A letter from our **CHAIRMAN**

We call it neighbors helping neighbors.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of Bluffton Self Help, thank you for your generous support of our mission in 2018. It was a remarkable year that wouldn’t have been possible without you.

Every day we see neighbors in need. Hard working neighbors who, despite their hard work, struggle to make ends meet. Thanks to you, we’re able to provide them with nutritious food, necessary clothing, emergency financial assistance and access to essential resources which help meet their basic needs and set them on a path to personal success.

It all started 32 years ago when one lady with a big heart had a big idea. Mrs. Ida Martin’s visit to a neighbor in need began with food for one family and last year we fed more than 2,500 people in 855 households. But it doesn’t end there. You’ll see throughout this report the phenomenal numbers and stories that reflect all that Bluffton Self Help does in the community.

A highlight of 2018 was the opening of our Education and Resource Center (ERC). The ERC assists us in focusing more on the self-help part of our mission by providing additional resources for our neighbors whose incomes fall above the poverty line, yet well below a livable wage. We’re proud to take this leadership role in bringing together resources from throughout the county and beyond, to provide essential services to this fast-growing segment of our community.

Looking forward, we’ll continue to improve and expand our core services of food, clothing and emergency financial assistance, while building on the early success of our Education and Resource Center. Our vision is to be recognized as Beaufort County’s leading community-centered organization that facilitates and engages the community and other human services organizations to improve the quality-of-life and provide a pathway to personal success for all of our neighbors in need.

We remain mindful and thankful that YOU, our donors, volunteers, neighbors and friends make all of these significant accomplishments and ambitious plans possible. Thank you!

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**Doug Adamson**
Chair, Board of Directors

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2018 **Board of Directors**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</th>
<th>DIRECTORS</th>
<th>FOUNDING MEMBER</th>
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<tr>
<td>Doug Adamson</td>
<td>James Cuff</td>
<td>Constance Martin-Witter</td>
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<td>CHAIR</td>
<td>Ashley Feaster</td>
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<td>Elaine Morris</td>
<td>Fred Hamilton</td>
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<td>VICE CHAIR</td>
<td>Charles Russ</td>
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<td>Katie Goodman</td>
<td>Veronica Williams</td>
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<td>Jack Robinson</td>
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<td>TREASURER</td>
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**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**
Kimberly Hall
**our MISSION**

Bluffton Self Help exists in order to help our neighbors in need of food, clothing, educational and financial assistance, and to provide programs that promote self-worth, dignity and create a pathway to personal success.

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**our founder**

**MRS. IDA MARTIN**

Bluffton Self Help was founded in 1987 by a Bluffton neighbor, Ida Martin. Mrs. Martin recognized a great need that was not being met for working families and senior citizens in our community. Initially, working out of her garage, she obtained resources from family and friends and sometimes went door to door. Clothing was donated and food was obtained by driving to grocery stores and picking up donated food items.

In 2011 Mrs. Ida Martin received the Presidential Citizens Medal bestowed by President Barack Obama. This award is the second highest civilian award in the United States, second only to the Medal of Freedom.

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**2018 AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS**
SUSAN’S story

When Susan, a single mother with a 12 year old daughter and 15 year old son, walked through Bluffton Self Help’s door for the first time, it was not easy to admit she needed help and to accept the help. She had struggled for months.

Susan had always been the sole financial supporter for her family of three. She worked hard to provide a good life for her children and made a good living as a hairstylists at a local salon. Being a single parent is never easy but for Susan it became even harder one night in June when an accident left her with a broken foot. One terrible incident caused her life to change instantly. Forced to cancel existing appointments, left her with dwindling job security and less income for growing medical bills. Then the doctor told her the bad news; her broken foot would take months to heal, leaving her unable to be on her feet all day - a necessity for a hairstylist. With no other positions open at the salon, she lost her job.

