

2005 FAST DAY, etc.



Margy Oehmig and Linda B. Neely prepare sandwiches at the Community Kitchen

Linda B. Neely and Margy Oehmig are the 2005 Fast Day chairs. This is the first year that two women will chair this fund raising event for the Community Kitchen.

Both women have been involved with the Kitchen for several years. Their hope is that the response to the Fast Day appeal would allow us to add a respite center, a 24 hour shelter and day center for adults to our array of social services.

The Community Kitchen is rooted in compassion. Compassion inspired the seven downtown churches to open their kitchens and feed the hungry in 1982. Compassion encouraged those same people to clothe those they fed.

Compassion provided night shelter to men and then to women and children. Compassion started the education and job training and placement programs.

Compassion fueled the building and management of the Family Housing and Learning Center.

Now in 2005, compassion is driving the Community Kitchen again to meet the needs of those we serve:

* Nowhere in Chattanooga is there a place for homeless men, women and children to rest and recover from illness, injury or surgery. Just as you are, the homeless are released from the hospital to be cared for "at home." They need respite care.

* Many of those men and women who are offered 2nd or 3rd shift jobs must decide between the job and a bed in a night shelter. They need a 24 hour shelter.

* There is no safe place for homeless men and women to go to get out of the weather during the day. They need a day center.

The hope of the Community Kitchen is to provide for these needs.

The reality for the Community Kitchen is that financial donations were very depressed this summer. We have found it necessary to cut costs by not filling staff vacancies and closing at 12:30 PM on the week ends.

And Then Katrina!!!

We, as all those who work for service organizations and many volunteers, have struggled to meet the demands of those who were displaced by this storm. We worked with the planning committees and coordinated our efforts. We have become the go-to agency in Chattanooga for clothing distribution to all the homeless and displaced. We, of course, are feeding more people. Our hearts, as yours, are touched by the desperate plight of so many. The Community Kitchen needs to survive to be available to serve those who need so much.



"He who labors as he prays lifts his heart to God with his hands."
Bernard of Clairvaux

Each day I am amazed by the grace and mercy I find in the world. Today, I sweat. It is 94 degrees. Every drop of sweat is a miracle of salt and water, wrung from my skin.

It is just after lunch. Noonday Prayers have been offered. The Kitchen is quiet in the lull of the hot afternoon. The morning was angry, and people were spewing foul and angry words with thick lips and reeking breath. The heat makes the anger bubble up. But, it is quiet now. Full bellies make peaceful people. Some times they cry. Often, more than you might imagine, we laugh.

My work is prayer. This morning I cut Michael's toe nails. Each toe nail is a prayer for his life, (clip) his failing health, (clip) the cockroaches in his apartment, (clip) his decaying teeth, (clip) his lost children that he weeps for, (clip) the woman in the grocery who is so kind to him and helps him shop for his groceries, (clip) his Mother who died last year, (clip) his doctors who are so helpless to stop the bleeding in his brain, (clip) the crack addicts who bashed his head in for twenty dollars leaving him like this, (clip) all the crack addicts in the world and all the brain-damaged, robbed and forgotten Michaels who have been the victims of their addiction and brutality. (clip)

How can I find such joy in this work? I think it is because I feel somehow chosen. When there is no one left: no Mother, no husband, no friend or drinking buddy. When the bullet hits the bone, God allows me the grace, the deep and astounding privilege to simply be here. It isn't easy. Some days are stinky, maddening and frustrating. Some days I am stinky, maddening and frustrating. But there is always the Being who haunts the sunlit, noisy, crowded day. He walks through this place and these people and this heat with the peace and coolness that balms our wounds. And, He works beside us.

The group that donated the books and bears to the library and the children at the Family Housing and Learning Center was the Gamma Conclave Kappa Kappa Iota Teachers' Sorority. They have been donating to the CCK since the early 1980's.

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.

