

Fund Raising

We are taking several steps to make our fund raising efforts more effective. One of these is to broaden the donor base by adding more people to our mailing list. If you know of people who are interested in helping others help themselves, please ask them to contact us or send us their names and addresses and we will contact them.

While we are looking at extending our data base and therefore raising more money, we have not, do not and will not ever sell our data base to anyone else.

We are also making an effort to research foundations that make grants to organizations such as ours both within Chattanooga and beyond.

If you have other ideas for fund raising or advice on what has worked for you, please let us know.

Chattanooga's Homeless Challenge

"Chattanooga's Homeless Challenge," a feature length documentary, debuted May 25 to an audience of 400 at the Memorial Auditorium.

This documentary, a Wild Clearing production, was filmed by Wes Rehberg, a retired United Methodist minister and former journalist. The film, one and a half years in the making, includes interviews with presently and formerly homeless persons, as well as care providers, scenes from and descriptions of interventions, and descriptions of the dilemmas facing the homeless and those providing for them. Trailers of "Chattanooga's Homeless Challenge" can be seen at www.wildclearing.com/chattanooga-homeless.html. Copies of the film are also available for purchase on the web site.

Farmer's Market Property

If you have watched TV or read the papers, you are aware of the proposals and problems associated with the city's acquisition of the property across the street from the Community Kitchen. Many ideas and potential uses are being suggested.

To date, the Community Kitchen has participated in, and will continue to work together with, a Task Force of groups and agencies that have an interest in and will be affected by the planning for this property.

Careful planning needs to occur. We remain concerned about and focused on the immediate needs of respite care, a 24 hour shelter and day center.

New Position

*Feeding
the hunger
of the body,
mind and
spirit.*



Michael Williams, our Food Service Supervisor, will also provide case management services to the workers in the food service department as well as other clients.

As Food Service Supervisor, he will be in charge of our kitchen. As a case manager, he will guide and advise those he supervises to extend the training begun in our HELP II (job training and placement) program.

Being Homeless

by Mikayla

Many of us don't realize how important homelessness is. Imagine being alone, living outside, and sleeping on the ground. Sure, there are places that they can stay or eat, but not everyone can stay at a shelter. A lot of people are scared of homeless people. Many of them are desperate. I see about 30 homeless people a day. I feel sorry for them. I think about my life, and then I imagine being homeless and hungry. I don't think I could do it. Homeless people are not just drunks and drug addicts. Many of them have doctor's degrees and teaching degrees. Some even have art degrees. Many people think that just because

someone's homeless that they are bums and drunks. Many of them are chased away from libraries or parks. They don't have enough money to catch a bus or cab. The reason that some of them can't get a job is because of their mental instability. Children are homeless too. One in every seven homeless people are kids. Imagine how bad your feet would hurt if you were constantly on the move. Some people get whatever they want, when they want it. Homeless people don't. The thing that kills me is that some people actually rob homeless people. I just can't believe that. When I grow up I'd like to start a homeless shelter that homeless people can stay at

until they are ready to leave. Out of the many homeless shelters that I have seen you can only stay for a couple of weeks. This is all that I have to say about people that are homeless.



Mikayla, 5th grader at St. Jude School

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Help from the Heart of the City



Our Monk

August 26, 2006 our very own Ron Fender, n/BSG will be taking his First Profession of Vows into the Brotherhood of St. Gregory. The service will take place at the Church of the Stigmata, Mount Alvernia, in Wappinger's Falls, New York.

Ron is currently a novice. After Professing, he will be officially known as Brother Ron Fender, BSG.

If you would like to make a donation in honor of Ron, now would be a good time to do it.

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 1-877-426-6783 to register for Bi-Lo Boosters. Our Bi-Lo BOOSTER number is 2818. Call 1-800-210-9569 to register for (Food) Lion Shop and Share 2002.

Upcoming Events

Beat Hunger Benefit Concert
November 20, 2006 at 7:30PM
UTC Fine Arts Center

Great Turkey Fry and Food Drive
WMBW, November 21, 2006



They Said They Would....And They Did

Last summer, we reported that the Church of the Nativity in Fort Oglethorpe had chosen the Community Kitchen as the focus of their ministry for one year. On Pentacost Sunday, they recounted their ministry and recommitted themselves to continue the work they have begun with the Community Kitchen. We are honored by their commitment and words. The following excerpts are from the sermon delivered that day:



Charlie Hughes

A year ago, the Church of the Nativity began an outreach project with Chattanooga Community Kitchen. In five different areas, this parish and the Community Kitchen have worked together to share the Good News Of Jesus Christ and celebrate God's love for all. We, the members of your Vestry, are here today to tell you what Nativity has accomplished in the past year, and what we hope to accomplish this coming year.