Even though she was able to find other work, she was no longer earning enough to make ends meet. This became the breaking point; she knew she had to find a way to take care of her children. She put her pride aside and asked for help. Looking to supplement her income and help stretch her budget, Susan walked into Bluffton Self Help in October, applied for assistance and left with a huge sense of relief knowing she would be able to put food on the table. “I come every Monday and Thursday to grocery shop and grab a few clothing items for my kids. When they get home from school they are always so excited.” Through everything, Susan stayed strong for her children and never let them know the reality of their situation. “My kids don’t know we are going through a hard time. I don’t want them to worry. When I get home, I feel good about being able to put groceries in the fridge. Bluffton Self Help makes me feel like these are my groceries. I feel as though I just went grocery shopping for the day and came home to put food on the table for my kids.”

wellness FOOD PANTRY

Bluffton Self Help is proud to be a wellness pantry that offers a client-centered shopping experience while promoting healthy food choices. Our Wellness Food Pantry provides vulnerable neighbors with access to fresh fruits and vegetables, meats, dairy and non-perishable food items. Those who visit the food distributions are also informed of our health and wellness workshops and provided with healthy tips and tricks. As a wellness pantry, our aim is to help visitors understand the benefits of creating mindful eating habits that result in good physical health. “Someone making healthy food choices can save on medical expenses and manage weight-related illnesses with access to healthy food.”

340,265 LBS OF FOOD DISTRIBUTED TO FAMILIES IN NEED

15,015 visits TO THE WELLNESS PANTRY

$564,840 WORTH OF FOOD DISTRIBUTED

*https://hungerandhealth.feedingamerica.org*
In addition to providing access to food, Bluffton Self Help strives to meet the basic needs of families facing crisis or poverty. We provide clothing through our Confidence Clothing Closet, as well as, other essentials such as coats, toiletries, diapers, wipes and formula. Meeting these needs first allows our neighbors to stretch their budget and begin to reach their financial goals. We cannot expect our neighbors to find employment or increase wages without being clothed and fed.

**FINANCIAL assistance**

Each year, hundreds of families seek access to emergency financial assistance due to a catastrophe, natural disaster, or family crisis (such as medical, transportation, or housing challenge). Bluffton Self Help assists families with housing, utility or medical support to ensure they have financial resources to get through the difficult times.

In 2018, Bluffton Self Help supported 226 families with more than $106,000 in financial assistance.

Often times, Bluffton Self Help can prevent homelessness or ensure a family’s critical needs, such as utilities and medical care are being met through this program.
Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, however, please accept our apologies for any omissions or misspellings that may have occurred. Gifts listed do not include in-kind donations.

