



Deeper Dive

Community Updates from the Hilton Head Island Deep Well Project

Volunteer Spotlight:

All Deep Well Volunteers!

Page 2

- See how Birdies are good for PGA golfers AND Deep Well
- Like cold beer and good food—all while fundraising?
- Fill the Well—thank you!

Page 3

- Education = Great Equalizer, see how this translates in Circles

On March 2nd, **The Deep Well Project** celebrated their wonderful volunteers by hosting the **Annual Volunteer Appreciation Event!**

Nearly 150 volunteers and special guests gathered at the Hilton Head Island Beach and Tennis Resort to recognize the many Hilton Head area residents who give their time, energy, and expertise to assist their neighbors.

This year, the event focused on the many ways DWP volunteers support children. Nearly 17 percent of children in the U.S. grow up in poverty, and these children are at higher risk of emotional, mental, and physical health challenges. Providing food, clothing, support for safe housing, and other essentials, helps keep the children in our community healthy and strong. That is why DWP is so proud of our 300 volunteers who worked 26,000 hours last year to assist their neighbors. The programs these volunteers support, help stabilize families so children can focus on learning, growing, and just being kids!

A highlight of the evening was a speech from one of our Circles HHI Leaders who described the positive impact of Circles and the importance of its Children's Program. Without the loving childcare provided, many of our participants would not be able to attend Circles!

DWP volunteers positively affected children's lives in so many ways in 2024:

- **The Food Pantry** - Forty percent of the Pantry's recipients are children.
- **Livable Housing** - Repaired roofs, floors, HVAC systems and more, to keep families safe and dry.
- **School Readiness** - Distributed school uniforms and supplies to 444 children.
- **Santa's Workshop** - Distributed toys, games, and books to parents, making kids happy on Christmas morning without financial stress.
- **DWP Office** - The first point of contact for neighbors seeking assistance.
- **Circles Program** - Helped Leaders set goals, increase financial acumen, and advanced careers.

The staff at DWP would like to say **THANK YOU** to all our fantastic volunteers, and a special thank you to James and Jane Wedgeworth, Chuck and Gigi Kotler, Vinny and Linda Ahooja, and other donors for sponsoring this wonderful event! As our guest speaker so eloquently stated:

"We feel so blessed to be surrounded by such an incredible team of dedicated, kind-hearted, and supportive individuals!"



Circles Leader with her children



Volunteers enjoying the appreciation event at the Hilton Head Island Beach and Tennis Resort

James and Jane Wedgeworth

Birdies Score for Deep Well!

Thanks to the generosity of **The Heritage Classic Foundation**, donations made through their annual “**Birdies for Charity**” program, and received before the final round of the RBC Heritage Presented by Boeing on April 20th, will be matched with an **additional 20% match**. By pledging an amount to be multiplied by the number of total birdies scored in this year’s golf tournament OR a flat dollar amount of \$25 or more, your “Birdies” donation designated for Deep Well will be matched by an additional 20%.

Select Deep Well (listed alphabetically in the “D’s” in the list of participating agencies). Last year’s golfers made a total of 1,139 birdies during the tournament, so your gift of 25 cents per birdie, for example, would be \$284.75 and Deep Well would receive a total gift of \$341.70 from the Heritage Classic Foundation...as sweet a WIN as sinking a birdie putt!

Pledges can be made by clicking the link below:

[Giving Opportunities | Heritage Classic Foundation](#)



SAVE THE
date

Locals Only Taproom Friday, April 11, 2025

144A Arrow Road • Open noon—8:00pm

A portion of all sales that day will go to Deep Well. Bring your friends and toast to **Locals** support of the **Well**, and enjoy food from Slap Truck.

Thank you for “Filling the Well”!

Deep Well’s year-end donations—toys, food and financial gifts—were fantastic and put us over our income budget for the year. And it’s a very good thing the community helped “Fill the Well,” because our services and programs also finished 2024 with high, over-budget expenses due to the volumes of people needing help. Deep Well finished the year a bit in the hole, but being able to tap solid reserves meant we didn’t have to pull back on services—just when our community most needed help.

But relying on reserve funding to fill a gap isn’t a long-term plan, so our fund development team is planning a host of fun, informative, and beneficial events in 2025. We will be hosting educational tours of our facility, outreach events at local businesses, maybe even a pickleball challenge! Email executive director Sandy Gillis at Director@deepwellproject.org if your family foundation, business, or social group has an idea for something that keeps the **FUN** in fundraising.

If you’d like to help **Fill the Well** with a monthly credit card gift, please go to the Deep Well website: deepwellproject.org/donate. Just sign up for a recurring gift of any amount, processed on the day of your choice.

**Thank
you!**

Education = Great Equalizer

Deep Well strongly believes that education is a pathway to get ahead in life. Training and education are game changers in terms of competing in the job market and improving chances for success in the working world.

Deep Well established a scholarship program in 2019 and provides financial assistance to those who are hard-working and motivated but may not qualify for Federal or State financial assistance. Over the past five years, Deep Well has invested over \$275,000 in 27 people to further their education in the industries that support the Lowcountry workforce such as healthcare, hospitality, and business.

The scholarship program covers the cost of tuition, fees, books and materials. However, not all barriers to taking classes are due to a lack of financial means. Deep Well recognizes the barriers that prevent working adults with children from going back to school—time, transportation, home technology, and childcare—and includes these in our scholarships as well.

The Deep Well Scholarship Program is currently available for Circles participants if earning an educational credential is key to their plan to lead their family out of poverty. We are proud of the fact that 40% of the Circle Leaders in Cohort 1 and 70% of the Circle Leaders in Cohort 2 are enrolled at the Technical College of the Lowcountry or the University of South Carolina - Beaufort. Getting a better education also instills the confidence and self-worth to be more competitive in the job market. It is a great equalizer.



Circles Leaders currently enrolled at TCL



TCL Graduate enrolled at USCB



DID YOU HEAR?

**\$78,300 worth of food exited
the Food Pantry in January**

**86 families were helped with
an emergency housing
payment in February**

Visit our website to make a credit card donation deepwellproject.org/donate
The Deep Well Project • 80 Capital Dr. Hilton Head Island, SC 29926 • 843-785-2849