

FRS Scholarship Program Continues Online Application in 2021

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.

In 2021, the FRS will award one-year scholarships in each geographic region of the NTCA membership (including the service area of SkyLine/SkyBest) to graduating high school seniors whose families are served by NTCA member organizations. For each FRS general scholarship, FRS provides \$2,000 and the sponsoring NTCA member company provides \$500. The FRS has awarded over \$1 million in scholarships since its inception, empowering rural students throughout the country to advance their communities with invaluable skill sets and experiences.

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Vivian Howard poses with her Ashe County Fraser fir, which was delivered prior to the virtual event, along with a basket full of Ashe County goodies! We hope she will join us in person next year.

Seeing Mashed Potatoes in a New Light

As announced last month, our plans were to hopefully feature one of Chef Vivian Howard's recipes from her new cookbook and in conjunction with her appearance at a special virtual event presented by the ON THE SAME PAGE literary festival, which was sponsored, in part, by SkyLine/SkyBest. Howard's newly-released second cookbook, "This Will Make It Taste Good," celebrates multiple flavor heroes, and she featured one of those in an engaging

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The Spirit of Giving at Christmastime

During the Christmas holidays, SkyLine employees joined with many others in the community by reaching out to those in need.

SkyLine employees sponsored 10 of the more than 880 children ranging from toddlers to teenagers in the Ashe County Interagency Children's Christmas Project. They also provided Christmas for 20 of the 225 senior citizens and adults who benefit from Appalachian Senior Programs' Project Star.



Ashe County Interagency Children's Christmas Project

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.



Reaching Avery Ministry



Shady Valley Mobile Food Pantry (Johnson)



Solid Rock Food Closet (Alleghany)



Sparta Food Pick-up



Ashe County Sharing Center



Hunger & Health Coalition (Watauga)

"Rise & Shine" Food Drive

Thanks to your direct involvement, our seventh annual "Rise and Shine" Breakfast Drive, held in September and October, collected nearly 1,500 breakfast food items this year to share with area food pantries. With a heightened need due to COVID-19, SkyLine provided contact-free options for picking up tote bags shopping lists and bins placed conveniently for our customers to drop off breakfast food items. SkyLine/SkyBest also presented corporate donations totaling \$1,000 to the five area food pantries sponsored in this drive. We are so grateful for the outpouring of support by our members, customers, SkyLine board/staff and the community!

On a sad note, we at SkyLine wish to extend our deepest condolences to the family of Johnny Grindstaff, a longtime volunteer with the Shady Valley mobile food pantry, who passed away a few weeks after our food delivery there. His care for others, generous spirit and love for his family and community will be long remembered.



Appalachian Senior Programs' Project Star

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118

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WORTH NOTING:

FRS Scholarship Applications Available Now Online

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www.facebook.com/SkyLineSkyBest

In addition to the FRS general scholarships, FRS has the following named scholarships*:

- Staurulakis Family Scholarships
- TMS Scholarships
- Everett Kneece Scholarship
- Roger Alan Cox Memorial Scholarships
- Good Neighbor Scholarship
- Herbert and Isabel Bitz Memorial Scholarship

*Submitting one application is sufficient for eligibility of all available scholarships.

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 graduating high school seniors and reside full-time with their parent(s) in the companies' service area.
- Applicants must be children of SkyLine members or SkyBest customers who subscribe to either company's facilities-based services.
- 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.

The Foundation for Rural Service (FRS), in cooperation with NTCA – The Rural Broadband Association, seeks to sustain and enhance the quality of life in America by advancing an understanding of rural issues. Through its various programs and initiatives, FRS strongly supports the continuing education of rural youth. If any SkyLine-sponsored students are named winners, they will be announced in May, in conjunction with area high school awards day programs.

Visit www.FRS.org/student for full instructions on how to create an account and for all necessary materials required. If you have additional questions about the FRS Scholarship, please contact Karen Powell at SkyLine's corporate offices at 1-800-759-2226.

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

SEEING MASHED POTATOES IN A NEW LIGHT CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

cooking demonstration and conversation with host Georgann Eubanks during the November virtual event. Ashe County Arts Council Executive Director Jeff Fissel shared that the virtual event was a great success and enjoyed by more than 2,000 viewers.

In this month's issue, we're delighted to highlight the recipe ingredients she demonstrated during the virtual event, using one of her flavor heroes highlighted in the new cookbook: *Herbdacious*. The ingredients for *Herbdacious* also are highlighted, but due to space limitations here, the directions for these recipes can be found on our website (see link under News Updates on our home page: www.skybest.com)

SkyLine/SkyBest was delighted to continue its annual support of the popular Ashe County literary festival by being the presenting sponsor of this special virtual event, and we hope Vivian will make an in-person appearance here in Ashe County sometime next year in conjunction with ON THE SAME PAGE.

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."

2021 Regional Directory

With the change in schedule for the regional telephone directory by our publisher, Thryv, please make note that the 2021 Regional Telephone Directory will be published in June 2021. For area businesses that advertise in this publication, we'll share more details regarding the directory sales campaign in this newsletter over the next few months.



2021 Calendars Are Available at SkyLine/SkyBest Customer Centers – while they last

Recipe of the Month

Mashed Potatoes' Second Coming

Ingredients:

- 3 cups cold mashed potatoes
- 1 tablespoon sour cream
- 1/3 cup Herbdacious
- 2/3 cup all-purpose flour, plus more for dusting
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 1/2 teaspoons kosher salt
- 2 8-ounce packs of sliced bacon
- 6 Tablespoons unsalted butter

Herbdacious Ingredients:

- 2 heads garlic
- 2/3 cup extra virgin olive oil
- 1 cup packed fresh basil leaves
- 1/4 cup packed fresh parsley leaves
- 1/4 cup tightly packed fresh dill, mint, chervil or cilantro
- 1/4 cup roughly chopped scallions, green parts only
- 1/2 cup grated Parmigiano Reggiano Cheese (use a microplane)
- 3 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- 1 1/2 teaspoons kosher salt

Instructions:

For complete recipe instructions, visit our website at www.skybest.com.

Special thanks to Vivian Howard for sharing these recipes from her new cookbook, "This Will Make It Taste Good."



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