

Thanks to Our Major Donors!

Bluffton Self Help could not continue to exist without the contributions of hundreds of individuals and community organizations. Those who provided cash, grants or major community support include:

- ▶ Belfair Oaks Neighborhood Party
- ▶ Berkeley Hall
- ▶ Bible Missionary Baptist Church
- ▶ Bluffton Chiropractic
- ▶ Bluffton Lions Club
- ▶ Calhoun Station
- ▶ Charles Wallace Foundation
- ▶ Colleton River
- ▶ Community Foundation of the Lowcountry
- ▶ Hampton Hall
- ▶ Hampton Lake
- ▶ Heritage Foundation
- ▶ HHI Celebrity Golf Tournament
- ▶ Live Oak Christian Church
- ▶ Palmetto State Bank
- ▶ Palmetto Electric Wire Luncheon
- ▶ Santa Sammy's Ultimate Frisbee Tournament
- ▶ Shalom Club of Sun City
- ▶ St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church
- ▶ St. Luke's United Methodist
- ▶ Sun City Donations
- ▶ The Beaufort Fund
- ▶ The Church Mouse
- ▶ United Way of the Lowcountry
- ▶ Wachovia Bank

For a detailed list of generous donors who provided items like food, toys and clothing, please see page 6. **BSH thanks you!**

QUARTERLY
NEWS ABOUT
BLUFFTON
SELF HELP

Help Matters

1st quarter / 2010

FOUNDED IN 1987 TO HELP BLUFFTON AREA INDIVIDUALS IN CRITICAL NEED OF SHORT-TERM FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, FOOD AND CLOTHING, WHILE URGING THEM TO BECOME MORE SELF-RELIANT.



IN THIS ISSUE

- BSH Spirit Evident in Founder P. 2
- Food Drive Support P. 4
- Six Easy Ways to Give P. 4
- BaSH at the Lake P. 5
- Founders Dinner P. 6
- Donors Give to BSH P. 6

Letter from our President



I am both honored and humbled for the opportunity to serve as Bluffton Self Help's Board President.

I am also extremely proud of the impact we have on our community thanks to the collective efforts of our Executive Director, Board, volunteers, and most importantly, our donors, grant providers and supporters.

A close colleague of mine once told me that "in the end, all that matters is that you've made a difference". I know he would approve of the difference that BSH indeed makes every day in the lives of so many.

If you have ever driven by our small center during business hours, especially on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday "food mornings", I am sure you have noticed the long lines of men, women and children waiting patiently for the services we provide.

This past year Bluffton Self Help provided food to more than 10,000 people and distributed more than 100,000 articles of clothing to another 11,000 people. We also provided record numbers of Thanksgiving dinners and Christmas toys and granted financial assistance (rent, medical & utilities) to 658 families. Thanks directly to our donors and grant

providers, ALL of this was provided absolutely free of charge.

As we look ahead to 2010, we know that both the need and challenge of providing our services will be greater than ever. To meet these needs, the Board of Directors will be focusing our efforts in four important areas:

Increasing awareness and support of BSH within the Bluffton business and governmental community

Finding a new location and bigger building in order to better serve the community

More proactive fund raising activities

Training for our board and volunteers to insure optimum levels of performance and professionalism throughout the organization.

On behalf of the entire BSH organization, most importantly the 22,000 people we will assist in 2010, I thank you in advance for helping us indeed make a difference!

Peter Bromley, President
BSH Board of Directors



2010 BSH Officers Elected



From top:
John Orth, Vice President
Lorraine Foley, Secretary
Gene Brown, Treasurer

BSH Spirit Evident in Founder



Bluffton Self Help was organized in 1987 by Mrs. Ida Martin to help Bluffton working families and senior citizens who were in emergency need of food and clothing. Today, Bluffton Self Help continues to serve thousands of individuals annually, who otherwise might continue to struggle to make ends meet.

Recently we caught up with Mrs. Martin to learn about her legacy and thirty years of service to our community. As we settled ourselves in her lovely home, and while her husband was close by supervising the yard work, Miss Ida graciously shared her story with BSH Board President Peter Bromley and myself.

How long have you lived in Bluffton, Miss Ida?

We moved to Bluffton in 1979 after my husband's retirement from law enforcement of Detroit. We met in this area as young people but left for school and better work opportunities. We were glad to make Bluffton our home.

