



Virgil says, maybe it's the economy...



Virgil, Food Service Supervisor, has no explanation, but he reports that meal lines are getting longer and longer. He usually feeds about 45-60 for breakfast, 120 for lunch, 55 for supper. Since the first of the year, he is feeding **90-110** for breakfast, **150-200** for lunch, and **90-100** for supper. That means that so far in 2004, we are feeding twice as many people. Our food supplies, which are generally adequate, are stressed. At the current rate, we will run out of turkeys (a main ingredient for us) in July. Virgil says he needs help.

Please remember the Community Kitchen when you get your request for Funds for Food (see page 4).

The case managers are reporting the same trend with a marked increase in the numbers of people they are seeing. The disturbing thing about their reports is that they are seeing new faces, those who are "new to the system." That is, they have just become homeless or they are new to this area.

The saddest thing is that these adults are primarily young people (late teens/early twenties) and families with small children.

Nationwide, the tides of the unstable economy are washing families up in places they never expected to find themselves.

Parade Magazine April 4, 2004

Perhaps it is the economy...but many of these adults have other issues as well as being homeless: substance abuse, mental illness, physical illness, disabilities, injuries, illiteracy, developmental delay, post traumatic stress disorder, domestic abuse, or combinations of all these life controlling and destroying issues.

Why this sudden increase is an interesting question, but we are too busy meeting these needs to try to figure out the answer to the question.

A COUPLE OF LITTLES THINGS AND ONE BIG THING

Believe it or not, this is the same woman

All that was needed for this transformation was new teeth, make up, and an apartment. That equals a woman who now feels good about her self and her life.



Tammy has been homeless off and on for years. For the last year or so, she has been living in a truck. Through the efforts of Ron Fender, outreach case manager, and anonymous donors, Tammy has new teeth.

Sometimes when one good thing happens, others follow. The day Tammy's teeth came in, she also got an apartment.

I think you'll agree that her new smile is a beautiful sight.



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Help from the Heart of the City



The reason there are very few lists in the Community Kitchen newsletter is that it is so easy to leave someone out. And it happened! **Steak and Shake** was inadvertently left out of the list of businesses that provided meals while the kitchen was being renovated. We appreciate Debbie Richman, President, and **Steak and Shake**, and are sorry that we left them out.

Where should "home care" for the homeless take place?

Financial Contributions

We value your support and regard ourselves as accountable not only to you but also to God for stewardship of the funds you entrust to us.

We are audited by a recognized, local independent CPA firm and publish an audited annual financial statement.

The Chattanooga Community Kitchen, Inc. is a 501 (c)3 organization. Contributions are tax deductible.

Federal employees may contribute through the Combined Federal Campaign by designating funds to go to CFC #4008. Call 1-800-210-9569 to register for Food Lion Shop and Share 2004.

Bi-Lo no longer has their booster club for shoppers, but they continue to support the Community Kitchen through proceeds from their annual benefit golf tournament, The Bi-Lo Charity Classic, which is held in South Carolina every June.



Charlie's Corner

Several years ago my wife had gall bladder surgery. It was an out patient procedure with recuperation at home. For several days she needed lots of help.

Thanks to the assistance of family and friends, her recovery went well.

Recently, my wife's cousin had complications with her pregnancy and was put on complete bed rest at home. The baby was born several weeks premature. (Mother and baby are doing well now.)

These situations were difficult under good circumstances with lots of support. What would have happened if we were homeless? Where would my wife have gone for home care? Where would her cousin have found a 24 hour bed to rest in? What would the outcomes have been then?

Recently one of our clients was hospitalized with pneumonia. The hospital released him for "home care" late one Thursday evening. We found him Friday morning sleeping in a dumpster.

1/3 to 1/2 of homeless adults have some form of physical illness. At least 1/2 of homeless children have a physical illness and are twice as likely as housed children to have illnesses...rates of mortality are three to four times higher in the homeless population than they are in the general population

US Department of Health and Human Services, March 1997

Respite care for the homeless is a national emergency. The case managers at the Community Kitchen realize this as they struggle to find help for clients who are ill or injured.

As a temporary solution we have dedicated part of our day center as a respite room. Memorial Hospital has donated two beds for us to use. The Homeless Health Care Center provides care during the day and one of our case managers provides over night care.

