We are excited to announce Chris and Susan Maclellan as Chairs of the 2018 Fast Day Campaign. With a goal of $750,000, this campaign is critical to our ability to keep the doors open, meals on the table and programs operating.

Chris and Susan are stepping full-speed into the challenge, and we are truly grateful for their support.

As active volunteers, Chris and Susan have long been involved in improving our community. From mentoring inner city children and their families, to working with ministries throughout the nation and abroad, the Macellans see community support as a family affair.

College sweethearts, Chris and Susan have travelled the world with various ministries. They attend Calvary Chapel, have four sons, a granddaughter and a network of family and friends.

Chris and Susan have been involved with the Kitchen since joining several years ago in the creation of the Maclellan Shelter for Families - a first of its kind shelter in our area where families can stay together the very night they become homeless.

A graduate of Wheaton College and the Darden School of Business, Chris serves as chair of the board of the Maclellan Foundation and is involved in projects throughout the world. Susan serves locally on the boards of Chattanooga Prep and the Bethlehem Center and is active with the Lookout Mountain Garden Club.

Still, homelessness is personal for Chris and Susan, who have recently been helping Susan’s cousin, a former physician who fell on hard times, get off the streets and back to self-sufficiency.

Thank you, Chris and Susan for your leadership, your heart and your help!
Christmas in July

Christmas came a bit early to the Community Kitchen this year. With the heat of summer upon us, spirits were getting low and frustrations high. But thankfully, Santa joined staff and volunteers in a brief celebration to remind us that there’s always joy to be found in the spirit of Christmas.

Terry Ware, an employee at Cigna, had been looking for ways to get more involved in our work after helping with the tent city relocation this past spring. He took his interest to work and was able to recruit coworkers. As a result, the Cigna employees came together to collect and assemble over 400 gift bags for the day. They also came here to decorate.

When Christmas finally came (Christmas in July, that is), they joined Santa in celebration, providing face painting and handing out goodies while Santa spread Christmas cheer. Even Santa said it was a great time; after all, he seemed to need a vacation from making his naughty and nice list. Visiting with children of all ages made a great break!

We were also fortunate to have Michael Tomshack Photography take photos with Santa. Mike and his wife, Kim, are faithful volunteers in the kitchen each month and also provide portraits each year to our guests around the Christmas holiday. First Christian Church assisted Santa with back-to-school gifts for the children. And, guests enjoyed a special Christmas meal prepared by our team in the kitchen. Cigna plans to make this an annual event and hopes to even expand it next year!

Please help us promote Fast Day at your church, school, work, or any other place. We can provide promotional materials for on-site displays and even web-based promotions. Email DavidC@homelesschattanooga.org to find out more!
Fighting Hunger Together

Since 2011, Five Star Food Service has contributed over $75,000.00 to the Community Kitchen. Five Star provides workplace food and vending needs throughout the Southeast but also shares a common goal with us: to address local hunger needs.

Recently, Five Star CEO, Al Recher, stopped by the Kitchen with his team to present this year’s contribution and see first-hand the work the Community Kitchen is doing among families experiencing homelessness through our Maclellan Shelter for Families.

Thank you, Five Star Food Service! Your support helps us continue to address hunger issues in our community.

Hope Regained After Long Period of Homelessness

Thomas Edison once said, “Many of life’s failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up.” Renee had all but given up on any chance of ever getting off the streets. Like many who experience homelessness, the longer she persisted in it, the harder it was to overcome.

Renee had worked in tourism for all of her life but was displaced after a natural disaster. Later, she lost everything due to a failed relationship. The shame of her decision, along with staying in a shelter, led Renee into a deep depression. Weight gain, failing health and a cancer diagnosis followed.

Then, when things seemed like they were at their worst, her mother passed away. Wheelchair-bound, broke and homeless, Renee gave up. She truly believed that she would never have a home or live a “normal” life again. But this past April that all changed when she reluctantly accepted help from one of our case managers. Together, they completed a housing application and started the process of rebuilding. Much to Renee’s surprise, she was approved!

“The day I got the keys to my new apartment was one of the happiest days of my life.” Since moving into her apartment, her entire outlook has changed. She once again believes in her self and her own worth.
A Note From Our CEO

As I turned onto 11th Street a few days ago, I realized I’d been making that same turn for over 14 years. That’s a long time to make a turn - almost daily - the same signs, the same streets, and for those we serve: often the same struggles. This realization led to a walk down the Kitchen’s memory lane.

We started out here on 11th Street with one small building in the center, across from the Curb Market restaurant and next to World Sales. There was no sidewalk, just a wide road with pull-in parking on either side. At one end of the block, there was an empty lot; at the other, an elevator company.

Vegetable and fruit stands lined the street, the last of which closed just a few years ago. Over time, the supply company next door also closed, and we acquired the building, renovating it for the Homeless Health Care Center. Then, we excavated the empty lot at the block’s end, building apartments for homeless families. Next, World Sales closed and we renovated that space, ultimately opening the day center and clothing programs. The feds broke up a gambling ring in the curb market across the street, and the restaurant closed soon after. Then came the police station, our family shelter, a new streetscape and bike lanes.

A lot has changed in the 36 years of CCK. Today, we are serving more families with children than ever before. Today, the needs are far greater than ever before. But today, our mission is as clear as ever before - to meet the most basic needs of hungry, homeless and vulnerable people in our community while offering a clear path to self-sufficiency. Today, people still turn to the Kitchen in their greatest time of need. And, because of you, we’re still here to help. Thank you.
In Their Own Words...

Denyce Carlock
Clothing Supervisor

Our first ever Family Dinner Week to benefit the Maclellan Shelter for Families was a huge success! Five local restaurants: STIR, Blue Orleans, 2 Sons Kitchen and Market, Taqueria Jalisco, and Vine Street Market together contributed nearly $9,000.00 that week to help support families experiencing homelessness!

To date, over 300 families have called the Maclellan Shelter home as they transition from homelessness to permanent, stable housing.

Each one’s life tells a story, and if you take the time to listen, you might be amazed at what you discover about folks you see on a daily basis.

James Mayfield
Clothing Program

James Mayfield has been an employee at the Community Kitchen for the last two years but began working here through the Senior Aides program in 2013. He became involved in the program after retiring from Hamilton Plastics, where he worked nearly 24 years. As a thrift store associate, he keeps the store and clothing program supplied with donations.

Although James stays busy transferring donations from the basement to the sorting room, he always makes time to greet you and get to know you a little better. “My family always encouraged me to get to know people and make them feel important.”

James’ career has been quite remarkable: from serving as a Marine during Vietnam and the Cold War era to trying out for a professional baseball team. “I feel like I’m a good fit here, and I’m not afraid of work. I started bagging groceries at age thirteen. I have had many experiences in my life, and I hope I can use them to relate to people and their circumstances.”

As a Chattanooga native, James also has a heart for our city. “I’ve seen people come from all over the world to help Chattanooga, and it is very encouraging.” Although James has worked and pursued education in various places, his heart always remains here. In his spare time, he enjoys photography as well as riding his bicycle. Thank you, James, for all you do to serve others. We appreciate you!

Family Dinner Week

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L to R: Jimmy Turner, CCK, Erika Weigle, STIR, Fletcher Thompson, STIR, Jens Christensen, CCK, Chris Maclellan, Vanessa Blevins, CCK

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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. Qualified contributions are tax deductible.

Thank you for making our work possible!