Did you grow up in Bluffton?

Actually, I lived in Savannah as a little girl. I was adopted by my uncle after my mother died. I was about five then, and my uncle took me in along with some of my other cousins who had lost their mothers. My uncle was a fireman for the railroad. He built a fine big house in Whitehall, South Carolina, which is in the township of Walterboro, just an hour or so north of here. We even had our own bedrooms, and we had a car when others were getting around with a horse and buggy. He gave us the best he could and saw that we were well educated. I attended the Shanklin Boarding School and then Sanai School of Nursing.

Did you start your own career?

No, it was not as important for me to work as to start my own family and help others. Since so much has been given to me and I don't want for anything, my blessing always comes right back to me.

From the time I was a little girl, I wanted to help

others. I'd give my allowance to people on the street. I learned to give because growing up in this big family, we were always helping others. Food was always available. We would often cook for 50-60 people a week. Doing for others just was what we did.

Just like now, there were many unfortunate people in Bluffton who needed a lot of help back then. After we got settled in our home in Bluffton, people would come by to ask for help, so I did what I could. Well, the word got out. Folks began calling our house the Big House — it's not that big — and lines of people would show up. The folks would say, "That lady," they said, 'she won't turn you away.'"

I also walked the neighborhood and found distressing situations. When I would talk with these people who had so little, and I had so much, I had to do something.

I saw children sleeping on floors, while adults were 2-3 in a bed, and often there was no heat or sufficient food. One family I called on was heart-wrenching. The mother appeared to be wearing a wig and was in desperate need of a hairdresser. I took her to mine, only to find out that the wig had to be cut away from her head. Her son needed shoes, but his were so small that they had to be cut away from his feet. Both mother and son were hospitalized to treat the infection and sores on her head and his feet.

Services were not as available as they are now. Bluffton had no bank or pharmacy. It turns out that Jim Sauter, the man who started the Bluffton Pharmacy, became a long time supporter of Bluffton Self Help. Back then, I'd tell him what we needed, and he would figure out a way to get it for us.

During this early time there was an organization coming to town that was part of the United Way, called the First Call for Help. It was run by Mary Caviness and Janet Sawyer. Mary helped people know how children could ask for help... by dialing 757HELP. I would go with Mary to the schools to help her get the word out about this service.



One day, I began telling her about what I was seeing and experiencing in the local neighborhoods. I told her about the substandard conditions that so many people were enduring. Right away she began walking the neighborhood with me, and then recommended that we gather together community leaders who might hear about this and help. We contacted Mr. George Heyward, the town mayor, who joined the effort and helped us bring together a group of community leaders at the little library on Calhoun Street. These key people included Ann Lafitte, Jessie Hancock, and Linda Boulware. They knew how to get things going!

So, in Spring of 1987, we named the first Board of Directors, applied for non-profit status, and officially became Bluffton Self-Help. Roberts Vaux was the local attorney. He gave us legal advice and got our charter together at no charge. He and his associates are still providing pro bono services for Bluffton Self Help.

People continued to pitch in and help. My sister-in-law Mary Riley, and Rebecca Hamilton would go with me to call on folks. The local people could trust us to help them out, and word quickly spread that services were becoming available for these folks. At the same time, the community was very supportive and we always seemed to have just enough to pass along to others.

Quickly we were in need of a building to house supplies and provide a place for people to come. We applied to the mayor for space. He gave us the little town building that is now the town garage. But the tiny building was leaky and musty. We then used the concession stand at the Bluffton Recreation Center for awhile after that, and then finally moved to the former town jail, just across from May River Grill, which continues to be the home of BSH today.

“Since so much has been given to me and I don’t want for anything, my blessing always comes right back to me.”

We’ve heard that you have a secret angel of sorts. Can you tell us about him?

We were always soliciting donors, and along came a man who quietly followed me around and watched how we did things. That first year, he gave us quite a large donation, and bought us trailers. This gentleman continues to anonymously donate a significant amount to Bluffton Self-Help each year. Were it not for his generous gifts over the years, some of our most basic needs would not have been met.

It sounds like needs have been met just in the nick of time. What are Bluffton Self Help’s needs today?