This is just a stop gap measure. We need a well equipped and professionally staffed respite care facility.

We are currently seeking information: ideas for construction, funding, and input on guidelines for admission and treatment. If you have any information and would like to help, please contact me at 756-4222.



Charlie Hughes

OTHER NEEDS

money
meats of all kinds
turkeys
tuna
pasta
peanut butter
coffee
sugar
cereals

men's clothing and shoes
large women's shoes
work boots
furniture
pots, pans and dishes
towels, wash cloths and linens

volunteers
front desk
shelters



volunteer appreciation
July 15
details later



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Funds for Food

Betsey Runyan, General Manager of the Red Lobster at 2200 Bams Road, Hamilton Place, is our 2004 *Funds for Food* Chair Person.

This year more than ever the *Funds for Food* Campaign is critical. As mentioned on the first page of this newsletter, the demand for food at the Community Kitchen is twice the usual.

We need you to meet this demand. Of course, food donations help, but money donations help more. The Community Kitchen can purchase food for costs at the Chattanooga Area Food Bank.

We are also a sales tax exempt agency. If we have to purchase retail, we do not have to pay the tax. All this means that we are able to stretch a food dollar and purchase more food than you can for the same amount of money.



Betsey serving at the Community Kitchen

Betsey has sent out appeal letters for *Funds for Food*. Please respond.

UNSHELTERED VOICES



John Coniglio of the Times Free Press did the lay out. Some of the photographs were taken by Kathleen Cole, photographer for the Times Free Press. These professionals and Accent Printing were committed to providing a quality publication to showcase the works of homeless artists. Accent Printing used a higher quality paper so the pictures would be sharp and clear. John did the professional lay out. Kathleen gave us some of the potographs. These improvements and services were at no charge.

Kathleen and John have also collaborated on a short video of homeless people that is very powerful and available for groups with a speaker from the Community Kitchen.

Unsheltered Voices was made possible by a grant from Allied Arts and a donation from Ruth Holmberg.

Unsheltered Voices, the arts magazine displaying the works of homeless artists is available at the Community Kitchen and at various sites around the city. We are very proud of it. Unsheltered Voices contains poetry, drawings, and photographs created by homeless artists and submitted to Ron Fender, the outreach case manager at the Community Kitchen.



DEATH AND RESURRECTION

This is a story about three men. It is a story about disease, death and sorrow. It is a story about hope, promise and possibility. It is a story about fathers and sons. It is a story about shoes.

Michael was the adopted son of Fr. Buckley Robbins. The Robbins family believe Michael was born with Infant Alcohol Syndrome. Maybe that was the reason he was enslaved by alcohol and drugs. Whatever the cause, Michael, because of his addictions, became homeless from time to time during his adult life. During one of these periods of homelessness, Buckley asked Michael what he could do for him. Michael said he needed some shoes, size 10 1/2. Buckley got him the shoes. Two year later, Michael was murdered.

David is called “Linus” on the street because he always carries a blanket. David has AIDS and cannot get warm. He sleeps in an ATM booth or behind a dumpster or in some bushes. Like Michael, he chooses to be homeless and walks the streets in tattered shoes.

On the first anniversary of Michael’s death, Fr. Buckley knowing that a part of Ron Fender’s ministry was to care for the feet of homeless people, brought him a pair of size 10 1/2 shoes to give to a homeless man. Ron immediately thought of David. When Ron asked David what size shoes he wore, David replied, “size 10 1/2.”

Fr. Robbins also invited Ron to speak at the Maundy Thursday service at his church, The Church of St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal. This service commemorates Christ’s washing the feet of his disciples. It was a joint service celebrated with Resurrection Lutheran Church. During the offering, Ron noticed person after person coming down the aisle to lay boxes and bags at the altar. These boxes and bags contained shoes for Ron to give to those who need them. A hundred pairs of shoes. And socks and insoles.

Ron says, “As I match these shoes to the poeple who need them, I think of Michael. And when I see David, so frail and sick, but walking on in his new shoes towards his destiny, I think of the gifts we give. The people who offered these shoes and socks offered them to God. For, when we do for the least of these, we do for Christ. This is the core of our faith.

“When homeless people walk lighter in these shoes, when we ease the pain in their feet, we are also giving a balm to their wounded spirits and broken hearts, and thus, we are healing ourselves.”