| $75,000+  | Lowcountry Strong Foundation  
|           | Palmetto Bluff  
|           | PNC Foundation  
|           | Jack and Susan Robinson  
|           | Saint Gregory the Great Catholic Church  
|           | The Church Mouse  
|           | Wells Fargo Foundation  
| $20,000 - $74,999 | Community Foundation of the Lowcountry  
|           | Anonymous  
| $10,000 - $19,999 | Doug and Ronda Adamson  
|           | Beaufort County  
|           | Berkeley Hall Charitable Foundation  
|           | Coastal Community Foundation of SC  
|           | Ginn Family Foundation  
|           | Palmetto Electric Trust  
|           | Remax Island Realty  
|           | Charlie and Dianne Russ  
|           | The Bargain Box  
|           | Wexford Plantation Charitable Foundation  
| $2,500 - $4,999 | Bank of America  
|           | Beaufort Memorial Hospital  
|           | Bluffton Family Chiropractic  
|           | Peter and Sue Bromley  
|           | Coastal Carolina Medical Center  
|           | James and Carole Cuff  
|           | Norma Curren  
|           | William G Faucett  
|           | Tom and Holly Fish  
|           | Hampton Lake Tiger Bass Race Charitable Fund  
|           | Hudson’s Seafood on the Docks  
|           | First Presbyterian Church of Hilton Head Island  
|           | Jeff and Ashley Feaster  
|           | John and Pidge James  
|           | Kevin Sevier State Farm Agency  
|           | Mary McCarthy and Ed Leary  
|           | William and Sheryl Magro  
|           | Mattei Foundation  
|           | Diana and Marc McDougall  
|           | John and Eileen O’Connell  
|           | Publix Super Market Charities  
|           | Reynecke Sports & Services  
|           | Rotary Club of Bluffton  
|           | Sisters of Charity Foundation  
|           | Thomas W. Smith  
|           | St. Andrew By-The-Sea United Methodist Church  
|           | Sun City Hilton Head Pickleball Club  
| $1,000 - $2,499 | Suzanne Allen  
|           | Paul T. Baird  
|           | Hilton Head Area Association of Realtors  
|           | Custom Audio Video  
|           | James and Diane Berlier  
|           | Marc and Sharon Bigley  
|           | Barbers of the Lowcountry  
|           | Birdie James - Authentic Chic  
|           | Bluffton United Methodist Church  
|           | Bolton Family Foundation  
|           | Benton Bowen  
|           | Jim and Jean Brennan  
|           | Thomas and Diane Bronzert  
|           | Ronald Bruno  
|           | Calhoun Station  
|           | James and Bernadette Caldwell  
|           | Gary and Sheila Caron  
|           | Roy and Ina Carpenter  
|           | James and Kathy Casson  
|           | Casual Living, Fireside & Grillin  
|           | Joe and Kathleen Chapman  
|           | Ann and Barry Chudnofsky  
|           | Robert and Terri Dalton  
|           | Dude’s Bike Run I Jim Moore  
|           | Brad and Angela Ellis  
|           | eviCore Healthcare  
|           | Anthony and Mary Falvo  
|           | Friends of Callawassie Island  
|           | Food Lion Charitable Foundation  
|           | David Furman  
|           | Michael and Teresa Gannon  
|           | Ben Ham  
|           | Richard and Rebecca Harris  
| $5,000 - $9,999 | Anonymous  
|           | Belfair 1811 Charitable Fund  
|           | Dr. Durwood and Gloria Almkuist  
|           | Dave and Beth Brush  
|           | Coastal States Bank  
|           | FARM Bluffton  
|           | First Watch I RAS Concepts  
|           | Hargray Caring Coins  
|           | Venus and Reid Holland  
|           | The Kerscher Family Foundation  
|           | Live Oak Christian Church  
|           | Long Cove Charitable Fund  

10 BLUFFTON SELF HELP | 2018 ANNUAL REPORT
Day after day, **ordinary people** become **heroes** through extraordinary and selfless **ACTIONS** to help their **neighbors**.

- Sylvia Mathews Burwell

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Sybil Harvey
Heritage Classic Foundation
David and Carol Hevey
Monty Jett
Jeffrey and Laurie Jones
Robert and Joan Koenig
Kroger Foundation
Brenda Lang
Scott and Lisa Lengel
Laura Lutz I Burn Boot Camp Bluffton
Lowcountry Presbyterian Church
Henry Martin
George and Rebecca McCarthy
Ryan and Allison Meany
JC and Neil Milner
Adrian and Elaine Morris
Vernaetta Nelson
Christopher and Diane O’Brien
Sandra and Gilbert O’Connell
Arthor and Kathy O’Neill
Palmetto Electric Cooperative
Rich and Claudia Peacock
Ian Plester
Matt Ramsey
Terrence and Jacqueline Reynolds
Shoreline Construction
Chip and Elise Simons
St. Luke’s United Methodist Church
Nick and Sue Smilari
St. Francis Catholic Church
Gene and Gail Stephens
Nancy Sypniewski
Joel and Marsha Taylor
The Cottage
The Crunchy Pharmacist
The Haven at New Riverside
Richard and Lucee Wallace
Kristine and Edmond Walters
Charlie and Susan Wetmore