First and foremost, we need more angels... more financial donors who can support BSH! In 2009, 22,000 people requested assistance from us. And with the ongoing poor economy, we will have even more people this year, from all walks of life, in need of our services. We rarely have a full pantry these days because the demand is so great.

Our customers wait in long lines outside our little building most days of the week. Healthy, perishable food is at a premium because we have only three refrigerators to store it. And, of course the access and parking are major problems. Right now, we desperately need a larger building and more space. And we always need volunteers who care and can give some of their time to help out.

We hear that you still cook food for people who need it. What do you enjoy making?

Oh, yes, I love to cook. There will always be food here for folks. I like to cook red rice, but my favorite is making my sour cream cake. I make it for special days, and folks always ask for the recipe, but it’s a secret! You’ll just have to come by one day and try some!

Thank you, we will!

[Christine Loeffler writes and designs for BSH. Her email is csl@sinclairloeffler.com. Peter Bromley is the President of the BSH Board. His email is ptbromley@hargray.com]

BSH LEADERSHIP

Board of Directors

- ▶ Ida Martin (Founder)
- ▶ Peter Bromley (President)
- ▶ John Orth (Vice President)
- ▶ Lorraine Foley (Secretary)
- ▶ Gene Brown (Treasurer)
- ▶ Tony Ciervo
- ▶ Raymond Dominick
- ▶ Walt Hollis
- ▶ Tray Hunter
- ▶ Linda Kaufman
- ▶ Mikesha Kosoko
- ▶ Christine Loeffler
- ▶ Jayme Lopko
- ▶ Kathy McGrath

Advisory Board

- ▶ Lynn DeZeeuw [Deep Well]
- ▶ Ford Hutchinson [Deep Well]
- ▶ Jim Sauter [Bluffton RX]
- ▶ Roberts Vaux [Attorney]

Executive Director

- ▶ Jenny Haney



Food Drive Needs Supported by Local Volunteers

Simply put, our needs continue to increase dramatically. Our pre-Christmas food drives were very successful, and we were able to keep the pantry and shed full. Since then, the continued weakness of our local economy has led to increased needs and decreasing supplies.

For example, on Tuesday, our big food day, we usually served from 65 to 90 people last year. During the first two months of 2010, that number has increased to 110 to as many as 160 each week, which has quickly eroded our reserves.

So, if you belong to a church or organization that can help, or donate yourself, we really need it and the people in our area need your help.

To Learn More...

We would love to talk with you about ways you can join our volunteer team to serve Bluffton Self Help! Please give Jenny Haney (Executive Director) a call to discuss how you can join the effort!

Six Easy Ways to Give

While we welcome all your donations and contributions, many people aren't aware of some simple, almost painless ways to really help. Here's a quick look at several methods to benefit Bluffton Self Help:



Old-Fashioned Giving

It may sound old-fashioned, but we're very happy to have your checks mailed to us or dropped off at BSH.



Postal Drive for Hunger

May 8 is the annual Postal Workers Drive for Hunger, so put canned goods by your mailbox. Last year many people missed the notice in the ValPak mailer.



Buy One/Get One Free

While grocery shopping, you can take advantage of supermarket sales and two-for-one coupons. Donate your discounted or free items to BSH.



Birdies for Charity

As part of the Verizon Heritage PGA event, you can pledge a specific amount for each birdie made during the tournament and designate that your pledge go directly to your charity of choice.



PayPal

If you have PayPal for bill paying or internet accounts, you can visit our website (www.blufftonselfhelp.org) to donate.



Caring Coins

The average cost for a Hargray customer to round up their bill is about \$5.50 per year, but when Caring Coins last distributed funds, we received a \$10,000 donation!

To Contact Us...

Street Address:

1264 May River Road, Bluffton SC 29910

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 2420 Bluffton, SC 29910

Phone: [843] 757-8000

Email: blfselfhelp@hargray.com

Or, visit us online:

www.blufftonselfhelp.org

About Help Matters

Help Matters is a publication of Bluffton Self-Help. If you would like additional copies for your organization, or have information worthy of future stories, please contact us.

BIG heartfelt THANKS to Accurate Lithography [757-2612] for donating the printing services for this publication.



