



Solid Rock Food Closet – Alleghany



Reaching Avery Ministry – Avery

“Rise & Shine” Food Drive Nets over 2,500 Breakfast Items

Thanks to your direct involvement, our fifth annual “Rise and Shine” Breakfast Drive, held in September and October, collected more than 2,500 food items this year



Ashe County Sharing Center – Ashe

to share with area food pantries. SkyLine/SkyBest also presented corporate donations to each of the five area food pantries sponsored in this drive, totaling \$500. Since the program began, our customers, employees and directors have donated in excess of

10,000 breakfast food items to area food pantries.

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 and helps to restock area pantry shelves and replenish backpack initiatives. We are so grateful for the outpouring of support by our members, customers, SkyLine board/staff and the community! Thank you for continuing to share your gifts of food and resources to address this pressing local need.



Hunger & Health Coalition – Watauga



Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Tennessee – Shady Valley Mobile Pantry

Directory Drive Begins This Month

In conjunction with the release of the new 2018-19 regional directory, please remember to save your old phone directory for the 27th 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. The drive officially runs from January 1 through March 31.

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.

Through their generosity and participation as sponsors of the Ashe County Interagency Children’s Christmas Project, Christmas wishes came true for 10 local children ranging from toddlers to teenagers. This year, approximately 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 and Avery counties supported families facing health issues. Our Watauga employees provided Christmas to a family who recently suffered the loss of a parent.

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.



Our employees continue to support local Christmas charities that reach out to children and seniors in need, including Appalachian Senior Program’s Project Star. Here some of our employees prepare to load numerous presents for 20 senior citizens and 10 local children through the Ashe County Interagency Children’s Christmas Project.

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



Max Hagaman of Watauga County was a national FRS Scholarship winner, receiving the inaugural Roger Alan Cox Scholarship in memory of the late CEO of Star Telephone Membership Corporation in Clinton, NC.

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
(10-DIGIT DIALING)

ASHE

336-982-3111
(10-DIGIT DIALING)

AVERY

898-9250

WATAUGA

297-4811

JOHNSON

739-4500

LENOIR

929-2872

INTERNET TECH SUPPORT, 24/7

TOLL-FREE

1-866-759-7591

WORTH NOTING:

FRS Scholarship Applications Available Beginning January 4

January – March 2019 Directory Collection Drive Benefitting Area Public Schools

STAFF:

Kim Shephard
Chief Executive Officer

Brian Tester
Executive Director of Customer Operations

Angie Poe
Customer Service Manager

Jamey Jenkins
Retail Sales Manager

Karen P. Powell
Public Relations Administrator & Editor



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.

In addition, four \$5,000 FRS Staurulakis Family Scholarships will be awarded. Students who are majoring in math, science, engineering or medicine will be given preference. A total of 34 scholarships, worth a total of \$95,000, will be awarded in 2019.

- Four \$5,000 FRS Staurulakis Family Scholarships will be awarded, with a preference to students who are majoring in math, science, engineering or medicine fields.
- One \$2,500 Everett Kneece Return to Rural America Scholarship will be awarded.

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 4, at all area high school guidance departments and at SkyLine Customer Service Center locations. Scholarship application forms also may be accessed through our website (www.skybest.com). Completed applications must be submitted to SkyLine's corporate offices by Monday, February 11. 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 1-800-759-2226.

How to Access the New Online Directory

Visit <http://www.skybest.com/directory>.

When you open the directory link, you can access:

- Popular Yellow Pages categories,
- Directory Table of Contents,
- Customer Guide and sections of the directory.

From either the **Table of Contents** or **Sections** links, you can select **White Pages**, which will open additional links to **White Pages Business** and **White Pages Residential**.

For more information, call your local SkyLine/SkyBest Customer Center at 118 or 1-800-759-2226.

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."



Look for Your New 2018-19 Regional Telephone Directory

Local delivery of the new DexYP/SkyLine regional directory continues this month. The directory features only business white pages listings and Yellow Pages listings, which began last year. With continued interest among customers to receive printed residential white page listings, a limited quantity of residential-only printed supplements will be available at all SkyLine Customer Center locations in conjunction with the January delivery of the regional directory.

Going forward, residential listings will continue to be available online through SkyLine's website, www.skybest.com, as well as www.realpageslive.com and www.yellowpages.com.

Recipe of the Month

Nancy's Pond Mountain Vegetable Soup

Ingredients:

- 5 pounds ground chuck
- 1 can corn
- 1 can green beans
- 1 can green peas
- 4 medium onions
- 1 frozen bag butter peas or lima beans or both
- 1 frozen bag broccoli
- 1 bag small carrots
- 1 big can tomato juice
- 2 quarts tomatoes

Instructions:

Put all the ingredients together in a crock pot and cook on low for 6 to 8 hours. Serve with saltines.

Submitted by Nancy Barbee of Ashe County



SkyBest Medical Alert

\$24.95/mo.

No Contract. No Upfront Costs.

www.skybest.com

1-800-759-2226

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