

Chattanooga Community Kitchen



The Open Door - Newsletter of the Chattanooga Community Kitchen - Spring 2010

Volunteers are the heart...

Around this time each year, we are reminded of just how important volunteers are to the Community Kitchen, especially as we look back at the year and try to find a group and individual to honor as volunteers of the year. It's always a difficult process - not because we have a hard time thinking of nominations, but because we have so many incredible choices. We have all of you!

Do we honor Support Seven for all of their hard work and dedication over the last year; do we focus on the Safari Club, the Georgetown kids, the great folks at Unum, or any one of the countless churches and groups that give so freely of their time? Do we honor Ginger Sanzo who hosts monthly client birthday parties, or Don Clemens who serves Monday suppers, Quiana Jimerson who serves



Rivermont crew at work...

Friday breakfasts, Seija Ojanpera for coming each Friday to offer classes and serve dinners, or any of the dozens of others who give of their time each week?

Well, the fact is, we need to thank you all - THANK YOU - but we still have to choose volunteers of the year. With so many worthy and dedicated volunteers, the decision is always a tough one! But this year's choices stand out in many ways.

Rivermont Presbyterian Church has some of the most dedicated volunteers in this city. From building Habitat Houses, to missions in Haiti to volunteering locally at the Northside Neighborhood House and the Ronald



McDonald House, members of Rivermont Presbyterian are always busy; in fact, they do much more than mentioned here. But they always find time for us.

Over the years, groups from Rivermont have been seen in nearly every nook and cranny of CCK. From replacing flooring, to painting walls and even building ramps in the basement, Rivermont volunteers have literally helped hold this place together. Of course, they work in the usual places too - they could probably run the kitchen! We're proud to name Rivermont our 2010 Group of the year!

And then there's Matt Galas. Those that know him know that he is determined. Usually behind the scenes, Matt is a force to reckon with. We're lucky his force is with us.



Matt bringing food...

Since starting to volunteer in 2005, Matt has made an incredible number of things happen. From organizing a monthly food and supply collection at his church, Burks United Methodist, to collecting over 2200 pounds of food from Krystal and 6600+ pounds of meat through R&D Custom Slaughtering in Dunlap, Matt continues to make things happen, and he always manages to do so with a sense of humor. He once even organized a food and shoe drive at the Burks UMC Vacation Bible School that resulted in the director dying her hair blue after the kids collected 450 pairs of shoes and 790 cans!

Rivermont and Matt, thanks for all you've done to help our work with the homeless and needy. And, thanks to all our volunteers. We truly couldn't do it without you!

Got stuff? We can use it.

We often hear people say “I had no idea you could use that.” Well, the truth is, if you see it in your house, more than likely we can use it. The question to ask is simple: “would a person moving into housing for the first time need (or want) _____?” If the answer is yes, and the item is usable, the Kitchen can put it to good use.

But, donations don't stop there. From recycling, to worn out clothing and shoes, we can reuse many things you may even throw away. We work with companies that buy unwearable clothing to make rags, companies that turn worn out shoes into playground mulch, even companies that buy paper and aluminum from us in bulk.

Proceeds from all of these programs go directly toward the Kitchen's operating budget. Even more, your donations help us hire the homeless - what better way to help a person move forward with self-sufficiency than by offering a job? They can work for a living and earn their own successes, building confidence and marketable skills.

While cash donations are essential to our ability to serve the homeless, the value of in-kind gifts should not be overlooked. So, the next time you're thinking of replacing your couch or find out you have too many forks in the drawer, ask yourself “could a person moving into housing for the first time use that?”

We think you'll find more often than not that the answer is yes. And by giving your stuff to the Kitchen, you get a tax deduction while making a meaningful difference in the lives of our area's most vulnerable people.

Thanks to the Safari Club for donating this Hobart meat grinder. As has happened before, the club answered our needs as they arose - the same week our grinder broke down, Bill Swan of the club came by. When told of our need, he and the Safari Club jumped into action - Thank You Safari Clubbers!



Remember to renew your **Bi-Lo bonus card** every July! Keep shopping to benefit the Kitchen. Bring this newsletter into the store and have them scan the bar-code below to get started!



Browse the Internet?
www.goodsearch.com
donates money every time you search. Designate the Chattanooga Community Kitchen and each click helps us help the homeless!

