

# Chattanooga Community Kitchen



*The Open Door - Newsletter of the Chattanooga Community Kitchen - Fall 2011*

## Fast Day: a bit of everything we do

Without a doubt, Fast Day is the single most important fund-raiser for the Chattanooga Community Kitchen. Such a simple concept...Fast for a meal and donate the cost of that meal to help feed the hungry.

But, it is so much more. A successful Fast Day Campaign means meals on the table - every day of the year. It means case managers, Christmas presents, showers, shelter, clothing, footcare, outreach, socks, shoes, counseling, life-skills classes, computer access and haircuts. It means compassion.

Everything we do, big and small, depends on Fast Day. And, the success of Fast Day depends on you.

Fortunately, we have a great history of leadership for the campaign. This year's chairs, Billy and Ann Aiken, have started strong. But we still need your support.

As we move toward the critical 2011 goal of \$700,000, every little bit makes a difference. That's one of the many reasons we're grateful to former Fast Day Chair and head of CraftWorks Restaurants, Allen Corey, for his ongoing support.

Once again, every time you order from the Seasonal Menus at our local Big River and Bluewater Grilles, a portion of the proceeds will benefit the Community Kitchen, helping keep our doors open.

This year, we hope you'll consider giving up a meal and treating your family and friends to a great one too!



Current Fast Day co-chair, Ann Aiken with former Fast Day chair and CEO of CraftWorks Restaurant Group (Big River), Allen Corey

***From now until 12/24/2011, order any item off the seasonal menu at Big River or Bluewater Grille and a portion of the proceeds will benefit our work with the homeless and needy!***



# Remembering our veterans

Each year we put on a Fall Festival for our clients. This year it happened to be the day before Veteran's Day, so we added a component honoring the veterans we have lost while homeless.

Please join us in remembering:

Howard Dean Brandenburg

Huey Glenn Farmer

Tommy Hedgepath

Michael Ice

James Lightner

Charles Mahew

Ronald Paschal

Al Peglow

Wiley Prigmore

James Swain

And all those we have not listed here.



Thank you for your service. May you Rest in Peace.

## Top ten ways you can get involved:

- 1.) Participate in Fast Day at your Church, school or job.
- 2.) Donate funds on your own; help keep our doors open.
- 3.) Volunteer your time helping out on-site.
- 4.) Volunteer to stay the night at one of our night shelters.
- 5.) Hold a canned food, sock, underwear, or shoe drive.
- 6.) Donate household goods for clients becoming housed.
- 7.) Learn about homelessness and educate family & friends.
- 8.) Participate in our *Give Hope* Holiday Card Campaign.
- 9.) Attend some of our events mentioned on page 4.
- 10.) Plan a service project with our operations department.

### Current Needs:

Adult Socks and Shoes (Size 9 and Up); Adult Underwear; Blankets, Sweaters and Jackets; Paper Towels; Lysol Spray and Wipes; Bleach and Clorox Wipes; Corn Starch; Butter; Dry Milk; Grits; Sugar; Meats; Cheese; Oatmeal; Canned Soups and Vegetables; Dish Soap; Laundry Detergent; Lunch, Sandwich and Storage Bags; 55 Gallon Garbage Bags; Pots; Pans; Flatware; Dishes; Bedding; Furniture; Camp Gear; Volunteers; FUNDING!!!

## 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 is a 501(c)3 organization. Contributions are tax deductible.

**Help from the Heart of the City  
is more than just a slogan!**

### Contact Information:

Street address: 727 East 11th St.,  
Chattanooga, TN 37403

Mailing Address: PO Box 11203,  
Chattanooga, TN 37401

Phone: (423) 756-4222

Fax: (423) 756-3820

Email:

info@homelesschattanooga.org

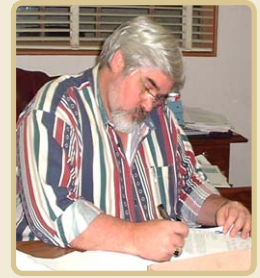
CFC # 32577

[www.homelesschattanooga.org](http://www.homelesschattanooga.org)

## Charlie's Corner:

Learn to do **good**;  
Seek Justice,  
Rebuke the oppressor;  
Defend the fatherless,  
Plead for the widow.

Isaiah 1:17



**Charlie Hughes**  
**Executive Director**

**R**ecently, our three year old grandson crawled up in the lap of my wife, Cindy. He looked up at her, furrowed his brow and said, “Nana, it hard to be dood (good).” My wife laughed and replied, “I know Josh, and your GrandDaddy has the same problem.”

I hope my wife was being somewhat facetious. However, most days I am faced with making tough decisions concerning the Community Kitchen. I have always felt that doing a good thing means doing the right thing even when it is hard. Don't get me wrong, I have a wonderful staff to help make these decisions. Without the support of each other, we would not be able to enforce or keep our policies.

Saint Matthews is a night shelter that we operate at Second Presbyterian Church. It is a shelter for homeless men involved in one of our programs. They can remain in the shelter as long as they are progressing. Recently, we had a young man in the shelter for over three months; he had seemingly made no progress. Al, our shelter coordinator, finally told him that he had one week before he had to move out. He appealed the decision.