I was raised by a Mother who believed in the sacred nature of work. She was a union organizer in the textile mills in the 1940's and 50's. Here in the South, that speaks volumes for her courage and beliefs. Work was a Chekovian ideal and it was taught to me from the cradle. I still believe that the world is God's vineyard and each of us has his task, his vocation, to fulfill. It is a sad disgrace that people believe that we work for money and that personal wealth is to be admired and honored. I won't have it. Life is too holy, too precious to be wasted with this notion. I choose joy.

Ron Fender n/BSG

Chattanooga Community Kitchen

727 E. 11th Street
Chattanooga, TN 37403
Mail Address:
P.O. Box 11203
Chattanooga, TN 37401

Phone: (423) 756-4222
Fax: (423) 756-3820
Website:
www.community-kitchen.org
CFC# 4008

Episcopal Church of the Nativity Delivers...

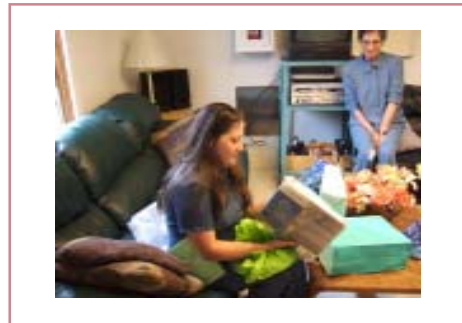
The Episcopal Church of the Nativity in Fort Oglethorpe has adopted the Community Kitchen. For a year, the members of the Episcopal Church of the Nativity have committed their congregation to provide goods and services to the various programs at the Community Kitchen.

The members chose to serve in one of five different areas:

- *volunteering at the night shelters 3 nights a month*
- *preparing and serving a Sunday meal in addition to their usual Saturday breakfast, once a month*
- *renovating the apartments at Family Housing and Learning Center*
- *making back packs for those who successfully participate in one of our programs*
- *doing frequent drives for the thrift store and providing volunteers at the store*



Reverend Betty Latham and Laura Wood pray for blessing for the newly renovated home of Amy Phillips at the Family Housing and Learning Center



The Episcopal Church of the Nativity presents Amy and her 5 year old daughter, Destiny, with gifts at a house warming following the blessing of their home

The Episcopal Church of the Nativity did not make this commitment to the Community Kitchen hastily. Several of the members of the Episcopal Church of the Nativity toured the Community Kitchen and checked out our programs and researched our fiscal responsibility. They met several times with Charlie and invited him to speak to their vestry. They made no promises to the Community Kitchen until they were satisfied they had the whole hearted support of their membership.

This groundwork led to their making this year-long commitment to the Community Kitchen. Their desire is to help the homeless and needy in our area through their support to and service in the Community Kitchen. Our desire for them is that these shared experiences will draw their membership together and make them a stronger, more compassionate congregation.

...a Challenge

What about your church?

The needs are many and the workers are few. Energize your church to join with the Episcopal Church of the Nativity by choosing a "home missions" project that strengthens your church and your community through serving the homeless and needy at the Community Kitchen.

Charlie's Corner



Charlie Hughes

The proverbial “emotional roller coaster” has been running wild at the Community Kitchen in recent weeks. Financial donations have been extremely low this summer and we had to make some tough decisions.

We eliminated 1 full time and 3 part time staff positions. We did not let any staff go to accomplish this. We simply did not fill vacancies and reduced outside contracts. The current staff is doubling up to cover these responsibilities.

The thrift store will be closed on Mondays. The food service area, showers and donation drop-off area will close at 12:30 Saturdays and Sundays. We will not be able to accept donations after 12:30 on the weekends. We also will have to charge for gas to pick up furniture and clothing in our truck. Our staff has been very supportive of these decisions.

Then came Hurricane Katrina. You would have been proud to see how the Community Kitchen staff have responded to this disaster. We have been involved with the Hamilton County Emergency Services in planning for the evacuees from the beginning.

