

Help from the Heart of the City

### 2022 Winter Newsletter



### New Year Brings New Challenges

Last year reflected similar challenges from previous years, yet it had its own unique circumstances. We were fortunate to have new opportunities to prevent homelessness and find new housing resources as rates of homelessness continued to rise. In spite of many obstacles, your support has empowered us to address new and not-so-new concerns. Take a look at some of the new and continued ways we served our community in 2021. Together, we are fulfilling our mission to meet basic needs while offering a clear path to self-sufficiency.



# **Taking It To The Streets**

Jocelyn, our Outreach Specialist, joined the CCK team in the fall after moving to Chattanooga from Atlanta. The move has been a good one; she is enjoying being part of a smaller community and being closer to nature.

While starting to work on 11th Street was at first intimidating, she has settled into a routine that starts with exchanging good mornings with participants while walking in to work and feeling at home with coworkers who are like family and genuinely care.

Her role is collaborative and she is part of the newly organized Regional Outreach Cooperative (ROC) that works to meet basic survival needs of people experiencing homelessness. The number of stops on a daily route depends on the size of the team - a day with a full team can make eight stops in one day. The team serves over 100 people in a week, bringing hygiene items, tents, tarps, food bags, a specifically requested item, or helping set up a new tent. Daily challenges include hard to access camps and muddy conditions that make it easy for vans to get stuck. The rewards of the work are high too. For Jocelyn, the ability to be outside in the fresh air while actively helping people, rather than being behind a desk all day, feels good.

Individuals who are comfortable with the outdoors, hard work, and hiking can reach out to help on an outreach route. There are also opportunities to support outreach work by hosting collection drives, packing snack packs, or packing campfire bags.



### **OUTREACH PROJECT**

Support our Outreach Program by collecting and bagging these useful items:

Snack Bags (no cooking required) Jerky, crackers, gummy snacks, chips, granola bars, peanut butter crackers, applesauce, powdered milk, protein shakes

Camp Food Bags (Things you'd cook over a fire/just add hot water to) Canned meat with pop tops (vienna sausages, canned tuna, canned chicken) dry rice, dry beans, dry mashed potatoes, mac n cheese packets, dry granola/oats, canned soup, franks and beans, or chili w/pop tops



Fire Starters

### Volunteer with us! Sign up at homelesschattanooga.org/get-involved

# **Seasons of Giving**



Shifting into this season, underwear, ponchos, and hand warmers continue to be a high priority! Maintenance items are now included so our volunteer groups can be equipped with the supplies needed to help repair and refresh spaces on 11th Street and off-site.

### **Superior Service**

At a recent board meeting, we took some time to recognize staff members who have reached notable Years of Service milestones. Billy, our maintenance tech, has faithfully maintained our building for 5 years, and Eddie has worked in the Recycle program for 4 years. The Clothing Program had two notable anniversaries: Denyce with 31 years and Annie with 20 years. Other milestones included our Maclellan Shelter for Families Director, Kathy Long, who has been at CCK for 20 years, Vanessa, our CFO, who celebrated 24 years, and Julia, who has served 7 years as our Receptionist. Among six employees there were 111 years of combined service! Why do so many of our employees continue to serve at the Kitchen?

The Kitchen has always been made up of people with dedication to the mission and sustained by the consistency of supporters committed to meeting the needs of our neighbors. When I asked Kathy, "What's Your Why?" she answered: "I do what I do because I love it and I want to help people make positive changes in their lives!". Knowing her "why" has kept Kathy consistent in 20 years of service.

I've met a lot of people over the years who are interested in getting more involved but don't know where to start. I'd encourage you to come down to serve a meal or take a tour- and bring a friend. You'll run into one or two of the many people who have sustained us for nearly 40 years.



David Costellow Interim CEO

### How Well Do You Know the CCK?

#### True or False?

- 1. The Chattanooga Community Kitchen occupies all of the buildings on the 700 block of East 11th Street.
- 2. One must be experiencing homelessness to eat at the Chattanooga Community Kitchen.
- 3. The Chattanooga Community Kitchen operates two off-site program shelters, one for women, and one for men, located in two downtown churches.
- 4. The Homeless Health Care Center is a program of the Community Kitchen.

#### **Multiple Choice:**

- 1. Approximately how much does it cost to feed and provide supportive services to one person for a week? a.\$25.00
  - b.\$60.00
  - c.\$100.00
- 2. Which Chattanooga Community Kitchen program is funded by the Grateful Gobbler race?
  - a. Family Housing and Learning Center
  - b.Consider the Lilies
  - c. Maclellan Shelter for Families
  - d. House of All Souls

Learn more about the CCK and our programs by scheduling a tour or a lunchtime learning session for yourself or your group (virtual or on-site)! Reach out to Volunteer@homelesschattanooga.org for

scheduling options.

# What's Your Why?

#### **Retired and Dangerous**

Laverne McMutuary, Strategic Planning Committee Chair

Laverne McMutuary, a retired nurse manager, moved to Chattanooga nine years ago. She discovered the Community Kitchen through involvement with her church. She has served on our board for five years and chairs the Strategic Planning Committee. Currently, she is organizing events, engaging board member churches, and working to be sure the staff of the Community Kitchen feel appreciated. In January, Laverne joined in on a special volunteer opportunity to remove and replace rotten deck boards at the House of All Souls, an off-site housing program. She recommends taking a tour of the entire 700 Block of East 11th Street to anyone who is interested in learning more about the programs at the Community Kitchen.





Our website just got a makeover! We are excited to start using Harness, a Donor Experience app meant to help you stay in touch however you choose. Use your phone, tablet, or computer to click the little blue box that says "Donate" to see more!

Making change is easy! To see what we mean, click the Donate button on our website and sign up for Round Up. When you link a card to the secure platform, it will round up each donation you make on that card to the nearest dollar, and donate that spare change to support the work of the Kitchen!

### Visit our website: homelesschattanooga.org

# Looking Back at 2021









Thanks to all of you who partnered with us in 2021. Your generosity of time, talent, and resources allowed us to not only meet basic needs, but be a place where all people experience dignity, respect, empathy, and connection.



Discover more photos on Instagram: chattcommunitykitchen

# **Events and Updates**



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# **FAST** day

Through your generous donations we exceeded our 2021 Fast Day goal of \$775,000.00. Thank you to Bill and Jo Ann Wilkerson for leading the campaign and thank YOU for supporting it. With your help, we can continue to meet the most basic needs of those we serve.



Modern country artist Steven Cade stopped by our Maclellan Shelter for Families to raise awareness of the importance of music by donating guitars as part of his "Giving Guitars Tour." He has partnered with Brent Yates, cofounder of Restore Us, to visit shelters across the country. Cade also toured our facility, interacted with guests, and performed one of his newest songs.



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#### **Contact Us:**

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Facebook.com/CommunityKitchen

Instagram: chattcommunitykitchen

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 (Chattanooga Church Ministries, Inc.) is a 501(c)3 organization with EIN 62-1151413. Qualified contributions are tax deductible per IRS regulations.

Thank you for being a partner in our work to change lives!