

Chattanooga Community Kitchen



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

Twentieth Annual Fast Day Campaign

Chairs: Hacker and Kitty Caldwell

We're proud to announce that Hacker and Kitty Caldwell will be chairing the 2010 Fast Day Campaign. It couldn't be more special. This campaign marks twenty years of Fast Day. We think that's a pretty big deal.

For twenty years now, members of our community have been giving up a meal so that others may eat - and have shelter, find jobs, recover from illness, find permanent housing, get help, and find hope.

And through these years, the Fast Day Campaign has been led by people here in our community - people that work daily to make a real difference in the lives of others.

This year's chairs are no exception; in fact, the Caldwell family has been supporting our work with the homeless and needy for many years. Hacker and Kitty both are devoted to making a difference in our community and beyond.



From serving as chair of the McCallie School Board of Trustees, chair of the Smithsonian Institution's National Board and as a Trustee of the Hunter Museum of Art,

Hacker has a dynamic history of leadership.

FAST  **day**

He stays active in business too, serving as President of a successful financial management company. In between board rooms and business negotiations, he enjoys fly fishing, art, golf, and spending time with his family.

Also heavily involved in the community, Kitty serves on the Outreach committee of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Episcopal, where they are both members, and as a trustee of Randolph-Macon College and of the Public Education Foundation. Kitty also enjoys finding time for gardening, art, travel, golf, and of course, family.

We're very excited to have Hacker and Kitty as leaders of the 2010 Fast Day Campaign. Having served over 105,000 meals just from January to July, we're on target for another record year. All of our programs are experiencing record demand and with the record heat, expenses continue to increase.

Our work today is more important than ever. With family homelessness on the rise, unemployment still skyrocketing and more people in need than ever before, we truly need your help. Please join our chairs and all of our community as we reach toward the critical 2010 Fast Day Campaign goal of \$700,000.

Together we can continue to make a difference in the lives of our most vulnerable neighbors.



Help from the Heart of the City

A cold cup of water....

“And whoever in the name of a disciple gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water to drink, truly I say to you, he shall not lose his reward.”
Matthew 10:42

This summer has been hot. Very hot. Heat like this is dangerous, especially to folks walking through town seeking employment and permanent housing. As the temperature continues to increase, dehydration poses a serious risk.

In response, we've placed three refrigerators in our lobby filled with cold bottled water - available to anyone in need. Just walk up, open the door and take a bottle - a cup of cold water to drink.

Sometimes the simplest work is the most meaningful. By offering a cup of cold water to those in need, we show compassion, we show love, we show kindness. At the same time, we create an opportunity to interact.



Unloading water donations from the truck...

These opportunities are critical - offering a chance to engage a person in programs, case management, and in conversation while helping with the most basic struggle against the stifling heat.

So many of you have helped in this battle, increasing donations to offset the increasing expense of cooling the building and providing shelter, donating water for the cause and volunteering your time.

Today's demand is greater than ever before. Our neighbors are still in need and we still need your support, especially financial. But in the mean time, thank you for making it possible for us to offer a cold cup of water to those in need.

Remember to renew your BiLo BonusCard each year! Our number has changed, so please renew using the instructions and bar code to the right! Each time you shop, 1% of your purchases will support our work with the homeless and needy of Chattanooga!



1. Give this enrollment card to the cashier with your BONUSCARD one time during the program term.
2. One percent of your purchases will be donated to your designated group through May 31.
3. Call 800-768-4438 if you have any questions.

CHATTANOOGA COMMUNITY KITCHEN



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!

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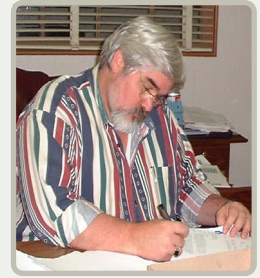
www.homelesschattanooga.org

blog - www.onmywayhome.org

Charlie's Corner:

"I believe that God put the firewood there, but that every man must gather and light it himself" – The Lone Ranger Creed

Our Day Center has become a vibrant, exciting place. Every day something special happens there; it could be someone finding a job or permanent housing, a family being reunited, the creation of a priceless piece of art or even a funeral.



