

Sharing & Caring

Serving The Midlands for 40 years

Can you donate a used car? The sale of 25 cars this Spring will help families

The Cooperative Ministry hopes to see 25 additional used car donations through June 30 - the sale of which can generate funds to serve as many as 125 families with Financial Assistance and Empowerment services.

The Cooperative Ministry's Car Program accepts cars in any condition, and towing is free within 50 miles of Columbia.

Who donates cars to the Car Program?

"I hear from those who have inherited a car after the passing of a loved one, and they just don't want the extra expense of insurance and tag renewals," said Scott Vaughan, Director of Community Awareness, who manages the Car Program.

"Empty-nesters also donate the car used by their college students, or sometimes we get calls about old cars that need to be moved off the owner's property. It's not unusual to receive donations from company fleets and company and church vans. We've also been blessed with donations from used car dealers."

Because The Cooperative Ministry's Car Program is managed locally, the maximum funds possible are generated by local auction sales.

"Every car blesses families," Scott said. "We are debt-free, so the auction proceeds find their way to supporting services." All services are aimed toward helping people become self-sufficient, fulfilling The Cooperative Ministry's 40-year mission.

How Our Car Program Works

- Call (803) 799-2428 or use the QR Code below to access a short form.
- You will receive instructions for title transfer and tow scheduling.
- Your car is sold at local auction and proceeds benefit our clients.
- You receive both receipt and tax letters.



Rev. Marvin Lare signs the back of his car title, donating a 1997 Volvo Station Wagon.

**DONATE A CAR TODAY
AND HELP AS MANY AS FIVE FAMILIES WITH
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND EMPOWERMENT SERVICES
CALL (803) 799-2428 OR USE THE QR CODE. THANK YOU!**



City proclamation recognizes 40th Anniversary



Columbia Mayor Daniel Rickenmann, left, presents a city proclamation to Beth Irick, The Cooperative Ministry's CEO.

On Tuesday, Dec. 6, the Columbia City Council recognized The Cooperative Ministry's 40th Anniversary with a special proclamation. The document was read aloud by Columbia Mayor Daniel Rickenmann, pictured left, with Beth H. Irick, The Cooperative Ministry's Chief Executive Officer. The document reads, in part, "The Cooperative Ministry completes its mission by providing financial assistance and empowerment services, free clothing for work and school, emergency food, career improvement assistance, free income tax preparation services, insurance counseling, and budget counseling. The City of Columbia applauds The Cooperative Ministry's debt-free status and that 90 percent of expenses support program services." The proclamation was signed by Mayor Rickenmann and council members Howard E. Duvall Jr., William Brennan, Tina N. Herbert, Edward H. McDowell Jr., Aditi Bussells, and the late Joe E. Taylor Jr.



The Cooperative Ministry's Director of Community Awareness Scott Vaughan, pictured center, participated in **Gateway Baptist Church's** recent 25th Anniversary Global Impact Celebration. The church celebrated its rich missional history in local, state, and international missions. Along with other missions partners, The Cooperative Ministry had a tabletop exhibit, and Scott visited with a Sunday morning Bible Study class. Judy Davis, Gateway's Missions Director, and Senior Pastor Don Brock are pictured with Scott. Gateway is one of The Cooperative Ministry's 60 valuable church partners, and Judy also serves on the Congregational Advisory Committee.

Need a program speaker? Interested in a building tour?

The Cooperative Ministry staff loves visiting with church and civic groups, church mission fairs, neighborhood groups, and corporate lunch 'n learns.

Staff can share the history and mission of the organization, missional success stories, and how services are shaped to meet the needs of our clients. Programs can be 10-30 minutes, depending on the time available.

Also, The Cooperative Ministry loves tour groups. Walking through the building, staff can discuss different service areas and tell impactful stories. The tour can be combined with volunteerism in our clothing bank. Help is always needed folding and racking the wonderful clothing donations we receive each and every day..

To schedule a speaker or a tour, please call Scott Vaughan, Director of Community Awareness, on his direct line at (803) 799-2428 or email Scott at svaughan@coopmin.org.

From Beth H. Irick, CEO

Understanding our 2022 impact numbers

In 2022, The Cooperative Ministry served 12,843 people. Those who are heads of household are the people you and I might see on any given day in Columbia. They 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 caring for two others in the household.



In 2022, The Cooperative Ministry provided 15,780 services to our clients. Why is the number of services greater than the 12,843 people we served? Because some clients qualify for multiple services. It's not unusual for someone seeking Financial Assistance also to need the clothing that so many of you donate for us to distribute freely to those in need. Someone coming for clothing might also engage our Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program or VITA, as we call

it. (Our volunteers prepared 8,256 free tax returns in 2022).

Our clothing bank distributed 17,640 free clothing items for clients to use at work and school. We see 8 to 10 people daily who need clothing, and they love our new store setting in the clothing bank warehouse. This service number does not include clothing we distributed to other non-profits and government agencies like Richland 1 and 2 school districts.

COVID-19 closed some of our reliable food bank partners, which led us to provide emergency food boxes for hungry clients. We distributed 468 food boxes in 2022, and many of you, especially through your churches, made those boxes possible.

This short piece gives you a snapshot of our impact within the community. Every day, our staff joins volunteers (almost 500 in 2022) to serve our community as beneficiaries of your kindness and generosity. Your monetary donations, volunteer hours, clothing and food donations, and prayers all bless others. For that, I am so very thankful for you.



In recent months, The Cooperative Ministry has been blessed with a \$10,000 gift from The Cheerful Giver Fund of the Central Carolina Community Foundation (CCCF). Pictured, from left, are Falon Thomas, CCCF Advancement Associate; Scott Vaughan, Director, Community Awareness for The Cooperative Ministry; and CCCF Advancement Officers Cortney Bailey and Mimi Slade.



Applegreen's Midlands leadership recently presented a \$52,886.76 check to The Cooperative Ministry, representing the company's 2022 fundraising efforts through its Pitt Stop convenience stores and annual golf tournament. Pictured, from left, are Pitt Stop District Managers Robert Smith and Alice Smith; Applegreen General Manager John Tronetti; and Beth Irick, CEO of The Cooperative Ministry.

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

Serving the Midlands for 40 Years

Please Support
THE COOPERATIVE MINISTRY
On Tuesday, May 2, 2023

6 a.m. to Midnight

With An Online Donation at

www.midlandsgives.org/TheCooperativeMinistry

Our 2023 Goal: \$40,000

All Gifts Tax Deductible



**MIDLANDS
GIVES**

Powered by **CENTRAL CAROLINA**
Community Foundation