$500 - $999

Pete and Sue Albero
American Industries International
Sara Atkinson
William and Lynn Bunn
Sam and Jon Boyd
Frank Brown
Captain Woody’s
Richard and Carol Carney
Janet and Larry Cass
Classic Home Mortgage, Inc.
Ms. Colburn and Mr. O’Brien
Brenda Cormeny
DeRosi & Son Co
Eugene Dolan
David and Cynthia Fleiner
Gatehouse Media
Stuart Gates
Teresa and David Hammonds
Vince and Danielle Harrison
Hilton Head BMW
Constance Holbrook
Italian-American Club of Hilton Head
Paul and Marilyn Jones
Leslie Jones
June Davis and James Kenney
Kathleen Knapp
Knights of Columbus
Craig Knoll
Lamb and Gray Architects
Dennis and Linda Lee
Derek and Jana Leroux
James Lewis
Lord of Life Lutheran Church
Joseph and Doris Loveless
LUX
Shawn Mahoney
Erin and Aaron Markham

Blair Martin
Constance Martin-Witter
and Quenten Witter
David and Donale McColloch
Michael McCoy
C. Michael McCurdy
James and Medge McElyea
John and Christine McMahon
Bruce and Marilyn McPherson
Steven and Kari Molthep
Susan and Mark Newlin
Paul Oxholm
Palmetto Wire
Robin and John Pickens
Allison Porter
Rosebud by Nancy
Wendy and Tony Schlegel
Nancy and Tom Schloss
Frederick and Carol Siegel
Mary Jane Sullivan
Temple Oseh Shalom
Temple Oseh Shalom Sisterhood
William and Sharron Thomas
Sun City Motorcycle Group
Dorothy Todesco
United Way of the Lowcountry
Gabriel and M. Kay Verstraete
WebsterRogers LLP Foundation
Wells Family Fund
Veronica and Fallon Williams
Nancy and Robert Willis
Linnea Wilson
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Yehle
Kelly Ann Young
This is a good place for LEARNING or help with any struggles you have. You can just ask for HELP. You never have to give up. Never.”

-Wendy

**Education & Resource Center**

OPENED IN FEBRUARY 2018
TO SERVE THE NEED IN OUR COMMUNITY
Thanks to an opportunity grant by the Community Foundation of the Lowcountry and other funders.

Bluffton Self Help’s Education & Resource Center is an informational, resource and referral center open to all Beaufort County residents. The Center works to alleviate the root causes of poverty through a range of services from general computer access to skill building and job placement. The various workshops and hiring events held in collaboration with local agencies all help our neighbors in need to create a personal pathway to success.

**Wendy’s story**

Wendy, a mother with two young children, started coming to the Education and Resource Center in September. Her goals were to strengthen her English and computer skills in order to be able to help her son with his school work. Together, our Education & Resource Center Manager and Wendy found a program on the computer where she was able to practice and strengthen both skills at the same time. Wendy became a regular, visiting the Education & Resource Center 2 to 3 times per week, determined to reach her goal. She also became an active member in the English class every Monday held at the Education & Resource Center (ERC).

Wendy was so excited about her progress that she began telling others about the ERC and encouraging them to attend the ESL classes and ERC to strengthen their skills as well. A couple of her classmates took her suggestion and visited The Center to use the computers. She was eager to teach her friends what she had learned and was enthusiastic to help. Wendy met one older woman who had no transportation but was interested in attending workshops and classes at the Education & Resource Center. Wendy offered to pick her up when she was close by and bring her to The Center to give her the opportunity to take advantage of our programs. Impressed by Wendy’s motivation to learn and share her knowledge, we asked her to become a Bluffton Self Help volunteer- which she gratefully accepted!