Family Housing and Learning Center

Two apartments were renovated for one mother and child, and one mother with two children. They replaced flooring, made electrical repairs, painted and stocked the apartments. 18 volunteer ministers worked on each apartment.

I remember the young mother at the first renovated apartment. Coleen had made her a blue prayer shawl which overwhelmed her. She said blue was her favorite color. She held the shawl like a child would hold a special blanket. Nita and I had brought groceries for her. She helped carry them and we all put them up where she wanted them since it was her new place. Later, we saw her crying. She was overwhelmed by our generosity. All three of us hugged and cried together. It moved me so deeply. Laura Wood

Consider the Lilies Thrift Store

Approximately 10 volunteer ministers worked on this project for 100 hours. They delivered 40 metric tons of clothing.

I collect bags for the thrift store, I am unable to hang clothes or help in many ways, but at 83 years old, I am able to help by collecting the bags needed at the store. It makes me feel that I am helping people help people.

Lellie Evans

There aren't any words to describe how you feel when you look into the eyes of a hungry person, or you sit around tying shoes together for people who can't even afford to buy a pair of shoes. When you volunteer for something like the Community Kitchen what you feel is coming from the heart. People should try it. They will get that same feeling from the heart. Cathy Mergenthaler

In 2000, I was homeless and became a client of the Community Kitchen. Through the Community Kitchen and thrift store, I was able to begin a new life. Today, I have an apartment and hold down a part-time job. All of this is due to the Community Kitchen.

I do volunteer work at the thrift store to give back what was given to me. Ed DeGutes

Feeding the Homeless

This ministry had approximately 105 volunteer ministers cooking breakfast for 1251 homeless men, women and children. After church services 160 volunteer ministers made sack lunches, and provided the Kitchen with needed staples. They purchased and prepared 3420 eggs, 1650 sausage patties, 1540 biscuits, 110 gallons of grits, 4000 sandwiches, 3500 cookies and 3/4 ton of fresh fruit.

On Saturday mornings when we cook breakfast for the homeless at the Community Kitchen, not only do we cook, we provide the food. One Saturday a month instead of powdered eggs, they get real eggs for breakfast.

Nita Weller

I love the sandwich races...the way we work together to see how quickly we can make sack lunches. Laura Wood

Well, even kids can make sandwiches. John Grantham

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*Volunteers, the ❤️ of the Kitchen.
Thanks for another year of hard work.*



The wonderful and very talented men from Rivermont Presbyterian have been busy repairing the dining room and replacing the men's bathroom.

Thank you, Rivermont men!

The Tuesday breakfast crew Velma Tolbert, Charles and Gay Wiggly sign up for door prizes at the volunteer appreciation party at the Chattanooga Nature Center. The Reverend Dr. Bill McGee and staff member Jens Christensen stroll on the boardwalk near the tree house.

Success at Family Housing and Learning Center

TA had lived with domestic abuse for years. Finally she worked up the courage to flee her abuser in 2004. She and her 2 year old son lived in her car for several months. She worked as a mental health technician at Moccasin Bend. She first went into The Chattanooga Room in the Inn Shelter. On October 15, 2004, she and her son became residents of the Family Housing and Learning Center (FHLC) program at the Community Kitchen. TA graduated from FHLC May 15, 2006.

When they first entered the FHLC program, TA's son did not speak. The case managers at FHLC found speech therapy assistance for him. The therapists determined that disabilities were not preventing him from speaking. Rather, not speaking was a result of trauma and social immaturity. Today, after therapy, he is *quite* verbal.

During the year and a half they lived at FHLC, TA divorced her abuser, paid off her bankruptcy and became a home owner through Habitat for Humanity. She will move into her Habitat home when it is completed in June.

TA has a wonderful faith and support from her church family. No matter what the circumstances, she meets them with a positive attitude. "There is a reason for this," she says with a rueful smile. "It will work out."

TA followed the FHLC program and attended all classes. In January of this year, she enrolled at Chattanooga State and has completed her refresher courses with A's and B's. She plans to enroll in the social work program in September and earn her associates degree. Her son will be enrolled in pre K.

TA was a spokesperson on National Health Day for the Homeless Health Care Clinic. Now that she has graduated, she wants to begin a ministry by organizing others who have graduated from FHLC to come back and encourage those in the program by sharing their experience being homeless, getting their lives together and going back out in the community and living successfully.

