

## Comporium Pioneers Ring at the Red Kettle to Help Make the Holidays Merry

It was a busy 2024 holiday season for Comporium Pioneers. Thanks to our dedicated volunteer teams, we were able to help make a difference for individuals and families across the communities we serve.

Our volunteers rang the bells again this year for the Salvation Army. Every year the Salvation Army serves more than 25 million people across America by serving more than 55 million meals for the hungry, providing 10+ million nights of shelter for the homeless, and countless Christmas gifts for children who may otherwise go without. Red kettle donations stay local and are used to fund services to help people in the communities where our red kettle bell ringers volunteer. Volunteering with the Salvation Army to ring those red kettle bells allowed our Comporium team to make a direct impact to the lives of neighbors in our community.

Young and old alike gathered around the red kettle and shared in the festive spirit of giving. The Salvation Army's Red Kettle volunteer program provides an excellent opportunity for children to participate in community service projects.



*Right: Volunteer Lila Monday (2nd from left) helps children place their donations in the kettle, and helping them experience the joy of giving.*

Laurabree Monday said of her family's participation in this project, "I love this annual tradition with sweet friends. A little music, bell ringing, some cute dancing and candy canes certainly go a long way to lift people's spirits and help a good cause."



*Above, left to right: Keith, Laurabree, Lila and Ethan Monday treated passersby to some holiday music, featuring Ethan on the clarinet.*



*The Monday family serving at the red kettle location, along with some of their close friends.*

*Below: Cindy Downing (left) and Joshua Small (right) enjoy their holiday red kettle bell ringing tradition.*





## Christmas Dinner is On the Way!

On December 21st, Comporium Pioneers were out early making their annual deliveries of Christmas dinner boxes to families in the community who might not have otherwise had a Christmas meal. Cars were carefully packed with Christmas groceries that volunteers had previously boxed up.



A lot of planning and time goes into this project each year. After volunteers collect and organize food items, they begin boxing them up.



*Above: Pioneers organize food items and pack those boxes!*

*Below: Michelle Moore ensures her box contains all the right items.*



*Above, front row left to right: Skylar Moore, Hailey Moore, Daniel Barnhardt, Adajia Lynn, Brittany Murphy, and Janet Carpenter*

*Back row: Michelle Moore, Chris Barnes (hiding), Matt Cantrell, Barbara Stephenson, Allyson Reid, and Blake Snyder.*

Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped with this project. We had a great time working together for a great cause.



*Above: Our delivery team is ready for action. Pictured left to right are Cindy Downing, Cammie Marshall Brazell, Daniel Barnhardt, Alyssa Brazell, and Landon Brazell.*



## A Gift Given is the Best Gift!

Christmas can be a lonely time for some, particularly for senior citizens who aren't as mobile as they once were. This year, a Comporium volunteer team tried to make the holiday just a bit more festive for a group of senior citizens at Willowbrook crossing. Willowbrook Crossing offers affordable rental options and handicap accessible apartments for seniors (62+).

On December 12th, a small group of Pioneers headed to Willowbrook Crossing to visit with the residents and distribute gifts. It was a very good day! The visit and the gifts were much appreciated.



Above, right: *Jeresia Barnes, Comporium Pioneer, greets the staff at Willowbrook Crossing.*



Above: *Jeresia Barnes (left) and Cammie Braswell (far right) with some of the staff members and residents of Willowbrook Crossing.*



## Comporium Pioneers Host Annual Christmas Luncheon and Business Meeting



Comporium Pioneer Club Immediate Past President Arhea White presided over the club's annual business meeting on December 12th. The luncheon and meeting was well attended and the Comporium Pioneers enjoyed a special time of fellowship as they celebrated the holiday together and got down to club business.

Special guests Sergeant Hems and Captain Grayson attended the luncheon and talked about the Rock Hill Police Department's K-9 unit that the Comporium Pioneers supported with their recent Dogs for Dogs fundraiser.





## ChristmasVille



Nearly three weeks til Christmas and all through the town  
Comporium's elves were scurrying around.

They'd soon help the children place telephone calls  
To none other than jolly old Santa Claus.

In ChristmasVille the Comporium museum was all bright  
With festive garlands and with white twinkling lights.

Mrs. Claus by the tree and elves by her side  
Welcomed the children with their smiles oh-so-wide.

Comporium Pioneers were part of the plan  
To help the children connect to Santa Land.

The children took turns as nice as could be  
They practiced their manners so Santa would see  
Their names on the nice list and under the tree  
The gifts they asked for, he'd leave there with glee.

The calls they kept coming and by the end of the day  
All the kids had called Santa and each had their say.

And now they would wait as they counted the hours  
Until Santa would visit with his magical powers.

And down through the chimney or through the front door  
He'd bring what they wanted and maybe more.

Our elves, they'd be nestled, all snug in their beds,  
While visions of telephones danced in their heads.

With dreams of ChristmasVille everything was all right,  
Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night.



Above left to right: Bryson Brawdy, Theresa Sauerwine, and Jamie Canty are ready to greet the children who will come to make calls to the North Pole.



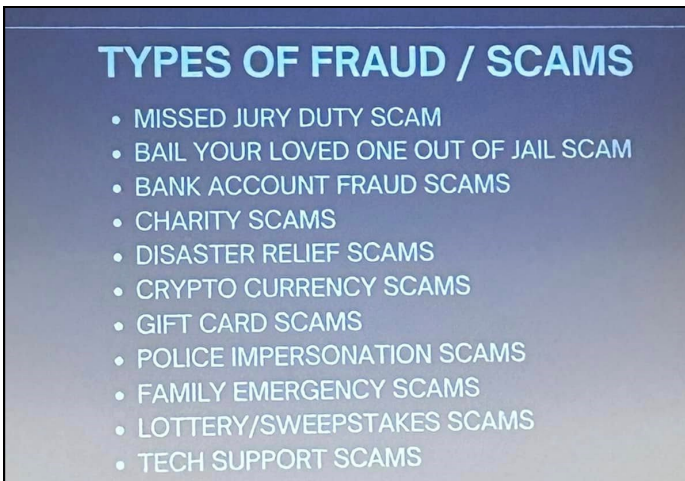
Above left to right: Melinda Niday and Theresa Sauerwine.





## Lunch and Learn

Comporium welcomed Deputy Trent Faris, Public Information Officer with the York County Sherriff's Office, as our guest speaker for the November Lunch and Learn session. Deputy Faris shared facts about phone scams and shared tips to help avoid being victimized by phone scams.



## Inclusive Kitchen

Comporium Pioneers volunteered for their fourth year at the Inclusive Kitchen event sponsored by AEC (Adult Enrichment Centers). AEC is a not-for-profit multi-generational community that engages adults of all abilities in community programs that promote inclusion and independence.



*Above: Row 1: Amy Peeler Williams, Tara Thomas, Brittany Murphy, Melinda Niday, and Hailey Moore, Row 2: Cindy Downing, Michelle Moore, and Kerrie Pierce*



## What's Next?

January 14—Lunch and Learn. SC State House Representative Brandon Guffy will speak on the topic of online blackmail.

Jan 15— Serve Supper at Bethel Men's Shelter

February 9—Haven Super Bowl Fundraiser

February 12—American Red Cross Blood Drive