



OUR IMPACT | **2024 ANNUAL REPORT**



Together. Progress

DEAR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS,

In 2024, Bluffton Self Help continued to meet our neighbors where they were and with your help, we were able to make a profound impact on our community. This past year we served 2,177 unique households, a 19% increase over 2023. Your investment in our programming allows us to pave the way for our neighbors to secure a job paying a livable wage, earn their GED, gain valuable life skills, ensure they have food on the table, and manage their monthly budget.

While we appreciate the trust our neighbors place in us and are grateful that more neighbors are aware of our services and asking for help, this increase highlights the raw reality that many in our community continue to struggle to make ends meet. We know that when someone comes through our doors there are often several obstacles they face requiring a holistic approach to ensure success for each neighbors' unique and personal circumstances.

Education plays a key role in the success of an entire family. Last year, we celebrated 10 students who earned their GED, thereby increasing their earning potential by \$8,000 annually. We also cheered on 10 students, who put in the hard work to reach their goal of becoming U.S. Citizens. Gaining your GED and becoming a U.S. Citizen require multi-year commitments to complete. These students made a huge investment, and we couldn't be more proud.

We have been committed to layering our services to ensure our neighbors have a clear path forward. One hundred families received a hand-up through Emergency Financial Assistance, in addition to the 13 students we awarded education scholarships. We were thrilled to

celebrate the 55% of our neighbors that were enrolled in more than one program, meaning they were not only shopping in The Market but also recognizing the value of taking GED classes or participating in other cohorts or workshops after work.

It takes the collaboration of a community to work together to create real change for our neighbors. More than 350 volunteers stood hand in hand with us in 2024. Collectively, our team of Red Aprons donated over 27,000 hours of service to ensure that our neighbors felt safe and were met with friendly faces in The Market, The Resource Hub, and our classrooms. In 2024, we made over 820 referrals to our non-profit partners, ensuring our neighbors were well-informed and well-connected with a network of resources within the community.

Together, we made a profound and positive impact because of faithful support from our community of neighbors helping neighbors. We are humbled and grateful for your consistent trust in the mission of Bluffton Self Help. Thank you for standing by our side.

Sincerely,



Joel Taylor,
Board Chair




Courtney Hampson,
Chief Executive Officer



A Path Forward

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.

OUR VISION

We envision a community where everyone has equal access to essential tools and resources to support their journey toward personal success.

A HOLISTIC APPROACH

By taking a holistic approach, we are meeting our neighbors where they are and ready to serve as a partner in their pursuit of brighter futures for themselves and their families.

1,300

New Neighbors

began their journey to personal success. In 2024 we added a bilingual Client Advocate ensuring that language barriers were one less obstacle a neighbor would face while seeking invaluable resources and assistance. Our commitment to helping find the root cause of our neighbors' hardships allows us to walk alongside them on their journey to personal success.

1,901

New Program Enrollments

In 2024, we saw 1,901 new program enrollments. Whether it was in the classroom, shopping in The Market, or attending a workshop, they took the courageous first step with Bluffton Self Help.

2,177

Unique Households

were served in 2024, comprised of more than 5,000 neighbors. This is a 19% increase year-over-year.



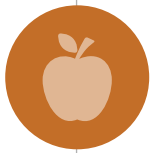
Basic Needs

When someone comes to Bluffton Self Help in crisis, we know there are multiple issues that may be impacting their household. By taking a holistic approach to how we serve, and layering our services, we can offer more to **move our neighbors forward.**



THE MARKET

The Market is our wellness grocery store that provides free, healthy, nutritious, and high-quality grocery items including milk, eggs, cheese, meat, fruit, vegetables, bread, hygiene items, and diapers. When neighbors shop regularly in The Market, they can save \$500 per month and allocate those savings to cover other budget expenses. In 2024, 1,166 families shopped in The Market, a 20% increase over 2023.



562,903 pounds of food (valued at **\$973,144**) was distributed so neighbors could stretch their budget and have access to fresh groceries.

At Bluffton Self Help, food is non-negotiable. We will always ensure that our neighbors are not hungry.



417 families shopped for 26,269 articles of work wear, school uniforms, and children's clothing to help foster confidence for our neighbors. A value of **\$170,599**.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

We are incredibly grateful for the support of our community. In 2024, there were

170

food drives hosted by individuals, neighborhoods, businesses, and congregations. We added two little Food Houses in the community in 2024 to provide access to non-perishables for neighbors who may be temporarily or permanently unable to travel to The Market.



