



Here some of our employees prepare to load numerous presents for 20 local children through the Ashe County Interagency Children's Christmas Project.

Employees Sponsor Christmas Charities

During the Christmas holidays, SkyLine employees joined with many others in the community by reaching out to those less fortunate with their support of area Christmas charities.



Our employees continue to support local Christmas charities that reach out to children and seniors in need, including Appalachian Senior Program's Project Star.

Through their generosity and participation as sponsors of the Ashe County Interagency Children's Christmas Project, Christmas wishes came true for 20 local children ranging from toddlers to pre-teens.

This year, 886 children have been sponsored county-wide.

This same generosity helped to bring a smile to 20 senior citizens through employees' support of Project Star through Appalachian Senior Programs. This program benefited nearly 250 individuals in Ashe County this Christmas.

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FRS Scholarship Program Applications Available This Month

If you have a son or daughter graduating from high school this spring, he or she may be eligible for the Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) Scholarship sponsored locally by SkyLine Membership Corporation.

This year, a total of 30 one-time, \$2,500 scholarships will be awarded to rural high school seniors: one per geographic region of the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association (NTCA) membership and one to a student sponsored by a NTCA associate member. The remaining 19 awards will be distributed proportionate to the number of applications received per region. FRS will fund \$2,000 of each scholarship, with the sponsoring cooperative of each winning student providing a \$500 match.

Additional scholarships through this program will be awarded, including four \$5,000 FRS Staurulakis Family Scholarships with preference given to students who are majoring in math, science, engineering or medicine fields.

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THANK YOU! THANK YOU! "Rise & Shine" Food Drive Receives More than 2,000 Breakfast Items

Thanks to you, our members and customers, SkyLine directors and employees, our second-annual "Rise and Shine" Breakfast Drive, held in September and October, received more than 2,000 donated food items to share with area food pantries. With more individuals participating this year, we have seen a 54-percent increase in the number of items donated since the inaugural food drive in 2014. SkyLine also presented employee and corporate donations to each of the five area food pantries sponsored in this drive, totaling \$600.



The West Jefferson Call Center was one of two SkyLine locations in Ashe that accepted donated food items.

As more than one in six adults and more than one and four children are considered food insecure across our re-

gion, this important drive brings immediate relief to area families in need and helps to restock area pantry shelves and replenish backpack initiatives. Volunteers at Ashe Outreach and other area pantries said the donation of food and financial support could not have come at a better time. Thank you for sharing your gifts of food and resources to address this pressing local need.



Pictured left to right are: SkyLine employees Danny Lawrence, Kevin Colvard, Eugene Seatz, Karen Powell and Paul Winterton with Dillon Culbreth and Junior Graybeal of Ashe Outreach Ministries in the Riverview community.



SkyLine's Karin Nichols and Suzanna Torres with boxes of food donated by customers, directors and employees for this year's food drive.



Helping to unload food items are Johnny and Barbara Grindstaff representing the Mobile Food Pantry at Shady Valley Baptist Church with SkyLine Director Olan Bentley of Johnson County.

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WORTH NOTING:

Friday,
January 8, 2016

FRS Scholarship
Applications Available

January – March 2015
Directory Collection
Drive

STAFF:

Jimmy Blevins
Chief Executive Officer

Kim Shepherd
Executive Director of Customer
Operations

Angie Poe
Customer Service Manager

Jamey Jenkins
Retail Sales Manager

Karen P. Powell
Public Relations Administrator
& Editor



SkyLine presented a donation and delivered more than 200 pounds of food to the Health & Hunger Coalition. Pictured are: Coalition Volunteer Coordinator Emmy Oakley, President Joe Bradford and Executive Director Elizabeth Young with SkyLine's Karen Powell and Kristen Costner.



Solid Rock Food Closet was the beneficiary of more than 600 breakfast food items donated at SkyLine's Sparta Customer Center. Here, SkyLine's Jamie Richardson and Mike Miller load multiple filled boxes of breakfast food items to deliver to Solid Rock.



SkyLine employees Cindy Powers, Teresa Shook and Noelle Gates with donated breakfast items received at our Banner Elk Customer Center.

FRS SCHOLARSHIP CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

According to the FRS, more than two-thirds of rural Americans with postsecondary degrees never return to their rural communities, so this program gives particular emphasis to those students who plan to return to their community following college. Eligibility requirements include the following:

- Applicants must be children of SkyLine members or SkyBest customers who subscribe to either company's telephone services.
- Applicants must be graduating high school seniors and reside full-time with their parent(s) in the companies' telephone service area.
- Applicants must have at least a C grade-point-average (GPA). FRS scholarships will be awarded to deserving students whose academic credentials fall within an average to above-average range.
- Applicants must be accepted to an accredited two- or four-year college, university or vocational-technical school.
- Applicants must express an interest to return to a rural community following graduation.
- Applications must be sponsored by SkyLine, an NTCA-member company.

Note: Children of SkyLine employees or directors are not eligible for this scholarship.

Application packets will be available beginning Friday, January 8, at all area high school guidance departments and at SkyLine Customer Service Centers in West Jefferson, Seven Devils and Sparta. Scholarship information and application forms also may be accessed through our website (www.skyline.org). Completed applications must be submitted to SkyLine's corporate offices by Friday, February 12. All applicants must be sponsored by SkyLine, and completed applications received by this deadline will be signed by a SkyLine official and submitted to the FRS for consideration by the March 1 postmark deadline.

For more information about the FRS Scholarship, please contact Karen Powell at SkyLine (800)759-2226.



Employees help to load Christmas gifts for Project Star to deliver to Appalachian Senior Programs.

CHRISTMAS CHARITIES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Our employees based in Alleghany offered food and financial assistance to a local individual with health issues who is also helping to care for an elderly parent. Avery and Watauga employees designated their holiday contributions to assist a young man who has recently experienced personal family loss and is working his way through school.

While our staff regularly give generously of their time and resources to our community outreach program Project Teamwork and other charities, it is always meaningful to show our support to local families during the Christmas season. We also thank you, our members, for your support of our efforts for local charities and for all you do for other charitable organizations throughout the year.

SkyLine Telephone Membership Corporation Statement of Nondiscrimination

SkyLine Telephone Membership Corporation is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The USDA prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call 1-800-795-3272 (voice), or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). "USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender."

Permissive Dialing Period for New 743 Area Code Continues

SkyLine's Alleghany and Ashe customers located in the 336 Area Code are encouraged to start using 10-digit dialing (336-XXX-XXXX) for outgoing local and regional calls. From now until mandatory 10-digit dialing begins on April 23, 2016, callers can dial seven or 10 digits to complete these calls to allow time to get accustomed to the new dialing pattern. DO NOT use 1+ to complete these calls – if you do, long-distance charges will apply. For more information, call SkyLine at 118 or visit our website: www.skyline.org.

Recipe of the Month

Mary Teague's Broccoli Salad

Ingredients:

- 4-5 cups fresh broccoli, chopped
- 1/2 red onion, chopped
- 6 slices bacon cooked and crumbled
- Craisins

Instructions:

Toss salad together in large bowl. Top with dressing (3/4 cup mayonnaise, 1/4 cup white sugar, 1/4 cup vinegar). Enjoy!

Submitted by SkyLine's Karin Nichols

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