

CONNECTIONS



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www.SkyLine.org
www.SkyBest.com

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.

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 teenagers. This year, more than

1,000 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 over 250 individuals in Ashe County this Christmas.

Our employees based in Alleghany created "blessing bags" for the local rest home residents to supplement what local ministries do for them during the holidays. Avery and Watauga employees designated their holiday contributions toward a local individual with serious health issues who has required extensive travel to receive necessary medical treatment.

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.

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, 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 also 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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"Grand Opening" Scheduled All This Month SkyLine/SkyBest's New Boone Customer Center Now Open!

Great news! SkyLine/SkyBest's newest Customer Center location at 217 Wilson Drive in Boone is now open, and we invite you to join us for our "Grand Opening" activities scheduled throughout the month of January. Located near Boone Mall, the new Boone



Photo: Todd Bush, www.bushphoto.com

Customer Center provides greater convenience to SkyLine/SkyBest's Watauga County customer base

and supports company efforts to expand SkyBest Communications' service footprint to new areas.

Grand opening activities will be scheduled through January 31, and we invite you to come see firsthand the latest technologies on display at this newest SkyLine/SkyBest location. When you visit, be sure to check out the technology demonstrations showcasing virtual reality and home automation, and learn more about the wide array of services now offered through SkyLine/SkyBest, including our newest Broadband packages, Automation and Surveillance, Digital TV, Medical Alert, Hosted VoIP and more. Check out the latest iPhones and devices offered through Carolina West Wireless, enjoy refreshments and mementos, and be sure to register for a chance to win some great door prizes, including a Smart TV, Amazon Echo Dot, SkyLine/SkyBest gift certificates and more.

Located in the same facility that formerly housed Village Laundry, the new full-service Customer Center hosts SkyLine and SkyBest products and services, ranging from broadband internet, Digital TV, local and long-distance phone services, bundles, home/business security, Automation and Surveillance, and medical alert systems. The Boone location also will be a customer service stop for Carolina West Wireless customers to pay their bills, purchase products or upgrade their existing cell phone plans.

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SkyLine staff prepare to deliver a van load of breakfast food items to Ashe Outreach Ministries.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! "Rise & Shine" Food Drive Receives More than 2,800 Breakfast Items

SkyLine's third annual "Rise and Shine" Breakfast Drive, held in September and October, received more than 2,800 donated food items to share with area food pantries. This year's total collections of 2,880 represents a 44-percent increase over last year's collections of 2,000 breakfast food items. SkyLine also presented donations

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NEED TO CONTACT US?

CUSTOMER SERVICE

LOCAL

118

TOLL-FREE

1-800-759-2226

REPAIR SERVICE, 24/7

LOCAL

611

TOLL-FREE

1-877-475-9546

Additional Local Repair Service Numbers:

ALLEGHANY

336-372-4444

ASHE

336-982-3111

AVERY

898-9250

WATAUGA

297-4811

JOHNSON

739-4500

INTERNET TECH SUPPORT, 24/7

TOLL-FREE

1-866-759-7591

WORTH NOTING:

FRS Scholarship Applications Available Beginning January 6

STAFF:

Jimmy Blevins
Chief Executive Officer

Kim Shepherd
Chief Management Officer

Angie Poe
Customer Service Manager

Jamey Jenkins
Retail Sales Manager

Karen P. Powell
Public Relations Administrator
& Editor





SkyLine's Mark Baugham helped Sparta Customer Center staff deliver more than 1,300 food items to the Solid Rock Food Closet in Alleghany County.

to each of the five area food pantries sponsored in this drive, totaling \$585. We are so grateful for the outpouring of support by our members, customers, SkyLine board/staff and the community!

As more than one in six adults and more than one in four children are considered food insecure across our region, this important drive brings immediate relief to area families in need and helps to restock area pantry shelves and replenish backpack initiatives. Thank you for continuing to share your gifts of food and resources to address this pressing local need.



SkyLine presented many breakfast food items and donations totaling \$185 to Reaching Avery Ministry (RAM). Pictured (l to r): SkyLine's Paige Phillips and Karen Powell with RAM Director Janet Millsaps.



SkyLine dropped off 290 lbs. of breakfast food items at the Hunger and Health Coalition and presented a \$100 donation. Pictured (l to r): Paige Phillips, Coalition Executive Director Elizabeth Young and Karen Powell.



The Mobile Food Pantry at Shady Valley Baptist Church received numerous breakfast food items and a \$100 donation. Pictured (l to r): Mobile Food Pantry Volunteer Johnny Grindstaff with granddaughter Corie Price, SkyLine Board member Olan Bentley of Johnson County and SkyLine's Josh Crumpton and Kevin Colvard.



SkyLine's Karin Nichols presents donations totaling \$105 to Solid Rock Food Closet Executive Director Larry Myers.

FRS SCHOLARSHIP CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

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.

Application packets will be available beginning Friday, January 6, at area high school guidance departments, SkyLine Customer Centers and our website: www.skybest.com. The application deadline is February 13.

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

In addition to its weekday business hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., SkyLine/SkyBest is introducing expanded hours at this location with walk-in service available from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays.

"With Boone as the commerce center of Watauga County, we feel this new location allows us to offer greater convenience and to be more accessible to all of our Watauga members and customers," said Retail Sales Manager Jamey Jenkins. The new location is convenient to Highway 105, which leads to the Foscoe community, and it also intersects with the 105 Bypass, which connects SkyLine members from the Sugar Grove, Vilas and Zionville communities.

Led by Retail Sales Manager Jamey Jenkins, the new location will include Retail Sales Supervisor Paige Phillips and a staff of six retail sales representatives.

Recipe of the Month Cheesy Potato Soup

Ingredients:

- 5 large potatoes, peeled and diced
- Water
- 1 tsp. salt or to taste
- ½ stick butter
- 6 Tablespoons flour
- ½ cup evaporated milk
- ½ (15-oz.) can Tostitos salsa cheese dip
- Approximately ½ cup milk
- Bacon, crumbled (optional)

Instructions:

Place potatoes and salt in a large pot and cover with water. Cook until done, then add butter. In a separate bowl, mix evaporated milk into flour gradually to form a smooth paste. With potatoes on low, pour flour mixture in and stir to make a thick broth. If broth becomes too thick, add milk to meet desired consistency. Then, add cheese dip. May be topped with crumbled bacon bits. Serves 9.

Submitted by Olan & Diane Bentley of Shady Valley, TN

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Directory Drive Begins This Month

With the recent delivery of the new 2016-17 regional telephone directory, please remember to save your old directory for the 25th Annual Directory Collection Drive, sponsored by SkyLine. Seventeen area public schools are participating in this year's drive, and for each old directory collected, SkyLine will donate 25 cents to the participating schools. Throughout the calendar year, SkyLine also receives directories at its customer center locations in Boone, Banner Elk, Sparta and West Jefferson, with credit given to the schools. The drive officially runs from January 1 through March 31.



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*Some restrictions apply. SkyBest internet subscribers will pay only \$14.95 per month.