Your support of the Community Kitchen helped us provide many services for the evacuees that you may not be aware of. Prior to evacuees being transported to Chattanooga, we had been working with the Chattanooga Housing Authority to help feed, provide furniture, clothing, etc for the families who fled to our area to stay with family and friends as they moved into apartments.

When the evacuees who were transported stepped off the plane the Sunday following the storm, they were given bottled water provided by the Community Kitchen (Matthew 10:42). They were taken to Howard High School to shower before going to the emergency shelters. We provided the towels they used at Howard. On Monday, we took clothes to the shelter for an individual that the Red Cross was unable to find clothes for. The Community Kitchen provided storage for the Relief Warehouse (especially clothes). We became the clothing distribution site for the evacuees. After the first week, we supplied hygiene items (soap, shampoo, toothpaste, etc.) for the evacuees at the Red Cross shelter.

So far, we have helped between 200 and 300 individuals and families who are from the Gulf region with clothing, furniture, household items and through our feeding program.

Some of our staff worked 15-16 days without a break. Some staff worked who were technically on leave. One staff member was reduced to tears because he was overwhelmed by the spirit of the volunteers who were helping us. Vanessa Blevins, Director of Finance, wrote: NO TASK AHEAD OF US IS GREATER THAN THE POWER BEHIND US on our bulletin board.

You can be proud of what you have made possible. And, we thank you for providing us the means of ministering to the homeless of our community and our nation.

End of the Year Events and Opportunities

WMBW 88.9FM is hosting a turkey fry and food drive for the Community Kitchen on Tuesday, November 22. WMBW is located at 1920 E 24th Street. Listen to WMBW for details of this wonderful and yummy event.



Thanksgiving morning brings the annual **Grateful Gobbler Walk for the Homeless**. This event is a lot of fun and the T-shirts are great! Please encourage everyone you know to demonstrate their thanksgiving by participating in this event and selecting the Community Kitchen as the recipient.

2006 Adventures in Dining Books

These coupon books have become very popular for personal use and to give as gifts. The coupons entitle you to buy-one-get-one free meals or admissions to a variety of restaurants and local attractions. We will receive them in November. The coupons are good for all of 2006.

Art Auction

December 1, 2005 at 6PM. East Gate Town Center and State of the Art are providing the friends of the Community Kitchen a chance to do some Christmas shopping while supporting the Community Kitchen. The works are original and cover a wide range of style and price. Don't be shy about attending, the auctioneers will provide training for those not familiar with art or auctions.



Holiday Cards.

We will be happy to sign, address, stamp and mail holiday cards. For a \$10 contribution per name, we will send a lovely embossed card and a brass ornament to those on your list. You supply the list and the donations and we will do the rest. If you prefer, you may address them yourself.

If you have a question or need clarification on any of these opportunities, call the Community Kitchen at 423-756-4222 Monday-Friday 8-4:30.

tear off and send in enclosed envelope

_____ name

_____ adress

_____ city, state and zip

_____ day time phone

_____ *I will participate in Grateful Gobbler, please send me a brochure when they are available.*

_____ *I will order Christmas cards, please send me an order form when they are available.*

_____ *I am interested in purchasing _____ Adventure In Dining Coupon books.*

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CHATTANOOGA COMMUNITY KITCHEN

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Chattanooga, TN 37401

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For your convenience. If you would like, you may make your donation to the Community Kitchen with a credit card. Please complete the information below and mail it in the enclosed envelope or call 423-756-4222. If you call, please have this reply card with you.

Visa Master Card Discover American Express

Credit Card Number Complete credit card number required in order to process.

Expiration date ___/___ Your current phone number _____

Donation amount \$ _____ One time donation? ___ Monthly deduction? ___

Your name exactly as it appears on card _____

Your Signature _____

The Community Kitchen is a nonprofit 501-c-3 organization. Contributions are tax deductible.

