

# THE COOPERATIVE MINISTRY

## Our Mission

To increase the economic self-sufficiency of people experiencing poverty in the Midlands through crisis assistance and sustainability programs.

## 2022-2023 Annual Report

# TO OUR STAKEHOLDERS

## From the Chief Executive Officer

Beth H. Irick



Reflecting on FY 2022-2023, I am proud that our service never wavered during the global pandemic, and we came out of it by serving 11,248 people with eight different, very unique services all aimed at helping people become self-sufficient.

Through our Client Engagement area of service, we partner clients with a Financial Health Coach. The coach helps the client establish a monthly spending plan or budget, financial goals, and action steps. The coach can also tap our other services – financial assistance, free clothing and food, tax preparation, career improvement, and insurance counseling to help our clients as needed.

During the past Fiscal Year, we concluded the celebration of our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Columbia Mayor Daniel Rickenmann visited our newly remodeled clothing bank and also led the City Council in recognizing our Anniversary by proclamation.

Before the pandemic, in 2019, we hosted a Faith & Poverty Conference, which brought together our community's faith leaders to learn about and discuss poverty issues in our community. This Fiscal Year, planning began for a similar bi-annual event.

We are thrilled to see individual and group volunteerism vibrantly return. This Fiscal Year, 14,485 people contributed their time to serving others through The Cooperative Ministry. We are excited about our ability to serve others in the years ahead, and we look forward to what 2023-2024 will bring.

## 2022-2023 Board of Directors

### OFFICERS (July 2022-June 2023)

Davis Buchanan, chair

*Buchanan Construction Services*

Stephanie Yandle, vice chair

*BlueCross BlueShield of SC*

Alexa Godwin, secretary

*AgFirst*

Steven Hicks, CPA, treasurer

*AgFirst*

### DIRECTORS (July 2022-June 2023)

Elise Bidwell, CFP

*Edward Jones*

Rev. Wes Church

*First Baptist Church, Columbia*

Bill Edmonds

*Northstar Leadership Solutions*

Mike Farmer

*TD Bank*

Carol Fowler

*Fowler Communications, Inc.*

David Hodges

*Mass Mutual Financial Group*

Chief Wm. "Skip" Holbrook

*Columbia Police Department*

Jim Hudson

*Jim Hudson Automotive Group*

Rob Motley

*IOA*

Milton Pope

*Parker Poe Consulting, LLC*

Mark Scriven, CPA

*Elliott Davis, LLC*

Rev. Derek Thomas

*First Presbyterian Church*

David Tucker

*Tucker Oil Company*

Mitch Watson, CPA

*Carolinas HUB International*

Robert Williams III

*Lizard's Thicket*

## 2022-2023 Congregational Advisory Committee

Eastminster Presbyterian Church

First Baptist Church\*

First Presbyterian Church\*

Forest Lake Presbyterian Church

Gateway Baptist Church

Main Street United Methodist Church\*

NewSpring Church

Sandhills Community Church

Shandon United Methodist Church

Shandon Presbyterian Church

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral\*

Washington Street United Methodist Church\*

\* These are the founding churches of The Cooperative Ministry.

The Cooperative Ministry was created in 1982 by five downtown Columbia churches - First Presbyterian Church, First Baptist Church, Washington Street United Methodist Church, Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, and Main Street United Methodist Church. In 2001, a Congregational Advisory Committee, comprised of representatives from church partners, was organized. The first meeting was at Eastminster Presbyterian Church. This special committee convenes twice each year to receive program updates from staff, and to offer valuable counsel on The Cooperative Ministry's programs and projects.

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The Cooperative Ministry served 11,248 people with eight unique services in the fiscal year that ended on June 30, 2023. Of 511 households receiving financial assistance for rent, mortgage or utility payments, 34.5 percent had more than one occupant with an average of 2.3 individuals.

## Services



The Cooperative Ministry serves its clients with a variety of Financial Empowerment and Assistance services aimed at helping people become self-sufficient. Services include **Financial Empowerment coaching**, which also may include **Financial Assistance** for rent, mortgage or utilities; **Career Improvement**, which helps qualifying clients earn a GED, license, certification, or an expungement needed for a better job; **Free Clothing** from our 3,200 square foot “store setting” that clients need for work or school; **Free Furniture**, which often benefits those

experiencing a complete loss due to fire; **Free Income Tax Preparation** through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program; **Free Food** through emergency food boxes for families or snack packs for individuals, and **Insurance Assistance**, which comes as free help understanding the Affordable Care Act, Medicaid, and Medicare. Services within this “toolbox” may be used separately or together to help people reach their goals of stability and sustainability, which often goes a long way toward providing confidence in tomorrow.

## 2022-2023 Service Numbers

Food Pantry, Voucher, Snack Pack .....	1,506 People
Utility Payments.....	154 Households
Rent / Mortgage Payments.....	358 Households
Household Furnishings & Supplies .....	32 Households
Free Clothing .....	2,821 People*
Tax Preparation (VITA Program) .....	6,177 Returns
Career Improvement Assistance .....	11 Individuals
Financial Empowerment .....	151 Individuals
Health Insurance Premium Assistance .....	2,177 Households

\* In addition to serving 2,821 people in FY 2022-2023, The Cooperative Ministry’s clothing bank also provided clothing to the following non-profits and government agencies: University of South Carolina Supportive Housing, Sober Living Transitional Housing, Lexington Richland Alcohol and Drug Abuse Center (LRADAC), Lexington and Columbia Mental Health, Richland One and Richland Two school districts, Restoring Promise, and Transitions.

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY (JUNE 30, 2023, AUDITED BY THE HOBBS GROUP)

## Revenues & Expenses—FY 2022-2023

REVENUES AND OTHER SUPPORT	
Contributions	
Individuals	\$247,606
Congregations	\$200,782
Foundations	\$188,244
Bequests	\$36,200
Businesses	\$27,473
Grants	\$5,205,373
Car Program	\$42,355
United Way, Fundraising, & Miscellaneous	\$57,802
<b>TOTAL REVENUE AND OTHER SUPPORT</b>	<b>\$6,005,834</b>
EXPENSES	
Program Services	
Crisis Assistance	\$4,896,442
Client Engagement	\$525,862
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM SERVICES</b>	<b>\$5,422,304</b>
Supporting Services	
Management and General	\$496,678
Fundraising	\$153,792
<b>TOTAL SUPPORTING SERVICES</b>	<b>\$650,470</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$6,072,774</b>
OTHER INCOME (EXPENSES)	
Rental Income	\$27,150
Gain on sale of property and equipment	-
Total Other Income (Expense)	\$27,150
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>(\$39,790)</b>
<b>NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$3,758,539</b>
<b>NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$3,718,749</b>

## Value of In-kind Donations

Community volunteers and college interns contributed 14,485 hours of service, which was valued at \$311,234\*. The value of volunteer time is excluded from total revenue. We are nevertheless grateful for their vital support.

\* Source: Volunteer time with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program is valued at \$12 / hour by the Internal Revenue Service. The 2020 national value of volunteer time is \$28.54 / hour per the website independentsector.org.



VITA volunteer John Baynes assists clients with free tax preparation.

## Who are our clients?

Clients of The Cooperative Ministry are housekeepers, retail cashiers and assistant managers, laborers and warehouse workers, nursing and medical assistants, food service employees, state government employees, and customer service representatives.

Most of our client households are headed by a woman, who is caring for two others in the household.

**89 percent of expenses go to support program services.**

**THE  
COOPERATIVE  
MINISTRY**

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