

Sharing & Caring

Serving The Midlands for 43 years

The Cooperative Ministry's Year-End Car Dash

Help our Car Program receive 30 car donations this fall

The Cooperative Ministry hopes to receive 30 car donations this fall, from October to December, which, through auction, could generate an anticipated \$30,000 to support client services.

Receiving 30 car donations would set a donation record for the final three months of the calendar year—dating back to 2013. All donations are sold at Rawls Auto Auction, a dealer-only auction, in Leesville, SC.

The Cooperative Ministry accepts cars in all conditions, and towing is free within a 50-mile radius of Columbia. The Cooperative Ministry's Car Donation Program is managed internally and locally, maximizing the funds available to help clients reach economic self-sufficiency.

Known as the Car Donation Program, the process for a car donation is simple and turnkey.

Step One: Call Scott Vaughan, Director of Community Awareness, at his direct line, (803) 799-2428, or complete the simple donation form at www.coopmin.org/donate-your-car. **This QR Code** leads to that



online form. Donors must have the title in hand at the time of donation—cars cannot be accepted without a title. Replacement titles can be ordered online here: scdmvonline.com. **This QR Code**

leads to the title replacement page



Will you help promote our Car Program this fall?

Help us reach our Year-End Car Dash goal of 30 cars.

- Promote through your business with a counter display. Contact Scott Vaughan at (803) 799-2428 for assistance.
- Promote through your company, church, or neighborhood newsletter.
- Promote by email to your friends and family.



Free Towing within 50 miles of Columbia, usually within 36 hours - **Guidance with title transfers** - Completion of **IRS 1098C** needed for applicable tax purposes.

Step Two: Scott will telephone the donor to discuss next steps, which include an email he will send outlining those next steps. Scott can also answer donor questions. It is important for the donor to remove the tag and communicate with SC DMV.

Step Three: Scott will notify A&E Towing - the towing company used by The Cooperative Ministry. The towing company will call the donor to arrange the best day and time for pickup. All car donations are towed directly to Rawls Auto Auction.

Step Four: When the car sells at auction, Scott will mail the donor the IRS 1098-C form, which specifies the sale price. The donor can then use this form, as applicable, with income tax preparation.

From Beth H. Irick, CEO

Year-End Celebration Luncheon honors volunteerism, partners

Each June, at the close of our Fiscal Year, The Cooperative Ministry hosts what we call our Year-End Celebration Luncheon.

This year's luncheon was at First Baptist Church, Columbia, one of our founding church partners. The church graciously provided a catered lunch from Shealy's Barbecue in Batesburg-Leesville.

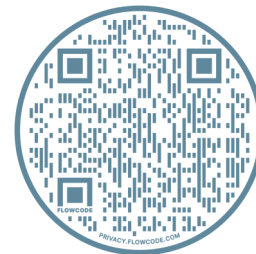
Our luncheon is not a time to pass out awards, but instead a time to thank our volunteers, our church partners, and community friends.

Volunteerism makes up 31 percent of our workforce, and so we could not serve 13,000 people each year were it not for men and women who freely serve alongside our staff. Consider it this way: In 2024-2025, our clothing bank served 3,069 people. Our clothing bank staff consists of a full-time director and a part-time assistant. Our staff was supported by dozens of individual volunteers and 19 different church, corporate, and college groups. It's phenomenal and so appreciated. The luncheon also provides an opportunity to thank all of our volunteer tax preparers and the individuals who serve with us day-to-day and week-to-week.

The Cooperative Ministry was founded by five downtown churches. Today, we have more than 65 church partners who support us financially, but also with volunteerism and collections of food and clothing. Our church partners are always at the forefront of service. When we have a need, and we can't divert staff time to it, I often will call one of our partners, and they rally and respond. Church partners refer clients to us for service, and also help us promote the needs that we have. The luncheon



Please use the QR Code for a short video recap of our 2025 Year-End Celebration Luncheon.



gives us an opportunity to say thank you to all of them.

