, in partnership with the City of Hardeeville and Hardeeville Library, joined efforts to break down barriers related to self-sufficiency while providing opportunities for success for residents within Hardeeville and those in need throughout Jasper County.



June 2021 **Bluffton Self Help merges with The Literacy Center**

Building upon more than eight decades of combined experience, Bluffton Self Help and The Literacy Center merged in a joint effort to dramatically expand the availability of basic education and training programs in order to meet the growing needs of the economically at-risk in Beaufort and Jasper counties.



2022 **Rebranding | New look, new journey**

To better represent our service offerings, service areas and new vision, Bluffton Self Help unveiled a new look, while still paying homage to our history.

MISSION & VISION

The Crisis

With more neighbors economically at risk than financially secure, Bluffton Self Help is stepping in to advocate, support and guide Lowcountry residents on their journey towards self-sufficiency. We can and must do more.

Our Vision

Communities where everyone has equal access to essential tools and resources to support their journey towards personal success.

Our Mission

We empower and advocate for Lowcountry neighbors to improve their lives through education and training, basic needs and guided access to a network of community resources.





2021 AT A GLANCE

1,816 neighbors received **345,330 meals** enabling them to stretch their budget and have better nutrition and nourishment through access to healthy, fresh food.

10 Bluffton schools received **8,240 teacher supplies** to help ensure teachers have the tools to provide exceptional education to students.



Joy was brought to **1,278 children** in four counties with the distribution of 13,400 toys during the Christmas season.



19,108 school snacks were donated to all **10 Bluffton-area schools** to help children stay nourished throughout the school day and focused on education not hunger.

314 Lowcountry residents attended **English as a Second Language** and **GED** classes to improve literacy skills and empower them to improve their lives.



270 families received **Emergency Financial Assistance** to avoid loss of utilities and prevent the threat of homelessness.

768 neighbors shopped for **12,477 articles of gently used work wear**, school uniforms and children's clothing to build confidence.



859 households received **48,000 pounds of free fresh produce** through Community Fresh Xpress events.

2,685 visits to our Learning & Literacy Centers helped to provide education opportunities and create a pathway to personal success.

More than **350 families** received **groceries** to prepare special holiday meals to gather around the table for Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas.



OUR PROGRAMS

Everyone deserves the opportunity to thrive.

BASIC NEEDS

Bluffton Self Help's basic needs programs are often the first step on one's path to success, helping neighbors stretch their budget and meet their most basic and critical needs. Through The Market neighbors have weekly access to fresh, healthy food, clothing, diapers, hygiene items and emergency financial assistance, stabilizing families as they work toward self-sufficiency.

Throughout the year, we collaborate with community partners, local schools and individuals to provide various programs that provide nutrition and a safety net to all lowcountry neighbors on their path to success.

- Wellness Food Program
- Fresh Xpress Program
- Education Supplies
- School Snack Program
- Emergency Financial Assistance
- Clothing
- Holiday Food Program
- Christmas Toy Shop

RESOURCE COORDINATION

Through The Resource Hub, our Client Advocates work one-on-one with neighbors to establish and achieve long-term goals, connecting them with resources, accessing our full array of programs, educating them and empowering them to build a better life. If we do not provide the services neighbors need to succeed, our Client Advocates will connect them with the appropriate supportive community resources.





OUR PROGRAMS

Moving forward through education.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

