



The Hilton Head Island Deep Well Project

Combat COVID-19 Community Update

What Have We Seen?

Spring 2020

- World-wide pandemic reaches the Lowcountry; SC declares State of Emergency
- Schools, restaurants, bars, retail stores, service businesses abruptly close
- Tidal wave of joblessness hits with no end in sight
- Grocery store shelves empty, with some rationing
- Deep Well's office phone rings 330 times on a Tuesday in early May

Lowcountry flexes its philanthropic muscle—donations flood into Deep Well!

Summer 2020

- “Non-essential” businesses begin re-opening with limited services and hours
- Visitors start to return, but dining and activities are curtailed
- Tourism support jobs S-L-O-W-L-Y return, with limited hours and opportunities
- COVID-19 cases skyrocket in June/July, mask laws enacted, long lines for virus tests
- SC lifts State of Emergency, some utility companies resume disconnections for nonpayment, and some evictions resume

Community continues to help Deep Well with food and financial donations!



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What Have We Achieved Together?

In six months, March through August, gifts from Lowcountry residents have powered Deep Well's emergency human services:

- **2,975 people** received a week's worth of groceries—over **62,000 meals**
- **590 emergency rent payments** were sent directly to landlords/property managers, keeping about **2,000 people safe** in their homes, stabilizing the market
- **\$465,662 in rent/mortgage payments** and over **\$25,000 in emergency utility bills** were paid
- For context—**\$150,000** covered ALL of 2019 rent

What Comes Next?

We sure wish we knew! Our best guess: the tourism off-season running through early March will be lean and tough for hospitality hourly-wage earners.

Gritty, small businesses, who hung tough till now, may have to shutter—creating a new wave of unemployment.

And there's COVID-19 itself...every time an employee tests positive, that person, plus everyone in his/her household must quarantine and be out of work.

Our work is not done. If you can help us moving forward, we would be grateful.

Here's What We Do Know...

Combatting COVID-19 in our community is a marathon, not a sprint. And, we will be here, stride for stride, TOGETHER, keeping our community as safe, healthy and stable as possible.

Your rising tide of generosity has truly lifted all boats.

Thank you for supporting Deep Well as we extend a Life Line to our community.