

WAYS TO VOLUNTEER AT DEEP WELL

Facilitate the Client Intake Process

The job of an office volunteer is to answer the phones and welcome walk-ins as the first client contact, take down all pertinent information for the aid request including entering the info into our ACT! client database, and follow up on validating the need as directed by staff. Spanish/English speaking skills are ideal, but not a requirement. Office volunteers work four-hour shifts Monday – Friday, either 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. or 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. on their assigned day (usually just one day per week).

Staff the Food Pantry

Pantry volunteers guide clients in food shopping, packing up food, shopping for perishables as directed by staff, or occasionally to deliver food to clients with no transportation. Volunteers also sort and shelve donated food. Pantry volunteers work four-hour shifts Monday – Friday from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., and 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays on their assigned day. Most volunteers just work one shift per week.



Help Repair Homes

Livable Housing volunteers help people keep a roof over their heads. Their focus is to make sure our clients' homes are safe and dry. Livable Housing volunteers usually work two or three half days per week. We have three separate volunteer work crews who fan out across Hilton Head, Bluffton, Okatie, southeastern Jasper County and even parts of northern Beaufort County, to do critical-nature, home repairs for low-income homeowners. These repairs are not cosmetic, they are serious structural improvements to ensure people's homes have a functioning bathroom and kitchen, floors that someone won't fall through, and a safe and stable way to enter/exit the home.

Pick Up Donated Furniture and Stage the Furniture Warehouse

Deep Well accepts gently used furniture and appliances from resident donors on Hilton Head for our Furniture Closet. Regular volunteers help our truck driver do the donated furniture pickups every Wednesday, from approximately 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. The driver of the truck is a professional mover and experienced and knowledgeable about coaching the proper way to pick up and move heavy items – so the volunteer is more like an assistant.



Provide Translation Services

We are always in need of more Spanish-speaking volunteers. In person is always best, but this can be done from your home, with Deep Well giving you the phone number of the client for you to contact with instructions or doing a 3-way conference call with the client and office staff.

Support the School Readiness Program

Every summer, Deep Well offers a School Readiness program and provides five new uniform shirts and school supplies for the entire year for each student in a client's family. The shirts and supplies go a long way to easing the strain on a family's budget. Volunteers in this program purchase all the shirts and supplies, organize the inventory, process the requests, and then distribute them throughout the summer.

Coordinate and Deliver Holiday Meals

Deep Well coordinates and delivers approximately 250 Thanksgiving Day Meals and 250 Holiday Meals. Pantry volunteers pack delivery bags with enough food items for the entire family. Seasonal volunteers typically deliver the meal packages on the Sunday prior to the actual holiday. There are always two adult drivers per car, one to drive and one to navigate as you'll likely visit new neighborhoods.

Seasonal Volunteer Opportunities

In addition to coordinating and delivering holiday meals to families during Thanksgiving and Christmas, we have the Santa Shop. A wish list of toys for the Santa Shop can be found on the s: drive in the Volunteer Resources folder, and our website in case you would like to organize a toy drive. As you can imagine, we request and receive a lot of toy donations. In 2022, almost 800 children received toys and clothing from the Santa Shop, and over 140 new bicycles were given to local children.



Be an Elf in The Santa Shop

We also have "Elf Volunteer" opportunities in the Santa Shop who manage the volunteer schedule, assist shoppers, toy runners, toy assembly and battery installation, translators, etc... In addition, we are excited to have a large new space to house the Santa Shop, so setting up and breaking it down is another volunteer opportunity in and of itself.

Organize A Food or Toy Drive

Thankfully, all kinds of groups like to organize a food or toy drive - Garden clubs, tennis groups, pickle ball groups, golf groups, book clubs, churches, country clubs, neighborhoods, extended families, schools, employers, walking groups, biking group or boating club, etc. The most important thing is that you ALWAYS get permission for the drive with your organization or neighborhood in advance. Deep Well provides guidance on how to conduct a drive with regard to wish list items, times, locations, and delivery of the goods to Deep Well.

Bring A Friend or Family Member

We do encourage family volunteering!

It is very important that all volunteers understand the entirety of Deep Well, complete a volunteer application, have a tour, and sign a waiver. If a friend or family member is interested in volunteering, he/she still needs to go through the Volunteer Coordinator. Also, if it is a onetime helper who is in town visiting, we need to know ahead time and they will need to complete a [waiver form](#).

Support Minors as Volunteers

Get them involved young and you have a lifetime of volunteerism ahead. Volunteers under the age of 18 (12 years is the minimum age) who wish to participate in an ongoing volunteer opportunity must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Minors must complete the [Volunteer's Release and Waiver of Liability and Confidentiality Acknowledgment Form](#) and also have the parent or guardian sign it. Requests to bring minors to a volunteer shift must be approved in advance by the supervisor.