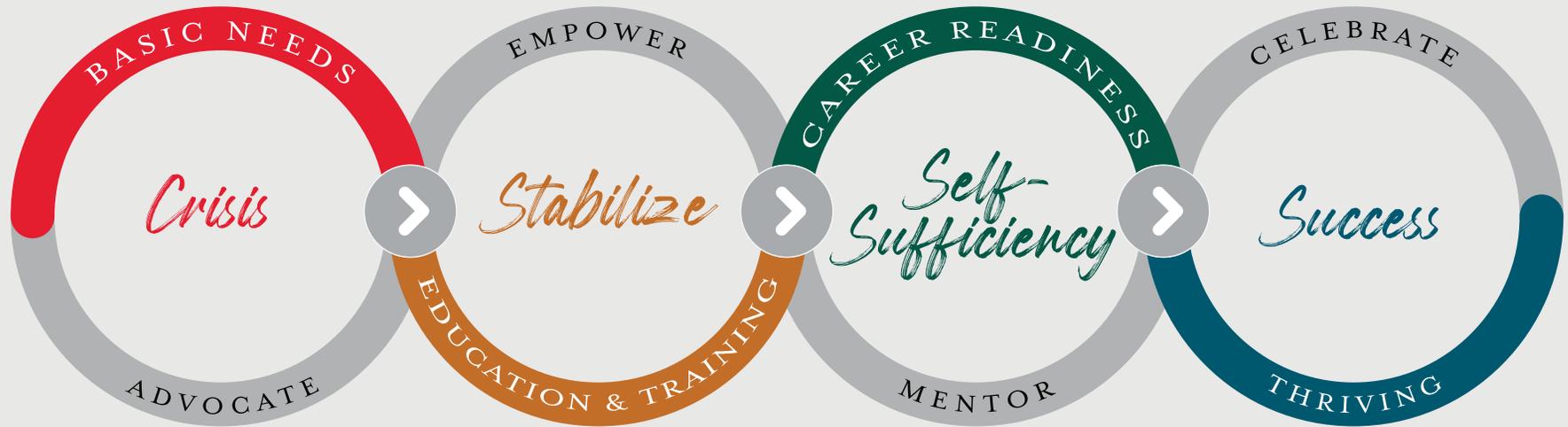
Our education and training programs help adults acquire the basic skills they need – reading, writing, math, English language proficiency, and problem-solving – to be productive workers, family members, and citizens. At Bluffton Self Help’s four Learning & Literacy Centers, neighbors attend adult education classes, workshops and trainings, and have access to computers and internet to navigate career resources and connect with local employers. Our neighbors get the support they need to reach their individual goals on their path to success.

- Adult Basic Education Classes
- GED Preparation Classes, Tutoring & Testing
- English as a Second Language Classes
- Workshops, Tutoring & Certificate Programs
- Open, Guided Computer Labs
- American Civics in Preparation for U.S. Citizenship
- Scholarships for Higher Education

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

We empower, mentor, and advocate for individuals and families to improve their lives and livelihoods providing one-on-one support to set and achieve individual goals. Through our career development programs we help train and educate the lowcountry workforce.

- Apply for Jobs & Connect with Local Employers
- Resume Building & Interview Skills
- Soft Skill Certificate Programs
- Career Planning
- Goal Development
- Guidance for Employment Transitions
- Mentorship



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- BASIC NEEDS
 - Food
 - Clothing
 - Hygiene
 - Financial Assistance

-
- EDUCATION & TRAINING
 - Adult Basic Literacy
 - GED Classes
 - ESL Classes
 - Workshops
 - Computer Labs
 - Resource Coordination

-
- CAREER READINESS
 - Mentorship
 - Career Planning
 - SMART Goals
 - Resume Building
 - Soft Skill Certificates

-
- THRIVING
 - Home
 - Workplace
 - Community

PATHWAYS TO PERSONAL SUCCESS.

“Two years ago, Bluffton Self Help began the work to better understand the challenges our neighbors and community experience. After an extensive community needs assessment, we now know our community is in crisis. A different response was called for to truly make a long-term, sustainable impact.

We meet our neighbors where they are – assist in stabilizing, provide education and training, workforce readiness and goal setting so our neighbors can meet THEIR goals. We encourage, mentor, and advocate along the way. Through a holistic and hands-on approach, Bluffton Self Help is bringing neighbors from crisis to self-sufficiency, to thrive in their home, workplace and community.” – Kimberly Hall, Chief Executive Director



EMPOWERING NEIGHBORS

Growing up, the experiences Liam's family had with poverty impacted the way he saw himself and his circumstances. For Liam, poverty kept him food insecure and distracted with the stress of just trying to make ends meet.

“I realize now there weren't a lot of people telling me that I could succeed in life when I was younger,” Liam shares. “No one was telling me that being poor didn't mean that I was hopeless, or that other resources mattered too. Earning an education and skills in the kitchen have become valuable resources in reaching my goals.”