Charlie Hughes
Executive Director

This past May, we began designing all of the Day Center activities around a central theme. The first was Motherhood and Parenting, followed by Fatherhood in June and Patriotism and Honor for Country in July. For Patriotism month, we even took a field trip to the Medal of Honor Museum at Northgate Mall.

By August, we were running low on ideas. But, as often happens, the staff indulged me. We planned the month around the theme of **"the Cowboy Way."**

Growing up, cowboy lore and legend was always very special to me. The television and movie cowboys of the 50's and 60's were my heroes. They all lived by a code of honor; Roy Rogers' code was my favorite:

The Roy Rogers Riders Club Rules:

- 1.) *Be neat and clean.*
- 2.) *Be courteous and polite.*
- 3.) *Always obey your parents.*
- 4.) *Protect the weak and help them.*
- 5.) *Be brave but never take chances.*
- 6.) *Study hard and learn all you can.*
- 7.) *Be kind to animals and care for them.*
- 8.) *Eat all of your food and never waste any.*
- 9.) *Love God and go to Sunday School regularly.*
- 10.) *Always respect our flag and our country.*

I can only imagine how wonderful our world would be if we all lived by these rules. Too often in today's society right and wrong is determined by the situation or a person's feelings. Not in the cowboy world – right is right and wrong is wrong; the line between them is rarely blurred.

Many of our clients are loving the cowboy way theme. Each week we emphasize a cowboy and his specific code, centering all of our activities around it. We're also showing old movies and western television shows. These bring back memories for so many folks who grew up watching the Westerns. And, the themes give us the opportunity to discuss values, good choices and positive actions.

We're keeping a list of clients that exhibit the qualities of a good cowboy and hope to take another field trip – this time to the Booth Western Museum in Cartersville, Georgia.

By remembering these days of yesteryear, we hope to help our clients accept their responsibilities of today. And, while the firewood may already be there, we could all use an additional spark.

HAPPY TRAILS TO YOU.

The Circle Continues - Michael Labron Lynn

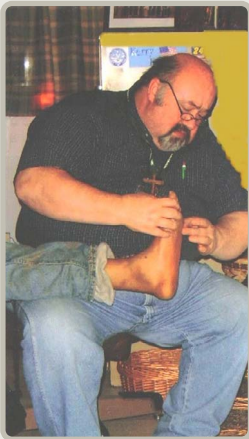
On June 13th of this year, Michael Labron Lynn died of Huntington's disease. Michael was stricken with Huntington's soon after he was viciously assaulted in the streets of Chattanooga. The assault left him brain damaged and greatly complicated the diagnosis process. Michael's battle was long and arduous, fraught with homelessness, addiction, abuse and illness; and Brother Ron Fender was there for the entire process – from the days before his attack, through the unknown before the diagnosis, the countless doctor visits, nursing home selection, end of life planning and Michael's ultimate death.



April 12, 1965 to June 13, 2010

Through it all, Brother Ron was not just Michael's case manager; he was his friend. The following excerpt is from an article written by Ron in the summer of 2005:

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)



On June 15th, 2010, Michael's care taker and his family joined us for an end of life service held in our day center.

The following is an excerpt from the eulogy Brother Ron delivered that day:



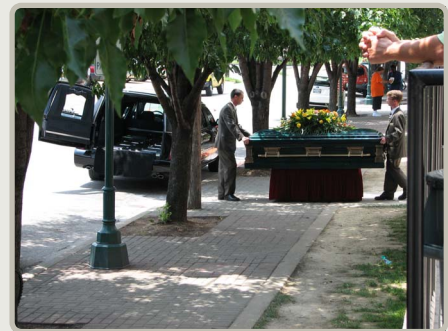
What is one life worth?

At the service...

