

Community Heart & Soul®

— Guided by what matters most —

MANNING, SOUTH CAROLINA

We are uniquely familiar. We are nostalgic. We are tranquility. We are Manning. Manning, South Carolina is a place where natural wonders embrace relaxing lifestyles. Where you are in the midst of it all yet only a short drive from mountain tops to sandy shores. A place to retreat from the noise of a busy lifestyle.

POPULATION:
4,319

CHALLENGE:

Economic and
downtown
development

FOCUS:

Outreach and
development for a
stronger sense of
community

KEY TOOL:

Story gathering
and action plan

Manning was named after Governor John Laurence Manning in 1855. As the county seat, it serves as the hub for administration. The first mayor, Dr. George Allen Huggins, declared Manning to be a “garden spot” and today beautiful plants and trees bloom through-out town. Manning is home to many shops and restaurants and is a convenient stop off I-95. Many historic buildings have been restored and the town exudes Southern charm making it a great place to sip, shop and stroll. Be sure to visit Brooks Street once dubbed, “The most beautiful street between Maine and Miami.” Its charm matches its slogan, “Matchless for Beauty and Hospitality.”

Manning “by the numbers”:

- 1,200 data points collected from residents.
- 350 people reached through a partnership with Meals on Wheels.
- 6 Heart & Soul statements created to articulate what matters most to residents.

Local conditions:

The City of Manning initiated Community Heart & Soul to help residents understand how decisions are made and how they can have greater input. Manning leadership wanted the community to be more engaged in activities and the cities’ future development. They hoped that Community Heart & Soul would strengthen the community and bring back a sense of pride. The Clarendon County Chamber of

Commerce supported staffing and funding.

Partnership:

Central Carolina Community Foundation provided a grant of \$20,000 for Community Heart & Soul.

Volunteer and Community Response:

Over four years the Manning Heart & Soul leadership team and volunteers worked tirelessly to listen to what mattered most to residents. Manning Heart & Soul volunteers participated in over 20 community events, ranging from high school sporting events, outdoor concerts and festivals, as well as holding their own events.

Heart & Soul Outcomes:

- A Community Calendar Coordination Committee has been created initially composed of staff from the City, Chamber of Commerce and local newspaper. The mission of the Committee is to promote the current and future community events that develop as part of the Community Heart & Soul Action Plan.
- Commendation from South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster with a resolution designating December 5, 2023 as Community Heart & Soul Day in the state of South Carolina.
- An Art Walk planning committee was established to promote more community public art projects.
- In celebration of community spirit and patriotic pride, the City of Manning, Manning Heart & Soul, and the Manning Lions Club partnered to adorn downtown Manning with flags commemorating national holidays while enhancing the visual appeal of downtown Manning.
- The Heart & Soul Team initiated Project Are You Ok? to conduct wellness checks for recipients of Meals on Wheels during the COVID-19 pandemic. This project was recognized by the Administrator and Secretary for The Administration for Community Living, the federal entity that administers the Older Americans Act.
- The Manning Heart & Soul Team is collaborating with Main Street Manning to create a nonprofit organization to financially support the implementation of the Heart & Soul action plan.



**Project
Are You Ok?**