Do you Facebook?
Be sure to join our Cause!
Go to causes.com and search for the Chattanooga Community Kitchen.
You can invite friends, show support or even make a donation directly from your facebook account!

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

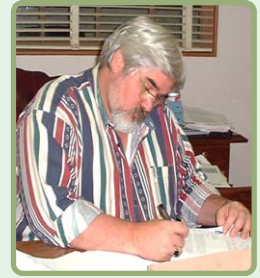
Phone: (423) 756-4222

Fax: (423) 756-3820

Email: kitchen@homelesschattanooga.org
CFC # 32577

www.homelesschattanooga.org
blog - www.onmywayhome.org

Charlie's Corner:



Charlie Hughes
Executive Director

Measurable Outcomes. This is something we hear whenever we apply for grant money. We must set goals and at the end of the grant period be able to show how these goals have been accomplished. I understand why they want this, but some of the best things we do can't be measured.

For six weeks we housed a young lady named "Judy" in our 24 hour Shelter. She had a third shift job as a Certified Nursing Assistant and our shelter was the only one in Chattanooga that would accommodate her schedule. During her stay with us, she was able to work her job and save money to get her own place. The day after she moved into her new apartment, I found a thank you note from "Judy" in my mailbox addressed to me and Sahisha, her case manager. In the note, she thanked us for "believing in her." Believing in her was not one of our listed goals for the 24 hour shelter.

We recently held a planning session with staff, volunteers, and clients. We were trying to determine exactly what we want to accomplish with our Day Center. One of the things to come out of this meeting was the following Day Center Purpose Statement:

"To preserve the dignity, promote self respect and acknowledge the worth of every person, encouraging all to achieve their full potential."

We also established six expectations for clients, staff and volunteers:

- 1) Show mutual respect.
- 2) Clean up after yourself and those with you.
- 3) Get involved.
- 4) Maintain a drug, alcohol and violence free facility.
- 5) Have a positive attitude.
- 6) Offer encouragement.

We designed a form explaining our mission, purpose and expectations and had several staff sit down individually with clients and discuss it with them. Both then signed the form and we have a book at the front desk where we keep the signed forms. Whenever we have a problem with a client, we are able to refer back to our agreement. Currently, we have nearly 200 clients that have signed the agreement.

How do we measure these goals? Our number of client volunteers has greatly increased in the last month. Client involvement in the arts and crafts classes we have is up. Clients are coming to us with problems in the Day Center and ideas for solving them. Does this mean it is working? I hope so. I know it felt good when I had a client come up to me and say, "thank you Charlie, for listening to us and for all the things that are happening in the Day Center. It is good to know somebody cares."

I also know that our clients are engaged and joining you, our volunteers, in making a real difference in their lives - in my mind, that is a measurable outcome.

Message from the Monk - Giving Thanks

I can't seem to catch up. Perhaps this is a symptom of aging, or (I am loathe to even say the word), laziness. But, I have literally hundreds of Thank You cards to write, and I can never seem to find the time to write them. I'm not even sure where to begin.

Perhaps I could start with Leah Cooper and her friends and our TVA folks and the amazing Knitters who put together incredible gift bags for Santa Claus to hand out on Christmas morning this past year.

Or, the volunteers who helped Santa hand out the bags. Or, Santa himself and his sweet and lovely wife who come year after year to deliver a healthy dose of magic into our festivities. Speaking of which, St. Nicholas School should get a card for being so kind and generous to homeless children.

I should send thank-you notes to each member of several church congregations for making my ministry and my life so blessed, including the Church of the Good

Shepherd, The Church of St. Francis of Assisi, Christ Unity Church, First Baptist Church, Forrest Avenue United Methodist Church, Ashland Terrace Christian Church, & Church of the Nativity.

And of course, the people and clergy of my own home parish, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, where I have discovered the true nature of family and home and the definitive core of my religion.

My family is on the list, of course. And, my coworkers.

Each one of the Brother's of Saint Gregory should get a note, for it is by their love and prayer that I live, like air and water.

There are several students from Georgetown University that would be on the list. But, I could never really express my thanks and admiration of them adequately. And, there is the entire Social Work Department at UTC that should be getting cards, along with Dr. Michael Lawrence, the entire

School of Nursing and especially Dr. Lisa Muirhead.

