

THE COOPERATIVE MINISTRY

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

2017 Annual Report

Working Hard for the Working Poor

TO OUR STAKEHOLDERS

From the Executive Director



This past year, we served more than 13,500 individual clients with services that included emergency financial assistance for rent and utilities; free clothing;

food vouchers to area food banks; food baskets from our pantry; health insurance premium assistance; household furnishings; and supportive health services such as transportation, dental care, and vision exams.

We gave away 21 refurbished cars to low-income working adults with the help of car donations from our supporting congregations and grant funding from Richland County and the City of Columbia. In partnership with United Way of the Midlands, the IRS, and SC Thrive, we prepared a record-breaking 7,624 tax returns and saved low- to moderate-income tax payers over \$1 million in return preparation fees. On the administrative side, we paid off our mortgage, and we are now debt-free.

One of our primary goals for 2018 is to make ourselves better known within the Columbia community. We want people to come visit, take a tour, and meet and hear from our staff. We want individuals, families, and groups to come and volunteer in our clothing bank or help with clean-up or landscaping.

As you review this report, we hope you will learn how The Cooperative Ministry helps economically vulnerable families achieve some measure of stability, and we hope you will want to continue or begin a partnership with us to serve them.

Beth H. Irick
Executive Director

2017 Board of Directors

OFFICERS

Bill Edmonds, Chairperson
Mike Farmer, Vice Chairperson
Mitch Watson, Secretary
Steven Hicks, Treasurer

MEMBERSHIP

Reggie Alexander	Matthew Montgomery
Allison Baker	J. Milton Pope
Davis Buchanan*	Jim Rourke
Frank Cureton	Dr. Linda Salane
Carol Fowler	Stephanie Shields
David Hodges	Gus Strasburger
Skip Holbrook*	Rev. Derek Thomas
Joseph Horne	Joe Walker
Milton G. Kimpson	Robert E. Williams, III
Rev. Dick Lincoln	George Wright*
Stephen Mitchell	

*New board member

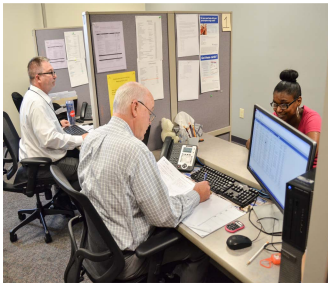
2017 Congregational Advisory Committee

Beth Shalom Synagogue
Eastminster Presbyterian
Forest Lake Presbyterian
First Baptist Church
First Presbyterian Church
NewSpring Church
Sandhills Community Church
Shandon Baptist Church
Shandon Presbyterian Church
Shandon United Methodist Church
St. John Baptist Church
St. Martins in the Fields Episcopal Church
Trenholm Road United Methodist Church
Trinity Episcopal Cathedral
Washington St. United Methodist Church

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The Cooperative Ministry impacted 11,629 households in the fiscal year that ended on June 30, 2017. Families with children were 56% of the households we helped to resolve immediate financial challenges and move toward greater self-sufficiency.

Crisis Assistance



Helped people in distress meet basic needs for food, clothing, shelter, and transportation

Health Programs



Promoted access to preventive, primary, and specialty health care for low-income individuals and families

Financial Sustainability



Prepared tax returns, gave away refurbished cars, and educated consumers on financial health

Table 1: Summary of services provided in FY2016-17

Service Category	Service Count	Impacts
Crisis Assistance		
Food Pantry/Voucher/Snack Pack	1,456	<i>We helped prevent homelessness, alleviate hunger, and provide clothing for 6,039 adults and children.</i>
Clothing	2,247	
Utility Payment	291	
Rent/Mortgage Payment	271	
Household Furnishings & Supplies	39	
Hygiene Kit	89	
Financial Sustainability		
Tax Return Preparation	7,624	<i>Our free services helped return over \$5 million in tax refunds and credits to low-income households in the Midlands.</i>
Autos for Opportunities	21	
Financial Literacy Education—Workshops, Outreach, and 1-on-1 Counseling	600	
Health Programs		
Medical, Dental, & Vision Co-pays	1,036	<i>1,727 people were able to access vital health care services to prevent, detect, or manage chronic disease conditions.</i>
Health Insurance Premium Assistance	6,029	
Medical Transportation	2,172	
Insurance Enrollment Assistance	273	

FINANCIAL SUMMARY (AS OF JUNE 30, 2017, AUDITED BY THE HOBBS GROUP)

Revenues & Expenses— FY 2017

REVENUES AND OTHER SUPPORT

Contributions		
Individuals	\$	189,122
Businesses	\$	33,234
Foundations	\$	110,799
Congregations	\$	186,062
Grants	\$	3,616,558
Autos for Opportunities	\$	47,152
United Way, Fundraising & Miscellaneous	\$	32,926
Total Revenues and Other Support	\$	4,215,853

EXPENSES*

Program Services		
Crisis Assistance	\$	3,044,393
Financial Sustainability	\$	579,285
Total Program Services	\$	3,623,678

Supporting Services		
Management and General	\$	350,744
Fundraising	\$	48,437
Total Supporting Services	\$	399,181

Total Expenses Before Other Income(Expenses)	\$	4,022,859
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OTHER INCOME (EXPENSES)

Net Rental income	\$	19,819
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CHANGE IN NET ASSETS \$ 212,813

Net assets at beginning of year	\$	2,166,455
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NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR \$ 2,379,268

VALUE OF IN-KIND DONATIONS

- The fair market values of vehicles that were donated to Autos for Opportunities was \$42,061. The proceeds from vehicle sales are included in total revenue.
- Donated items such as clothing, furniture, and household furnishings were valued as thrift shop items. Proceeds from the sale of donated items are included in total revenue.
- Community volunteers and college interns contributed 6,444 hours of service, which was valued at \$140,801. The value of volunteer time is excluded from total revenue. We are nevertheless grateful for their vital support.



Volunteers Henry Nash and Jesse Grote helping taxpayers file federal and state tax returns.

**For every \$1 spent, 90¢ went towards program services to help people in need.*

Contact Information

The Cooperative Ministry
 3821 W. Beltline Blvd. • Columbia, SC 29204
 Tel 803.799.3853 • Fax 803.252.8621
www.coopmin.org • info@coopmin.org

THE
 COOPERATIVE
 MINISTRY