Liam first walked through the doors at Bluffton Self Help in need of financial assistance to keep the utilities on. He worked with our Center Manager to see how he could not only get caught up on bills but find ways to improve his financial situation. Liam had a passion for cooking and had dropped out of high school to begin working at a young age to help support his family. He enrolled in Bluffton Self Help's GED Preparation Classes where tutors and teachers met with him weekly. His grand desire is to enroll in The Technical College of the Lowcountry's new culinary program. Together, with the Bluffton Self Help team, Liam put together his goals, a monthly budget, a resume and began working to find a job that would help him reach those goals. Less than two weeks later, Liam received a job offer pursuing his passion for cooking as a kitchen manager at a local restaurant making a livable wage that fits his budget. Liam is ready to take his GED test this Spring and is confident he will pass with flying colors. ***“Bluffton Self Help gave me the hope I needed to believe in myself and pursue my dreams. The encouragement from the team and confidence I have now tells me I know I can do it. I can't wait to continue my education and now I'm finally getting ahead.”*** said Liam.





RED APRON ALLIANCE

We can't do it alone.

Red Apron Alliance

The Red Apron Alliance is a network of local organizations and businesses working together to create communities of opportunities.

By strengthening and formalizing our network of partnering agencies, area leaders, donors, and volunteers, we are helping to build a stronger community to provide a solid foundation of high-quality services fostering good health, personal development, job placement, financial stability, and career advancement.

Red Apron Supporters

Bluffton Self Help is here for our community because of our community. Without individuals, organizations and businesses that raise money, fund grants and give generously, Bluffton Self Help would not exist to support our neighbors in need.

Red Apron Volunteers

We rely on volunteers for every aspect of our mission. Some volunteers work the front lines and interact with our neighbors, others are behind the scenes supporting administration. But they all have the heart to transform lives and build a better community for all.

All of our partners are recognized on our website at blufftonselfhelp.org/red-apron-alliance/



177 volunteers donated **12,976** hours of their time in 2021

2020 VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Volunteer of the Year | Gary Peragallo

Volunteer Spotlight Award | Ginny Cassidy

2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Doug Adamson | Chair
Joel Taylor | Vice Chair
Mike Ventling | Treasurer
Veronica Williams | Secretary
Ashley Feaster | Immediate Past Chair

Directors

Don Brashears
James Cuff
Karen Edwards
Fred Hamilton

Monie Hardwick
Constance Martin-Witter
Neil Parsons
Judith Panu

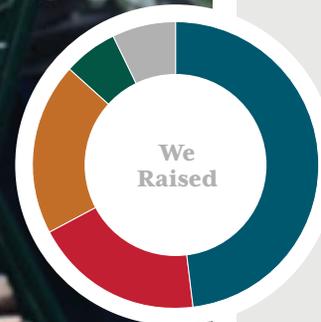
Linda Peterson
Ben Robinson
Charlie Russ
Allan Schoenberger



FINANCIALS

Because of the hard work and generosity of so many, 2021 was our most impactful year yet. We were able to empower more, educate more and change more lives than ever before.

Your support is powerful.



We Raised

- Individuals | **\$1,156,028**
- Events | **\$463,295**
- Grants | **\$463,295**
- Businesses & Congregations | **\$149,150**
- Other & Misc | **\$171,164**



We Invested

- Fundraising | **\$211,145**
- Programs | **\$1,883,424**
- Administration | **\$151,542**



We Repurposed

- Clothing | **\$69,334**
- Food | **\$687,896**



Connect with us.

GET INVOLVED | Now is the time to invest in our community. Please visit our website to learn how you can help our neighbors be successful in the home, workplace and community.

WWW.BLUFFTONSELFHELP.ORG

Mailing Address | **PO Box 2420 Bluffton, SC 29910**
Phone | **843-757-8000**

BLUFFTON SELF HELP HEADQUARTERS, THE RESOURCE HUB & THE MARKET

39 Sheridan Park Circle, Suite #10 | Bluffton, SC 29910 | 843-757-8000

LITERACY & LEARNING CENTERS

39 Sheridan Park Circle Suite #9 | **Bluffton**, SC 29910

30 Main St | **Hardeeville**, SC 29927

1 Kitties Landing Rd #B | **Bluffton**, SC 29910

4 Oak Park Drive | **Hilton Head Island**, SC 29926