My beloved friend, David Cook and the entire Cook family are due a card, and Pat and Angie Conroy and Rhonda Gilreath and the entire staff of Rosewood Supportive Services as well. Then Allen and Maddin Corey, Fred and Kathleen Robinson, Mrs. Mary Duncan, all of the CHANGERS and the Sewanee Seminarians.

I am a quintessential Southern boy, and I have impeccable breeding, so these thanks must be acknowledged.

But, I am beginning to realize that to do so realistically would require including everyone who has helped us serve the homeless. I have my list right here on my desk. It is the Chattanooga phone book.

- Br. Ron Fender,
bsg is the
Community
Kitchen's outreach
case manager and
serves as live-in
director of the
House of All Souls



Announcing the House of All Souls Dedication and Open House!

The House of All Souls, a permanent house for disabled men, is now open. Five men have settled and are making it home. Please join them, the Kitchen and Rosewood Supportive Services for a dedication and open house.

Sunday, June 13, 2010 from 1:00-5:00pm

Dedication at 2:00pm

2517 McRae Street (just off N. Chamberlain
near the old Buster Brown)



Doing Good Work - GOODworks Recycling

A little over two years ago, Adam Jones was homeless in New York. With nowhere else to turn, he moved to Chattanooga to stay with his sister. After a few weeks, he began staying at the Chattanooga Rescue Mission where “another homeless man told [him] about a program ... called HELP 2 at the Chattanooga Community Kitchen.... There [he would] have a case manager that helps those that are ready, willing and able to change their lives and get back on their feet.”

Adam continues “in the process of being in the HELP 2 Program, ... I took job readiness and life skill classes and pounded the pavement looking for a job. ... My case manager introduced me to Mr. Jenks Parker, who has a recycling business on Lookout Mountain. That was very good news for me. I started working for GOODWorks Recycling in early February.”

Around the same time Adam was homeless in NY, Jenks was visiting with us at the Community Kitchen. His sons, Wells and Simon had started the business over the previous summer and Jenks had joined on to run it; they were looking for a way to give back to the community, not just by diverting waste from the landfill but also by making a real difference in people’s lives.

GOODWorks Recycling is a subscription based recycling service covering Lookout Mountain - for more information visit: www.goodworksrecycle.com

Jenks had heard about our recycling program and thought it may be a good fit. It was. Soon after the initial meeting, Jenks began delivering materials to the

Kitchen - by the truck and trailer full. Jenks and his sons also began holding drives for food and clothing.

Not long after, the program had the chance to grow. Rob Lawrence was now one of the Kitchen’s HELP 2 case managers and he and Jenks struck up a new idea - GOODWorks was growing and Jenks’ sons were pretty busy with school. They needed help - so why not hire clients directly from the programs they support?



Jenks and Adam at work...

GOODWorks began doing even more good work. To date, they have served as a transitional employer for four clients. Adam’s story is one of success - he’s become an asset. As Jenks writes, “in the two short months Adam has worked for GOODWorks, his work ethic and enthusiasm have made a notable difference....” Adam puts it even more bluntly. This “is a start towards a new beginning for me.... I have managed to save most of my money, so I can afford to get an apartment, and I tithe for my church. If it can happen to me, the same can happen to anyone.” Way to go Adam!

And, thank you Jenks - this kind of volunteerism is innovative, supportive and gets directly at the heart of what we do - keep up the *good work*.

Did you know? The Chattanooga Community Kitchen is a full service recycling drop off center?

In the mid-1990’s, the Kitchen started regularly reaching the 100,000 meal a year level - as you can imagine, we also started producing a large amount of garbage. Much of this garbage was recyclable. So what followed? We started a recycling program to take care of our own refuse. It also doubled as a job training opportunity.

Soon it grew as volunteers began bringing their recycling. Today, we accept unsorted recyclables through the front door - all proceeds from this program go directly toward the Kitchen’s operating funds.



It’s as easy as 1-2-3

- 1.) Collect recyclables at home (no need to sort them).
- 2.) Put them in your car and bring them to the Kitchen.
- 3.) Pull up out front and let someone unload them for you.



By bringing your recyclables to the Kitchen, you not only divert landfill material, you also help *recycle lives*.

Already this year, we've served over 60,000 meals. At this rate, we'll easily reach 180,000. And, food service is not the only program with record demand. Your continued support is more important now than ever!



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

• **COMPASSION** •

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