A Holistic Approach

Our dedicated team of Client Advocates and volunteers meet with each neighbor coming through Bluffton Self Help’s doors. Whether they are interested in signing up for The Market, seeking Emergency Financial Assistance to offset a hardship, or need a referral to one of our non-profit partners, we spend the time getting to the issue they are experiencing.

- The Resource Hub had 2,749 one-on-one encounters with our neighbors, a 32% increase year-over-year.
- We added a bilingual Client Advocate to reduce language barriers and ensure that our neighbors were able to communicate with ease.
- We made 820 referrals to our non-profit partners, who provide necessary services that are outside our scope.

EMERGENCY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Rent, mortgage, and utility assistance directly prevents eviction and homelessness for our neighbors in Bluffton and Jasper County, ensuring they are able to stay in their homes. **\$102,923** was invested in 100 households.

In 2024 Bluffton Self Help also invested **\$11,485** in local students providing college scholarships, to help reduce the financial hardship students face when furthering their education.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Taking the first step to strengthen your professional profile can be daunting. We are privileged to work with neighbors who are committed to improving their resume and taking their career to the next level.



We assisted **86 neighbors**, through 260 interactions, with their job search, refreshing their resumes, and practicing interview skills.



79 neighbors attended Financial Literacy workshops, with **23 graduating** from the program after working one-on-one with a financial mentor, creating their own money plan, and setting financial goals.



55% of our neighbors were enrolled in more than one program, such as shopping in The Market while participating in a Financial Literacy workshop or enrolling in GED classes while updating their resume to ensure they were able to land their next job.

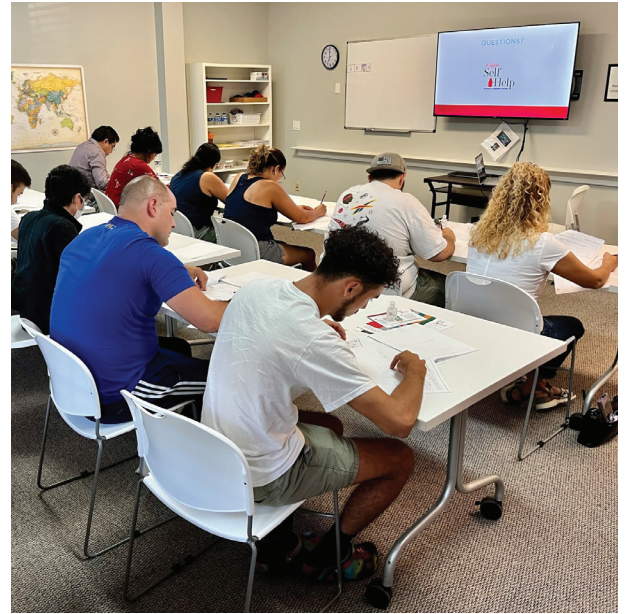


Education & Training

Bluffton Self Help's Education & Training Programs create opportunities for adult education, training, and career development.

\$742,800 INVESTED IN 619 STUDENTS

(based on an average cost of \$1,200 per student, per academic year)



522 students attended English as a Second Language classes to improve communication skills and enable them to better integrate within their communities and workplaces.

59 adult learners participated in GED classes to elevate their education.

44 students achieved **100% attendance** in 2024, despite juggling jobs, limited transportation, and caring for family members.

10 students worked toward their American dream and gained their US Citizenship.

15 students passed 38 GED subject tests.

23 neighbors graduated from our Financial Literacy workshops, focused on savings, and better understanding credit and debt.

11 ESL students are now fully bilingual, and **10** students earned their GED, allowing each of them to increase their earning potential by **\$8,000** annually.

55% of our ESL students moved to the next level, exceeding our expectations, and confirming the effectiveness of our programs, and more importantly our tutors.

169 adult learners utilized Bluffton Self Help's computer labs for computer-based learning and skill development.



Shifting from Surviving to Thriving

We are not afraid to roll up our sleeves to find the root of our neighbors' hardships. We go beyond transactional services and invest our time into understanding our neighbors by walking alongside them on their path to personal success.

GETTING AHEAD

While data is a crucial piece of the puzzle, the deep dives are where real systematic change happens. For three hours a week, for 16 weeks, our small cohorts get together to uncover the root cause of their struggles and build the tools, resources, and support to move forward. In 2024, 12 neighbors graduated Getting Ahead, and they continue to work together through monthly alumni groups.