Monks at Prayer



Five members of the Brotherhood of St. Gregory visited Brother Ron Fender one weekend in April. Saturday they said evening prayers at Wilder Tower in Chickamauga Battlefield. A very thin older woman, a younger woman and a child stood nearby listening to the prayers. At the end of the prayer time they spoke with the monks. The older woman shared that after several remissions from cancer, she is once again struggling with the disease. She was feeling fairly well that day and having an outing with her daughter and granddaughter. The monks prayed with the woman and her family. The woman was greatly comforted. Her daughter said, "You have no idea what this means to my mother. I'm so glad you were here." Everyone agreed that they had not come together by accident.

Volunteering at Overnight Shelters for Men or Women and Children

Eight volunteer ministers performed 819 hours at the two shelters.

I took one of the St. Matthew's residents who had expressed an interest in historical Chattanooga on an outing to hear a UTC professor talk about the old underground Chattanooga. All of these men know in their bones that they walk the knife's edge between life and death every day. Through God's grace and the help of good people who care about them, they have been given a chance to redeem their lives, and almost without exception they know it, and are grateful. We volunteers know that sadly, most will fall back off the wagon in time, but we don't know who or when, so our interactions have to assume the best. Charles Mahan

Collecting and Assembling Items for Reward Backpacks

Thirty eight volunteer ministers provided backpacks for 40 homeless people.

The backpacks provide the homeless with daily comforts and necessities that we take for granted, yet enable them to carry on with dignity in their attempts to better their situation. Ellen Gibson

Helping assemble the backpack, as well as making sandwiches and collecting change for Brother Ron's foot ministry, have all opened my daughter's eyes to the needs of others around us. It's important that my children learn to help others at a young age. April Phillips

I like putting the backpacks together and helping people even though I will never see them or know them. Kylie Gibson

I enjoy every project we at Nativity do, because I feel no matter what my circumstances in life are, I can always help someone else. Everyone can take part in this ministry. You may not be able to drive to the apartments, but you can make sandwiches. You may not want to stay at the shelter, but you can bring clothes for the Thrift Store. Getting up at the crack of dawn might not be in your life, but you can make up backpacks. There is a place for every one who wants to help. You ask God to use you as His vessel and He will do the rest. Laura Wood

After the sermon, and before the collection, members of the congregation were challenged to continue their good works by signing a 2006-2007 annual commitment form. We have scanned the form below.

NATIVITY'S MISSION & MINISTRY: HELPING THE HOMELESS 2006-07 ANNUAL COMMITMENT

I COMMIT MY GIFTS AND TALENTS TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND TO FURTHER THE MISSION OF NATIVITY IN THE FOLLOWING AREA(S):

_____ **FAMILY HOUSING & LEARNING CENTER APARTMENTS (PAINTING, CARPENTRY, CLEANING, SHOPPING, REFURBISHING, WELCOME BASKETS).** *Could you help to prepare housing for a young family?*

_____ **"CONSIDER THE LILIES" THRIFT STORE (COORDINATE DRIVES, SORT CLOTHES).** *Could you give a few hours each month to this cause?*

_____ **MEALS FOR THE HOMELESS (PREPARING SACK LUNCHES, HOMEMADE DESSERTS OR BREAKFAST FOR COMMUNITY KITCHEN).** *Could you give a little time each month to feed the hungry?*

_____ **VOLUNTEER AT OVERNIGHT SHELTERS FOR MEN OR WOMEN AND CHILDREN.** *Could you spend one night per month or every other month to keep someone from spending the night in the street?*

_____ **COLLECT AND ASSEMBLE ITEMS FOR REWARD BACKPACKS.** *Three times per year, could you help shop for pillows or towels and gather items to motivate someone out of their homeless situation?*

NAME (please print) _____
PHONE _____ **E-MAIL** _____

The mission of the Church of the Nativity is to glorify God and share the Good News of Jesus Christ by strengthening our Christian walk and celebrating God's love for all.

You might believe that with all this work the Church of the Nativity is a huge congregation. Not so, they are a small body of believers who are very serious about Matthew 25:35,36. (We noticed that this verse is written in one of the stained glass windows in the sanctuary.) They challenged themselves to dedicate their hands and resources to live this scripture. The homeless men, women and children of Chattanooga have certainly benefited. The congregation reports that they have benefited individually and as a body from this service and from focusing their ministry. We challenge you and your congregations to follow their example. Thank you Mother Betty, Deacon Bill and all of Church of the Nativity.