This year, we were blessed to hear short testimonials from Rev. Dr. Malcolm Walls, of Sandhills Community Church; Ms. Armani Stackhouse, a graduate of our Financial Empowerment Program; and Mrs. Stephanie Yandle, our board chair. Stephanie is the customer experience manager at BlueCross BlueShield of SC.

Please use the QR Code above to watch a short video recap of our luncheon. And, thank you for your support of our mission to serve others.

The Cooperative Ministry is accepting books in all conditions. We can now recycle book donations for cash to benefit our client services. Books can be donated through our clothing bank, which is open Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Friday, 9 a.m. to Noon. Books must be delivered to The Cooperative Ministry and packed in boxes or bags for easy transportation. The Cooperative Ministry is a debt-free organization.



I am a shirt

I am a double-X men's polo shirt.

Recently, a kind Columbia woman cleaned out closets and donated me to The Cooperative Ministry's clothing bank. I once belonged to her husband. When she arrived at the clothing bank, a very helpful volunteer, Mr. Willie Murphy, helped unload me and other clothes into the clothing and furniture bank.

Once inside, a friendly volunteer named Ms. Barbara opened the bag of clothes and pulled me out. She checked me over for stains or tears and found none. I knew she wouldn't. I am a clean and gently worn shirt; I am the perfect donation for The Cooperative Ministry.

Ms. Barbara carefully placed me on a clothing rack with other short-sleeved shirts of my size. As she put me on display, I heard her say, "I can just imagine the person that this nice shirt will bless."

I did not wait on the rack for very long. Dave Peoples, director of the clothing and furniture bank, received an email from The Cooperative Ministry's website. The form came from a family's head of household needing to choose between the family's clothing budget and a utility bill payment. With help from The Cooperative Ministry's Financial Empowerment coaches, the family rightly chose to pay the utility bill and complete a form for free clothing. Clothing at The Cooperative Ministry is always free to those who need clothing, including shirts like me.

Aaron and his wife, Stella, came to the clothing bank, and Ms. Marilyn, the clothing bank assistant, ushered them to the clothing bank store, where Stella took a shopping cart and began shopping for the family's clothing. I was one of the selections. When Aaron and Stella arrived home, I was given to the family's high school junior, Thomas. He wore me on the first day of school. We were both very proud. Thomas was proud to have a new shirt for school; I was proud that I could be that shirt – bought for someone else and then donated to bless another.

The Cooperative Ministry's Clothing Bank is open for donations, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Friday, 9 a.m. to Noon. For information on individual volunteerism, please visit www.coopmin.org/volunteer for an application. Groups interested in volunteerism can contact Scott Vaughan at svaughan@coopmin.org or (803) 799-2428. (~ Scott Vaughan, Director of Community Awareness, The Cooperative Ministry)



Did You Know?

The Cooperative Ministry receives more than 300 applications per month (about 3,600 per year) for rent and utility assistance. Applicants living in Richland County who express interest in improving their financial circumstances receive a one-on-one appointment to meet with a Financial Health Coach within our Financial Empowerment Program. In this program, participants work on financial goals to achieve economic self-sufficiency. While working on financial goals, participants often qualify for assistance with rent or utilities. Through a TD Bank grant, participants also have access to professional counseling through The Christian Counseling Center at First Presbyterian Church in Columbia. Financial Empowerment graduates receive a certificate of completion.



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Beth H. Irick, Chief Executive Officer
Scott Vaughan, Director,
Community Awareness

Serving the Midlands for 43 Years

THE COOPERATIVE MINISTRY

Serving the Midlands for 40 Years

To Donate • 803-799-2428 • coopmin.org



- **Free Towing within 50 miles of Columbia.**
- **Guidance with Title Transfer.**
- **Letter of Disposal for applicable tax purposes.**
- **www.coopmin.org/donate-your-car**

