

2023 Annual Report



Prepared by:

Camden Comeback Board of Directors

OUR MISSION

To share information and to organize, promote, and implement activities and events that create a sense of community and wellbeing for the citizens of Camden, Ohio.

OUR VISION

To unify the community through events that bring locals together, as well as to encourage visitors to enjoy our charming village. We seek to build community cohesion and partnerships by providing activities and events where residents can unite around a common goal. We strive to empower individuals and enhance community morale where we live, work, and play.

OUR STRUCTURE

Camden Comeback is a non-profit 501c3 organization, managed by a Board of Directors (includes President, Secretary, Treasurer and Committee Chairs) and includes four committees including:

Organization
Economic Development & Design
Partnerships
Promotion & Marketing



2023 UPDATES

Camden Comeback strives to be a positive source of energy, information, enthusiasm and opportunity for our community. We want to empower individuals and businesses and to improve community morale and pride where we live, work and play.

Lofty aspirations but so far, we're doing just that.

Our primary source of communication with the community is via our Facebook page which has more than 4,100 followers and in the fall, averaged a monthly reach of more than 31,200 with our Facebook posts, ads, shares and promotions of various events.

Grants Received

We received \$6100 in grants.

Butler Rural Electric Cooperative's Community Connection Grant for the purchase of mats to cover the electrical lines at the Black Walnut Festival, and Preble County Development Partnership grant for sails at Shank Park



OUR EVENTS

Home Run for Health Fair
Business Appreciation Day
Camden History Walking Tour
Bingo
Farmers Market
Black Walnut Festival
Haunted Camden Tours

- We organized and held our HOMERUN FOR HEALTH FAIR in the spring of 2023 with representatives and practitioners from 32 health and social service organizations participating. Health information, screenings, testing, vaccines, were provided at no cost or covered by insurance. We also hosted a Blood drive during the event.

- Our 4th annual BUSINESS APPRECIATION DAY, which highlights and promotes our Camden businesses, drew a huge turnout again. With 32 businesses participating and offering deals, specials, and door prizes, it was quite an event.

- Our annual BLACK WALNUT FESTIVAL attracts approximately 16,000 visitors to Camden over the two-day weekend in October. Camden Comeback took over the management of the 30+ year-old Festival in 2021. In 2022, we increased the number of vendor and food truck spaces, and added a Kid Zone and additional live entertainment. Our goal for the Black Walnut Festival is to be one of the best festivals of its size in the state. At the event we also offered our popular HAUNTED CAMDEN WAGON TOUR on Friday and Saturday of the Festival with more than 35 people attending the sold-out tour. We had over 572 kids participate for free in our 12-event kid zone.

- Started in 2021, our SUMMER FARMERS MARKET is held every Thursday June-September with many produce and products vendor sell their wares and goods in a parking area near downtown Camden. 2023 had over 30 different vendors set up to sell throughout the season.

- We started hosting twice-monthly BINGO events in late 2021 as a way to raise money not only for Camden Comeback, but also to assist local organizations and community improvement efforts.



WE SUPPORT OTHERS

In 2023, we donated close to \$7,200 to local non-profit organizations. Recipients included:

American Legion Riders of Post #377
Camden Family Lions Club
Camden Fish Food Pantry
Camden Police Department
Camden-Somers Township Fire and EMS
Friends of the Camden Library
Little Shoppe of Sharing
Preble Shawnee Theatre Company
Camden Somers Fire Association
VFW Auxiliary

For the 2023 Home Run for Health Fair, we purchased and distributed t-shirts, bags, and pill sorter boxes for all attendees.

We donated to support the Camden Fire Department's annual August Back to School event and for a local resident's Cowboy Christmas Parade

We brought Military Banners to Camden's utility poles. These will hang every year from Memorial Day weekend until Labor day weekend.