I met with Amber, his case manager, and Al. I felt that the client had become comfortable and complacent. We told him that he had one week to find a job and a place to stay. He was very upset. Within two weeks he found a job and a place to stay. We paid his deposit.

A year ago we enacted a new mail policy. In order to receive mail at the Community Kitchen, you had to have case management approval. The approval was good for six months, after which the case manager could approve another six months if he/she felt that the client was trying. After one year, Executive Director approval is required to receive mail here. I told everyone that they would have to prove to me that circumstances beyond their control had prevented them from finding a place of their own. Only then could they continue to receive mail here.

October marked one year under this plan. So far, I have had no one appeal the loss of mail service.

In August, our administrative staff began planning the budget for 2012. Looking at past trends, future projections and our own mission statement, it became obvious that some changes would be necessary. Some programs would suffer personnel cuts, positions would have to be eliminated and more client involvement would be needed. After much prayer, the budget was presented to the board and they approved it.

Our goal is to help as many people as possible in the most efficient way we can. This is not easily accomplished. You are right, Josh.

It is hard to be dood!

## Message from the Monk

**I**t was reported that Steve Job's last words were "Oh, wow! Oh, wow! Oh, wow!" I was deeply moved.

Of course, I realize that none of us really know if these words were simply a response to his body shutting down or if they were a reaction to his first glimpse of Paradise. I like to believe the latter.

I want to think of this brilliant and enigmatic man seeing in those final transformative seconds the Great Light of the Living Christ "comin' for to carry him home." Wouldn't we all find comfort in this knowledge?

I recently went home to North Carolina for a brief weekend visit with my family. My friend Steve drove me and we went up the Ocoee River and over the Copper Basin into the Nanthahala Gorge. Then we traveled through the

Great Smoky Mountains into Asheville and finally over to Hendersonville. It was a truly breathtaking drive. The sunlight slanted through the leaves, igniting patterns and colors far more brilliant than any stained glass. Surely Eden was created in autumn. I kept saying: "Oh Wow! Oh, Wow!"

My sister has a brand new great-grand daughter named Sadie. Like all newborns, her eyes are both very wise and furious, and she is beautiful. As we looked through piles of photos, I kept saying: "Oh, Wow!"

My sister had baked an applesauce stack cake from one of our mother's vintage recipes. As I tasted it, a flood of childhood memories came back to me. "Oh, Wow!"

And, this morning as I write this in the predawn darkness, I look out

over our day center floor and see all the sleeping men. We are open now for emergency shelter and these men and women have no other place to lay their heads. But, here they are sleeping so peacefully. "Oh, Wow!"

I realize that God does not reserve his presence for our final, dying moments. He is visible in every moment, in every breath we take. And, as we approach this coming winter and the holiday season, I know he will reveal himself in these that we care for, these sleeping homeless people that he loves so much. "Oh, Wow!"



*- Br. Ron Fender is an Episcopal Monk in the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory and serves as the Kitchen's outreach case manager.*

## Happenings

**Now through the End of the Year:** Fast Day - now is the time to get involved; get your churches, businesses, organizations and friends to participate by fasting for a meal and donating the cost (or whatever you can afford) to the Community Kitchen. It's worth giving up a meal!

**November 20 and 21, 7:30pm, UTC's Beat Hunger Concert, Roland Hayes Auditorium:** Once again, this exciting UTC percussion showcase concert to benefit the Kitchen will be held on two nights. Our thanks to Monte Coulter for putting this on! Admission is a \$2 check to the Kitchen or 2 cans of nonperishable food.

**November 22, 6am-6pm, Drive-By Turkey Fry and Food Drive, The Barn Nursery Parking Lot:** Join us and WMBW 88.9fm in a season of prayer for the Kitchen and all of those we serve as we prepare for the

annual drive-by turkey fry and food drive to benefit the Community Kitchen. The food drive lasts from 6am-6pm, with a free fried turkey sandwich lunch.

**November 24, 11:00-4:00, Thanksgiving Dinner:** We're excited to once again serve a traditional Thanksgiving meal from 11:00am until 4:00pm. We're expecting as many as 600 diners!

**Winter Solstice, December 21, Memorial for the Homeless Who Have Died:** Each year, on the Winter Solstice, we join the nation in holding a Memorial for the homeless who have died. Just before lunch, songs and prayers will honor those we have known, served and lost.

**Christmas Dinner:** 11 am to 4pm, Christmas Day.

# Adequate Shelter - what's the solution?

**F**or many years, we've been saying: "we need shelter!" For too many years, really. In the past five years, we've seen a major reduction in the number of true emergency shelter beds in Chattanooga, with an increase in the number of folks sleeping outside. As a temporary solution, we've opened in the past for freeze nights-nights when the folks at the Hamilton County Health Department have deemed it unsafe for anyone to sleep outside.