During the past few months, Wendy has not only become an extremely valuable volunteer of the Education & Resource Center, but she is a valuable volunteer to other Bluffton Self Help programs. During the Christmas Holiday Toy Shop,, she worked tirelessly to help keep the toys organized. Between all of her stocking and organizing, she translated and made the whole shopping experience that much more enjoyable for all of our shoppers!
SIPS AND SEAFOOD EVENT

On Friday, October 19th, Bluffton Self Help celebrated our community’s generous support for our neighbors in need by hosting our second annual Red Apron Sips and Seafood Party. Held in conjunction with the Historic Bluffton Arts & Seafood Festival, more than 270 guests joined us on the banks of the Colleton River at the Waddell Mariculture Center. Guests sipped cocktails while enjoying the talents of world renowned painter and entertainer Stephen Fishwick. This beautiful lowcountry evening under the stars raised critical funds to further our mission and help neighbors in need. Thank you to the many sponsors and partners who supported this evening.

www.sipsandseafood.com

HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

Holidays can bring added financial and emotional stress to families. Even those families who find themselves financially confident all year can struggle with the added expenses of back-to-school, holiday meals and gifts. With the support from our community during Thanksgiving Pantry, Holiday Toy Shop and Back-to-School Drive, we are able to alleviate some of the extra expense and pressure. We want to ensure all families in our area are able to enjoy these special occasions with family and friends.

TOY SHOP
2,117 children in 4 counties received more than 13,000 toys during our Holiday Hope Toy Shop.

THANKSGIVING
335 families were provided 19,580 pounds of Thanksgiving meals during the week prior to Thanksgiving.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL
9,500 school supplies were collected and distributed to more than 1,000 Bluffton students.
2018 Community Impact
Working to break the cycle of poverty in our community

WELLNESS FOOD PANTRY
855 households received 340,265 pounds of food worth $564,840 enabling them to stretch their budget and have better health, nutrition and nourishment.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
226 families received emergency financial assistance to avoid loss of utilities and the threat of homelessness.

CONFIDENCE CLOTHING CLOSET
662 households shopped for 69,477 clothing items, valued at $264,844

EDUCATION & RESOURCE CENTER
659 neighbors attended 106 workshops and hiring events promoting self-worth and creating a pathway to personal success; 31 neighbors obtained employment.

How you can help break the cycle of poverty

DONATE
IN-KIND DONATIONS
Food, clothing and hygiene items are accepted Monday - Friday, 10:00am - 4:00pm. *Unfortunately we cannot accept housewares, used toys, bedding or other household goods.

AMAZON WISH LIST
Enjoy the convenience of shopping at home with our Amazon Wish List. Click on “Account & Lists” and then search for Bluffton Self Help.

FINANCIAL DONATIONS
ONLINE
Please visit www.blufftonselfhelp.org and click on the “Donate” tab at the top of the page.

BY MAIL
Mail check to PO BOX 2420, Bluffton, SC 29910

VOLUNTEER
Our volunteers are individuals, families, senior citizens, corporate groups, religious organizations, school groups, and many others. We rely on volunteers for a variety of roles and skills that are needed at Bluffton Self Help including:

FOOD DISTRIBUTION
CLOTHING DISTRIBUTION
CLIENT SUPPORT
OFFICE SUPPORT
FINANCIAL SUMMARY

<table>
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<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
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<td>INDIVIDUALS</td>
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<td>OTHER &amp; MISC</td>
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53% IN-KIND FOOD & CLOTHING

REVENUE TOTAL | $1,792,481
EXPENSES TOTAL | $1,625,591

*unaudited financial summary

FUNDRAISING 26%
PROGRAM EXPENSES 65%
ADMINISTRATION 9%

VOLUNTEERS
188 VOLUNTEERS DONATED 40,407 HOURS OF THEIR TIME
EQUALING $997,649 IN ESTIMATED LABOR COST

Pictured: 2018 Volunteer of the Year | Pete Albero
“the duty of helping one’s self in the HIGHEST SENSE involves the helping of one’s neighbors.”

- Samuel Smiles