

Sharing & Caring

Serving The Midlands for 43 years

Please support The Cooperative Ministry's mission for economic stability

Midlands Gives Day is Tuesday, May 5

Midlands Gives Day, an annual one-day online giving challenge to support Midlands non-profits, is Tuesday, May 5, beginning at 6 a.m.

The Cooperative Ministry's 2026 goal is \$60,000, with the first \$30,000 given matched dollar-for-dollar by corporate friends.

In 2025, The Cooperative Ministry raised \$68,323 through Midlands Gives Day, finishing fourth among 580 participating non-profits.

Midlands Gives participation is The Cooperative Ministry's primary annual fundraising event.

The Cooperative Ministry is a debt-free, non-profit organization, offering eight Immediate Needs and Empowerment services with a goal of helping people become economically stable. Of total expenses, 87

MIDLANDS GIVES DAY*
Tuesday, May 5 - 6 a.m. to 11:59 p.m.

How Your Gift Can Impact Others

\$50
Provides New Work Boots or Non-Slip Shoes

\$150
Helps an individual complete their GED

\$300
Helps an individual earn a license or certificate needed for a better job

\$500
Helps covers a day's operation of our clothing and furniture bank

Up to \$1,500
Provides rent and utility assistance to a head of household enrolled in our Financial Empowerment one-to-one coaching

*The Midlands Gives Early Giving Period opened April 1, 2026

percent support program services. For 43 years, The Cooperative Ministry has served the Midlands.

Please support our mission through your giving to The Cooperative Ministry during Midlands Gives

2026. Please use the QR Code below to reach The Cooperative Ministry's giving page.



From Beth H. Irick, CEO

In 2025, together we served a 10-year record 15,593 people

In Calendar Year 2025, The Cooperative Ministry served 15,593 people through all services—the most in a single year over the past decade.



Many of these individuals received more than one of our services, and many services benefited others in the home. For example, many of those receiving one-to-one financial coaching also receive financial assistance with rent or utilities. Those coming to our clothing bank might also receive a durable bag of free shelf-stable food.

We all come together through The Cooperative Ministry to serve others. We are supported by thousands of financial donors—churches, corporations, foundations, and individuals. Many of you were instrumental in collecting and donating clothing, food, and items for hygiene kits. Through our Car Donation Program, 73 individuals donated cars that were sold at auction with the proceeds supporting our

services. Many of you donated books, which we can sell for cash.

In 2025, 340 volunteers served 14,300 volunteer hours—31 percent of our workforce. When I tell you that “we” served 15,593 people, indeed “we” came together to do just that. Our staff might be at the forefront of service, but volunteers come alongside us, and donors fuel the services that we provide. It’s a community-wide team effort to serve the least of these in our community.

How we measure service

The Cooperative Ministry records service counts for each of our programs, using Client Relationship Management (CRM) software by Salesforce. Every service delivery is recorded in this software, as well as the number of individuals within the household. This information is valuable when we prepare reporting and grant applications.

What is causing the increases?

Since 2022, we have seen steady increases in our service counts. We believe these numbers echo

A 10-Year Snapshot of Service

2016 ..	13,500 unique individuals
2017	12,091
2018	12,380
2019	13,025
2020	13,336
2021	15,373
2022	12,843
2023	12,957
2024	14,874
2025	15,593

our economy: Surging housing costs, rising grocery costs, rising utility bills, higher gas prices, and escalating medical expenses.

As the cost of living increases, more people turn to social service non-profits for assistance.

That’s why you are important to the Cooperative Ministry and its mission to help people aim toward economic stability. Your gifts and service allow The Cooperative Ministry to serve more people—to stand in the gap for those who come to our doors.



THE COOPERATIVE MINISTRY

Visit coopmin.org or call 799-2428

- All conditions accepted.
- Free towing within 50 miles of Columbia.
- Answers to questions about lost titles and title transfers.
- All cars sold at auction to benefit The Cooperative Ministry’s services.

Churches are historically important mission partners

The Cooperative Ministry was organized in 1982 by five downtown Columbia, SC churches: First Baptist Church, First Presbyterian Church, Main Street United Methodist Church (now Columbia United Methodist Church), Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, and Washington Street United Methodist Church.

The new organization aimed to establish a cooperative method of assisting those in need by eliminating duplicate services offered by churches and to better understand an individual's need for assistance.

Milton Hines, a student at Columbia Bible College, was hired as a part-time coordinator. Volunteer counselors were trained, and on Sept. 20, 1982, The Cooperative Ministry began offering services.

Today, dozens of churches are in partnership with The Cooperative Ministry through annual financial

The Cooperative Ministry's Church Partners (Jan. 1, 2025 - March 1, 2026)

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| Antioch Baptist Church | NorthStar Christian Center |
| Calvary Baptist Church | Our Lady Of The Hills Catholic Church |
| Centennial ARP Church | Progressive Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ |
| Church Women United in Columbia (SC) | Redeemer Lutheran Church |
| Columbia United Methodist Church | Reformation Lutheran Church |
| Crescent Hill Baptist Church | Rose Hill Presbyterian Church |
| Earlewood Baptist Church | Sandhills Community Church |
| Eastminster Presbyterian Church | SC Conference of the United Methodist Church |
| Ebenezer Lutheran Church | Second Calvary Baptist Church |
| Emmanuel Church of our Lord Jesus Christ | Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church |
| First Baptist Church, Columbia | Shandon Baptist Church |
| First Presbyterian Church, Columbia | Shandon Presbyterian Church |
| Forest Lake Presbyterian Church | Shandon United Methodist Church |
| Francis Burns United Methodist Church | St. Andrews Baptist Church |
| Friendship Baptist Church of Columbia | St. Andrews Lutheran Church |
| Gateway Baptist Church | St. John's Episcopal Church |
| Good Shepherd Episcopal Church | St. Joseph Catholic Church |
| Kilbourne Park Baptist Church | St. Paul's Lutheran Church |
| Lebanon Methodist Church | Tree of Life Sisterhood |
| Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church
of Farrow Road | Trenholm Road United Methodist Church |
| Mount Elon Baptist Church | Unity of The Midlands |
| NewSpring Church - Columbia Campus | Virginia Wingard Memorial UMC |
| Northeast Presbyterian Church | Westminster Presbyterian Church |

gifts that support Immediate Needs and Empowerment services aimed at helping others reach economic self-sufficiency.

In addition to financial gifts,

many of the partner churches join other churches to provide individual and group volunteerism, as well as missional collections of food, clothing, and hygiene items.

The Cooperative Ministry accepts book donations

The Cooperative Ministry accepts book donations and sells them 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.



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

Serving the Midlands for 43 Years

THE COOPERATIVE MINISTRY

is participating!

5.5.2026

MIDLANDS GIVES

Our 2026 Goal is \$60,000

The first \$30,000 given is matched dollar for dollar!

Please give at midlandsgives.org/TheCooperativeMinistry



MIDLANDS GIVES
Powered by CENTRAL CAROLINA
Community Foundation