2nd Annual BaSH at the Lake

April 22
6:00 -- 8:00pm
The Lakehouse at Hampton Lake

Presented by **HARGRAY**
Do More. Live Better.
Proceeds to benefit
BSH programs

Silent Auction & hor d'oeuvres
[catered by Celebration Events]

\$25 per single ticket
[available through BSH, Markel's,
Bluffton Piggly Wiggly, & Bluffton Pharmacy]

Support Level Packages

\$2500 Hargray Title Sponsorship Level
[please call for future sponsorship opportunities]

please call (843) 757-8000
to purchase
Support Level packages

\$1000 Benefactor Level
10 tickets included
[acknowledged in BaSH Printed Materials]
deadline March 10

\$500 Patron Level
6 tickets included
[acknowledged in BaSH Printed Materials]
deadline March 10

\$250 Benefactor Level
4 tickets included
[acknowledged on the BaSH Thank You Board]

\$100 Contributor Level
2 tickets included
[acknowledged on the BaSH Thank You Board]

Berkeley Hall Charity Cup

[will benefit BSH
and 9 other charities]

April 9 —10
Includes Friday
cocktail party and
Saturday shamble
golf tournament with
prizes, box lunch
and gala dinner.

- ▶ Hole sponsorship: \$1000
- ▶ Player participation: \$400
- ▶ Tee sponsorship: \$250

For more information, call
(843) 815-8423.

Special Thanks...

We appreciate the extraordinary generosity of Berkeley Hall members who created a matching funds program over the holidays, and through their efforts, gave \$30,000 to Bluffton Self Help. **Thank you!**



Honoring Ida Martin **BSH** Founder's Dinner

April 5
6:00 -- 8:00pm
Campbell AME Chapel

Please join the friends and family of Bluffton Self Help at a Dinner honoring Mrs. Ida Martin and other founding members. Many local notables will be on hand to commemorate the occasion.

\$20 per person
For reservations, please call (843) 757-8000 by March 22nd
[meal lovingly prepared by Campbell AME church members]

Thank You!...

Although for many of us Thanksgiving and Christmas are dim memories, we wanted to be sure to thank all of you who made these holidays happier for hundreds of families.

Thanks to your generosity, we provided complete Thanksgiving dinners for almost 300 families. And for Christmas more than 800 children from 366 families received toys!

So a big thanks to all of you who made this possible and also to our volunteers who helped assemble the toy bags and put them in alphabetical order for easy distribution.

Here's a quick snapshot of some of BSH's contributions to our community in 2009.

- ▶ 54,000 food items given to 10,300 people.
- ▶ More than 100,000 pieces of clothing given to 11,000 individuals.
- ▶ 658 families received financial assistance (rent, utilities, medications, etc.).
- ▶ 89 percent of contributions went to clients.



We thank you for your donations to Bluffton Self Help!

FOOD

AAA
All Saints Episcopal
Bluffton Town Firefighters
Bluffton United Methodist Church
Carecore National
Church of the Palms
Colleton River Ladies' Holiday Tea Curves
First Baptist Church of Bluffton
First Presbyterian Church of HHI
Hazel Burger 99th Birthday Party
Jessie Chirite (Birthday)
Lord of Life Lutheran Church
Low Country Boot Camp Women
Lowcountry Community Church
Lowcountry Presbyterian Church
McCracken Middle School
NBSC
Nelson & Ashley Sturm
Olivia & Levi Vander Wel (Birthday)
Paradise Landscaping & Design
Shalom Club of Sun City
St. Luke's United Methodist Church
Sun City Democratic Club
Sun City Eagle's Landing
Sunbeam Drive & SC Co-ed Softball Team
Temple Oseh Shalom
The Crescent
The Kiwi Club

TOYS, CLOTHING or BLANKETS

Bluffton Academy
Bluffton High School
Bluffton Rotary Club
Bluffton United Methodist Women
Boys Scouts of America-The Order of the Arrow
Bull Hill of Sun City
Collins Group Realty
Cross School
Garden Walk (Sun City)
HH Area Homebuilders Association
High Cotton
Lisa Ouellette
Live Oak Christian Church
Moss Creek Ladies
Moss Creek Owner's Association
Nancy Fryman
Nancy Keenan
Palmetto Quilt Guild
Phillips Electric
Santa Sammy's Ultimate Frisbee Tournament
St. Andrew's by the Sea United Methodist Church
The Kiwi Club