Every night, there are broken people sleeping under bridges who are hungry, sick, broken-hearted, alone, freezing in the winter and scorching in the summer. Eight years ago, I discovered Michael sleeping under the Walnut Street Bridge. It was a freezing night and Michael's wet blankets had literally frozen around him, like a mummy's sarcophagus. His toenails had grown through his tennis shoes and he was so hungry that he ate the four peanut butter sandwiches I had on me in eight bites. Michael suffered a lot of teasing and he was embarrassed to come here to the Kitchen because of the way he smelled.

The following morning we found him some clothes at the thrift store, gave him a hot shower and a hot breakfast, located a new pair of tennis shoes and trimmed his toenails, and a remarkable friendship began.

Brother Ron and Michael shared a journey, one that we share with many of our clients, just usually not so



Leaving the Kitchen...

quickly. From homelessness to housing, to stabilization and beyond, thank you for allowing us to make a real difference in the lives of so many.

Summer Festival and Barbecue

Last year was the start of something special - our first annual summer barbecue and festival. It was a great event, but as things often do around here, it came together rather quickly and without much of a plan. So, this year as Matt Galas brought in frozen ribs from R&D Custom Slaughtering in Dunlap once again, we took the time to hatch a plan - a Patriotic Summer celebration, with a Fourth of July theme.



For the second year in a row, Don Clemens tended the propane grill...

Some folks may wonder why we would take time for recreation when we're working to prevent and alleviate homelessness - the answer might surprise you. You see, homelessness is a stressful situation; even more, it is a stress that cannot be put away, even for a moment.

With no secure place to sleep, often no resources, and a serious battle ahead, most homeless folks never have a chance to relax.



A new chef joins in the fun...

By offering a few minutes of fun, a bit of festivity and some fellowship, we are able to bring an element of



normality to the lives of our area's homeless, while also providing some much needed relief. In fact, just a few minutes of celebration can offer a refreshing outlet for the stress, frustration and desperation felt by so many we serve.

But, as with most things we do here, we did manage to sneak a little case management and work into the celebration. It wasn't JUST a party. We also organized themed activities, to include crafts, games, resources for veterans, and much more.

Of course, there was dancing too.



We were fortunate enough to organize the event on the same date that a chorale group from Texas was passing through town - the clients loved hearing the music and dancing with the students; one even had all of the performers sign his t-shirt. But the students also loved seeing our Day



Day center supervisor, Roderick Walker gets down with a visiting saxophone player from Texas...

Center - one of the leaders even commented that our center was the best of its kind they had seen, offering essential services in an organized and effective manner. We appreciate the compliment; but, truly we have you to thank!

Thanks also to McCallie School for donating use of the propane grill, Ferrelgas for the propane, Olivet Church for charcoal and another grill, Kings BBQ for the sauce, Barry Kidwell for coleslaw and volunteers, The Well, Brainerd UMC, The Net, Life Church, R&D, Matt Galas and all of the other churches, businesses, individuals and volunteers that made this event possible. We couldn't have done it without you!



The line grows and the room fills up...

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Chattanooga, Tennessee 37401

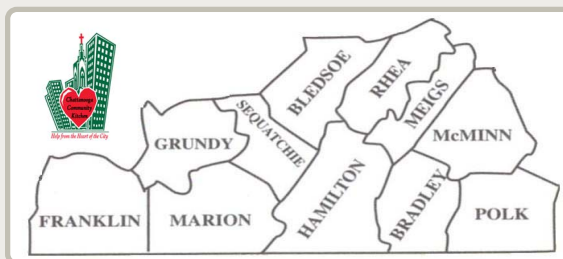
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Meeting more needs, helping more people

A few months ago, state representatives asked us to manage a Homelessness Prevention and Rapid re-housing Program (HPRP) in eleven of the counties surrounding our facility. With the addition of this federally granted program, we now offer eviction prevention, stabilization and other support to residents of Bledsoe, Bradley, Franklin, Hamilton, Grundy, Marion, McMinn, Meigs, Polk, Rhea and Sequatchie Counties.

While our focus remains on serving the homeless and needy in our local Chattanooga community, our efforts will now impact the region, reducing the strain on emergency services and saving real dollars here at home.



From January to July, we served over
105,000 meals to our hungry,
homeless and vulnerable neighbors.
We need your help today!



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