

# 2022 Annual Report

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**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 event where residents can unite around a common goal. We strive to empower individuals and enhance community moral 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 by four committees including:

*Organization*  
*Economic Development & Design*  
*Partnerships*  
*Promotion & Marketing*



# 2022 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 3,800 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.

## Recognition

In January, we were awarded **the Outstanding Non-Profit Innovation Award** from the Preble County Chamber of Commerce.

## Grants Received

\$750	Butler Rural Electric Cooperative's Community Connection Grant toward the purchase of a free standing sound, microphone and speaker system from Sweetwater Sound.
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## OUR EVENTS

Home Fun for Health Fair  
Business Appreciation Day  
Camden History Walking Tour  
Bingo

Farmers Market  
Black Walnut Festival  
Haunted Camden Tours  
Holly Jolly Christmas

- We organized and held our inaugural **HOMERUN FOR HEALTH FAIR** in the spring of 2022 with representatives and practitioners from 31 health and social service organizations and the Mercy Health Mammogram van participating. Health information, screenings, testing, vaccines, were provided at no cost or covered by insurance. We also hosted a **HISTORIC CAMDEN WALKING TOUR** during the event.
- Our 3rd annual **BUSINESS APPRECIATION DAY**, which highlights and promotes our Camden businesses, drew a huge turnout again. With 27 businesses participating and offering deals, specials and door prizes, it was quite an event.
- We also with the LCNB's **KIDS OUTDOOR BUSINESS FAIR** for young entrepreneurs during the Business Appreciation Day and had 14 kids set up to sell their homemade artwork, goods, produce and items. Most all of the young entrepreneurs sold out of goods!
- Our annual **BLACK WALNUT FESTIVAL** attracts approximately 16,0000 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 (or 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
- Started in 2022, our **SUMMER FARMERS MARKET** is held every Thursday June-September with many produce and product vendors sell their wares and goods in a parking area near downtown Camden. It's one of the largest weekly Farmers Markets in Preble County.
- We started hosting twice-monthly (typically) **BINGO** events in late 2021 as a way to raise money not only for Camden Comeback but also to assist location organizations and community improvement efforts. In 2022, Camden Comeback donated more than \$5,000 to other Camden and Preble Shawnee non-profit organizations.
- In December, we hosted our first **HOLLY JOLLY CHRISTMAS** event providing toys and books to children and others in the community, complete with Santa and the Grinch.

## WE SUPPORT OTHERS

In 2022, we donated close to \$5000 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  
Cowboy Christmas Parade  
VFW Auxiliary*

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In 2022, we purchased multiple gift certificates from our local restaurants and businesses to use as door prizes during our events and prizes for our snowman-building contests.

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For the 2022 Home Run for Health Fair, we purchased and distributed t-shirts, bags, vials of life and baseball-shaped ice packs for all attendees.

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

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In partnership with the **American Legion**, we purchased two benches for the Tylersville Community Park splash zone and picnic areas in memory of two local students.