But, this process has been exhausting - often we wouldn't learn whether or not we'd be open that night until 10am the same morning - this made planning incredibly difficult. The same folks we counted on to work with homeless clients during the day suddenly found themselves needing to stay up all night to watch the shelter. Needless to say, this created a real hardship for successful case management!



Still, the all-nighter approach worked when the shelter need was sporadic. But, last year, we had periods where we were open for several weeks at a time. Even keeping our basic services running became a challenge. Case workers were exhausted. Something had to be done.

So, this summer, we began planning. And, fortunately, with the help of a local family foundation, we are now open as a shelter every night, offering space for well over 100 people to sleep. It isn't glamorous by any means. At 5pm, we close the doors, moving all of the furniture in the day center and dining area, laying out mats, and reopening as a shelter at 6pm. It is shelter. And, for the next five months, it is available every night, for all of those in need.



It truly is not glamorous. But, it is shelter. And, it can lead to more. These five months of operation will provide critical data - data that can be used as we host planning meetings early next year - meetings with area stakeholders and providers - meetings where we can show just how many people used the space, and just what our community needs...based on real usage and real numbers.

For any that might question the need for shelter - on the first night we were open, the weather had been in the 60's and 42 men and women stayed the night. The next night a family showed up. Numbers continue to increase daily. And, while this may not be the ideal solution, it may lead to one.

Most importantly, though, at least for now, case managers don't have to look a family in the eye and say: "I don't know where you can sleep tonight."



www.homelesschattanooga.org  
423.756.4222

**Looking for a holiday gift?** From November 25th until Christmas Eve, make a donation to the Community Kitchen at River Gallery in the Bluff View Art District and receive an extra 5% off during the 15% off Holiday Sale.



For more information, contact River Gallery at 423-265-5033 or online at [river-gallery.com](http://river-gallery.com).

- Food • Shelter • Employment • Clothing •
- Housing • Health Care • Case Management •
- Phones • Mail • Showers • Restrooms •
- Supportive Services •

**• COMPASSION •**



### Inside:

**Page 1:** Fast Day - It's everything that we do

**Page 2:** Veteran Memorial, Ways to Get Involved, and Financial/ Donation Information

**Page 3:** Charlie's Corner - Hard to be Dood (Good)

**Page 4:** Message from the Monk - Home

**Page 5:** Shelter - a permanent solution?

**Pages 7&8:** Give Hope Holiday Card Campaign and Order Form

For newsletter inquiries or change of address, contact Jens Christensen at [Jens@homelesschattanooga.org](mailto:Jens@homelesschattanooga.org) or 423.305.6822.

# CHATTANOOGA COMMUNITY KITCHEN HOLIDAY CARD CAMPAIGN

Sender's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

*(Please include so we may contact you if we have any questions concerning your card list.)*

PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO: **The Chattanooga Community Kitchen**  
and return to: **P.O. Box 11203, Chattanooga, TN 37401**

PLEASE SEND A CARD AND ORNAMENT TO THE FOLLOWING:

1) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

SIGN THIS CARD: \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

SIGN THIS CARD: \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

SIGN THIS CARD: \_\_\_\_\_

4) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

SIGN THIS CARD: \_\_\_\_\_

5) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

SIGN THIS CARD: \_\_\_\_\_

6) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

SIGN THIS CARD: \_\_\_\_\_

7) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

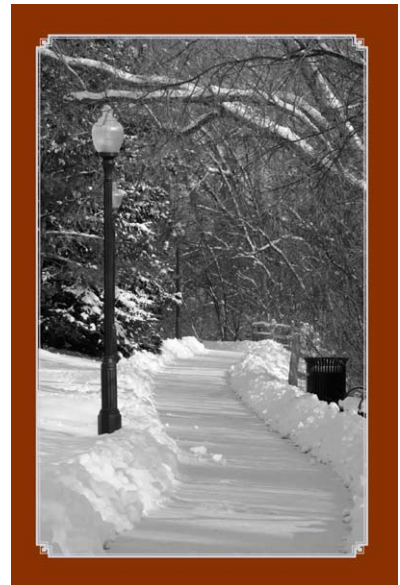
SIGN THIS CARD: \_\_\_\_\_

# Give Hope for the Holidays!

Each year, the Chattanooga Community Kitchen offers you the opportunity to *Give Hope* to your family, friends, coworkers and anyone else on your Holiday list.

When you *Give Hope*, we hand address, sign and send beautifully embossed cards to everyone on your list; each card includes a lovely *Give Hope* ornament and informs the recipient of your gift in their honor:

*In the spirit of the season, a gift to feed the hungry  
has been donated in your name to  
the Chattanooga Community Kitchen*



This year's card...

**This year, leave the Holiday work to us. Send us your list and indicate how you would like us to sign the cards. We'll do the rest.**

We ask a \$15 donation per card (or \$10 without the ornament). Please remember to include a phone number in case we need to contact you as we complete your order. *Giving Hope* is easy:

Remove this sheet, fill out the reverse side, and send it back. Please include additional sheets to cover your entire list. Remember, not only does your gift go directly toward helping our area's most vulnerable citizens, it is also tax-deductible.

*Won't you Give Hope this Holiday Season?*