A STORY OF HOPE

In a world where life can change in an instant, Teresa, a dedicated educator for 25 years, found herself facing an unimaginable challenge. A catastrophic spinal fusion left her paralyzed, altering the course of her life forever. As a devoted single mother to two adult children, both facing their own disabilities, she had always been their steadfast anchor, providing not only care but also the financial means for their education and therapies. After a long and arduous wait, she received approval for disability benefits, but the chasm between her supplemental income and the dwindling reserves of her savings compelled her to seek additional assistance from Bluffton Self Help. There, she discovered a lifeline. Enrolling in a Financial Literacy workshop, Teresa learned the art of budgeting her supplemental income, gaining the skills to navigate her new reality. She also enrolled in mobile delivery of weekly groceries from The Market so she could allocate \$125 in savings each week toward other portions of her household budget. With the organization's support, she secured a stable home for herself and her children while also tapping into resources that could help tailor their living environment to meet their unique needs.

Community Programs & Resources

More than 60% of households in Beaufort and Jasper counties are not earning a livable wage. Our community partners and donors serve as vital partners in our neighbors' journey toward brighter futures.



FRESH XPRESS PROGRAM

Fresh Xpress is Bluffton Self Help's free, monthly farmers market. By providing direct access to fresh, nutrient dense food, we can positively impact the health of those in our community. 41,156 pounds of produce through Fresh Xpress was shared with an average of 140 families each month.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Teachers spend on average \$750 out of pocket on school supplies each year. We aim to reduce that burden by collecting supplies for local teachers.



14,035 classroom supplies were collected for Bluffton's public-school teachers, a savings of \$49,123 for our essential educators.

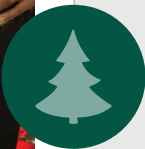


SCHOOL SNACK PROGRAMS

Bluffton Self Help serves as stewards of the educational community by providing school snacks to all 10 Bluffton public schools. We know that food insecurity is often linked to feelings of apathy, lack of motivation, and reduced classroom engagement.



25,955 school snacks, a value of \$32,444, were distributed throughout the school year to ensure all Bluffton students were well equipped to learn.



THE HOLIDAYS AT BLUFFTON SELF HELP

The holidays can be stressful for our Lowcountry neighbors who are just trying to make ends meet. At Bluffton Self Help, we have a long-standing tradition of ensuring that our neighbors can set the table with a holiday meal and provide gifts for their children during this special time of year.

In 2024, 50,455 pounds of food were distributed for the holidays, a value of **\$88,296** for our neighbors.

10,299 holiday toys were distributed, a value of **\$175,076**, to spread hope and happiness to more than 1,200 children in our community and save parents from breaking their budget.



“I feel that volunteering at Bluffton Self Help is the ideal way to assist our Lowcountry neighbors with their transition to a better path forward in their lives.”

— BLUFFTON SELF HELP VOLUNTEER



Doing the Work Together

We are grateful to be a part of a community filled with incredible human beings ready and willing to help their fellow neighbors. We could not do this work alone. Thankfully, our team of Red Apron Volunteers take great pride in serving our neighbors. 351 volunteers worked with us in 2024.

124 new volunteers joined our roster.

They donated **27,730 hours** of time and talent to support our mission and help their neighbors.

The value of volunteer time in 2024 was **\$928,680**, an investment that we are beyond grateful for.



VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARDS



Marcie Patton
Volunteer Tutor



Peggy Weaver
Basic Needs Volunteer

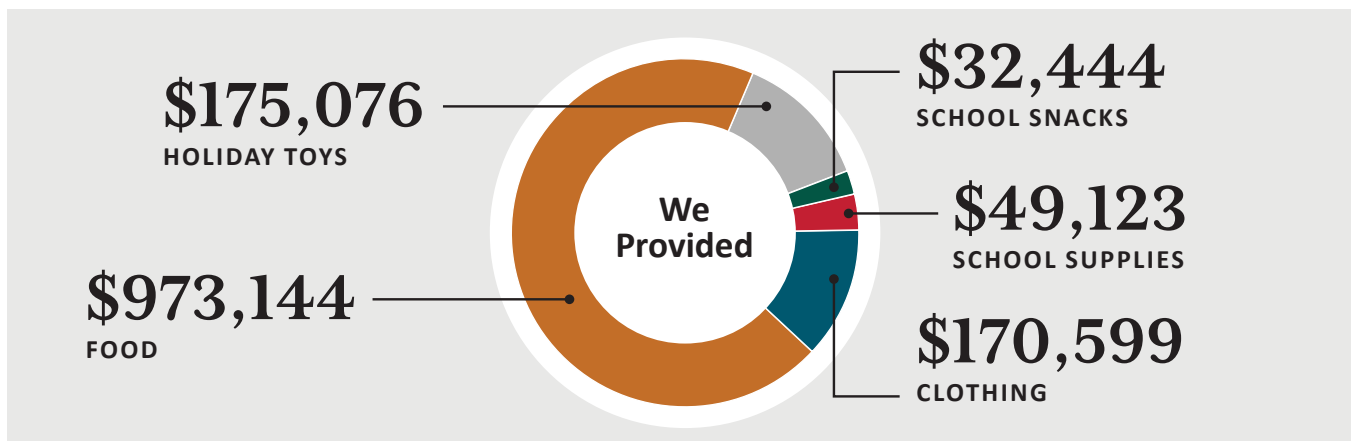
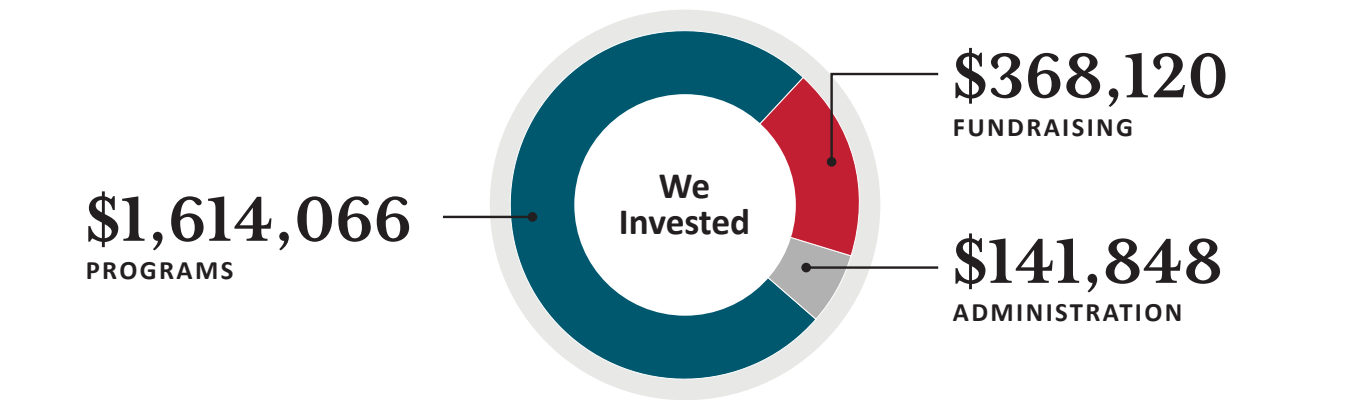
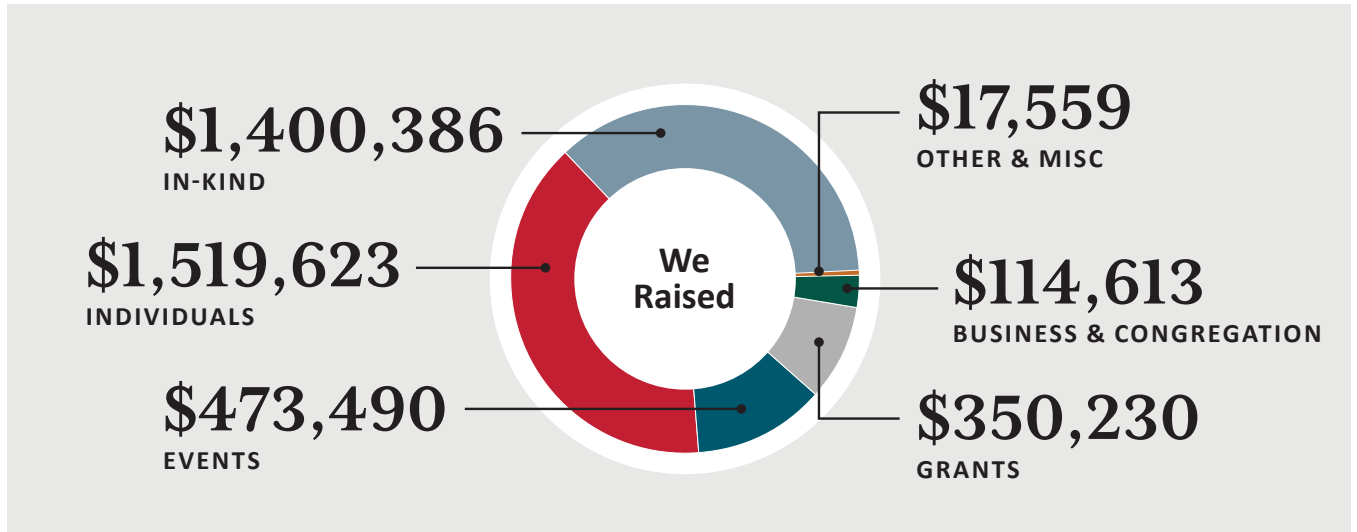
OUR SUPPORTERS

Bluffton Self Help is here for those we serve because of our incredible supporters. We collaborate with local businesses, nonprofits and individuals in order to build a stronger community.

Financials

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The kindness and generosity of our community allows us to empower more, educate more, change more lives than ever before. **It takes a community.**





Looking Forward 2025

As we look ahead, we remain focused on growing our case management and client advocacy capacity, as we know this is a critical mechanism in driving positive outcomes. A robust case management program enables our organization to truly know and walk alongside our neighbors. We endeavor to see more neighbors in stable, higher-paying jobs with benefits because of BSH's workforce readiness and job placement programming. Ultimately, as our community continues to grow, we know we must scale our services in Bluffton and establish a physical footprint in Jasper County. Developing the right partnerships to further our mission will be crucial, we know we cannot do this work alone.



Connect with us

GET INVOLVED | Visit our website to learn more about our programs and how you can help.

WWW.BLUFFTONSELFHELP.ORG

MAILING ADDRESS | PO Box 2420 Bluffton, SC 29910

PHONE | 843-757-8000

BLUFFTON SELF HELP HEADQUARTERS & THE MARKET

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

THE RESOURCE HUB

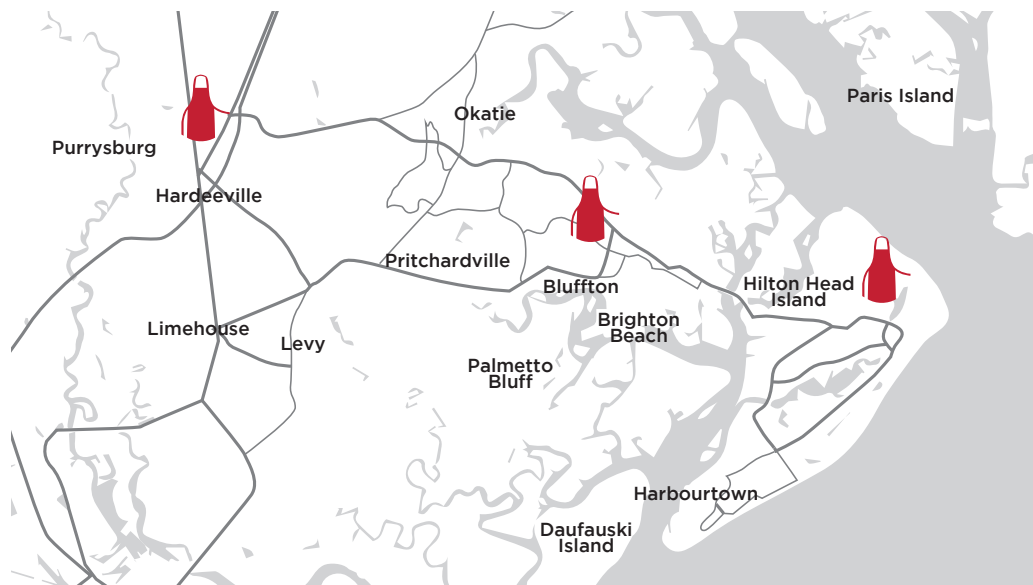
39 Sheridan Park Circle Suite #9 | **Bluffton**, SC 29910 | 843-757-8030

LITERACY & LEARNING CENTERS

39 Sheridan Park Circle Suite #8 | **Bluffton**, SC 29910 | 843-815-6616

30 Main Street | **Hardeeville**, SC 29927 | 843-368-0431

4 Oak Park Drive | **Hilton Head Island**, SC 29926 | 843-681-6655



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