**Fast Day Campaign Ends Well**

We are once again amazed and honored by your generosity and support as we’ve reached the critical goal of our 2018 Fast Day campaign.

Thanks to your support and the tremendous leadership of Chris and Susan Maclellan, we enter 2019 on solid footing to continue working to meet the most basic needs of hungry, homeless and vulnerable people in our community while offering a clear path to self-sufficiency. The Chattanooga Community Kitchen exists only through our strong community of support and we are grateful to all who contribute, volunteer and support our work to help others in their time of need.

Thank you for all you do to make our work successful and impactful!
We’re grateful to you.

**Memorializing Those Who have Passed**

On any given night in Chattanooga, more than 600 individuals experience homelessness.

Some are no longer in contact with family or friends, others have nowhere else to turn. As a result, many find their way here, to the Community Kitchen; they come for help, but they also often find friendship. It is not uncommon for individuals to come back to visit the Kitchen once they acquire permanent housing because of the friendships formed during the time they spend here.

Each year on the Winter Solstice (December 21st), which marks the longest night of the year, we remember the homeless members of our community who have died. Prayers, Scripture reading, music and reading of the names of the deceased mark this special time where individuals from across the community come together in our Day Center to remember those who are often forgotten. This year, we remembered more than 20 of our friends - housed, or on the streets, gone but not forgotten.

Carolina Evans rings a bell after the reading of each name. LaDarius Price offers a Scripture reading.
The Christmas lights on Jason Drive in East Ridge are a popular spot for Chattanoogans each year. Thousands of visitors come to “Helton Hill,” where you’ll find Herman Schrader working hard to make sure everything is just right. This past year, the East Ridge Police Department installed a traffic counter that logged over 3,600 vehicles.

For over twenty years, Mr. Schrader and his neighbors have decorated their houses in preparation to open a tremendous Christmas display on the day after Thanksgiving. Over the years, Mr. Schrader has also collected food and cash donations for the Community Kitchen from those who visit. When asked why he does it, he does not hesitate, “I just like Christmas. I enjoy watching the kids and the grown ups light up too. The grown ups like it as much as the kids.” Mr. Schrader started with just a few lights and continues to add to the display each year.

He also likes giving back and helping those in need. In the last two years alone, Mr. Shrader has delivered seven truckloads of food and several thousand dollars to support our work.

Thank you, Mr. Schrader and the folks on Helton Hill, for all you do to support the Community Kitchen and spread Christmas cheer to our community!
In Their Own Words

Joli Moore joined our Maclellan Shelter for Families as a PRN (as-needed) and overnight supervisor. She transitioned into the weekday evening supervisor last year, wherein she interacts with families, performs intakes, and facilitates life-skills classes.

When asked about her role, Joli pauses, smiles and considers how to communicate the adventure each day brings. “I answer questions, hand out needed items, take phone calls, work with new guests on intake paperwork, make copies, clean, organize and enforce shelter procedures. I listen to heartaches, empathize with the frustrated, seek to comfort the fearful and rejoice with those taking forward-moving steps. I observe the absolute dedication of Shelter and Kitchen staff and administrators and learn much from their ministry. I see humanity at its worst and best, often humbled as a shelter guest seeks to bless another out of the little she or he has.”

Around three years ago, Joli was drawn to the Community Kitchen because she felt that “if Jesus were still walking this earth, He would frequent 11th street as one of His favorite places, meeting physical and heart needs.”

Joli wants people to know that “individuals are not first and foremost homeless, but instead they are first and foremost human beings. It is a privilege to be a part, however brief, of their story.”

Thank you, Joli, for the difference you make in the lives of families who simply need someone to listen and to care.

Donations Make the Difference

When you stop and think about the volume of food we serve on a daily basis, it’s incredible. It is even more amazing to consider that almost everything we serve is donated!

Last year, we served over 167,000 meals. While your generous food donations put meals on the table, it also takes a great deal of financial support to operate our food services program. Recently, Publix Super Markets Charities gave us $5,000.00 to help in these efforts, for which we are extremely grateful.

Our local Publix store also contributes food and other supplies such as napkins, plastic forks/spoons and plates. Thank you, Publix, and our many partners that help us continue to meet basic needs and offer hope to those we serve - every day of the year.
A Note From Our CEO

A little over 15 years ago, I answered a newspaper ad for a case management position working with families transitioning from homelessness. Soon after, I interviewed and was offered the job.

When I came to work on February 16, 2004, to begin training, I didn’t know I would still be working for the Chattanooga Community Kitchen 15 years later. I certainly did not know I’d work all over the block and ultimately become the CEO.

Over these 15 years, we’ve served more than two million hot meals. We’ve helped several thousand people find housing and jobs. We’ve handed out thousands of pounds of soap, hundreds of gallons of shampoo and probably a few hundred thousand toothbrushes. We’ve also sorted/delivered nearly a million letters to people with no address other than ours.

When I started, we had no Day Center, no foot care, no permanent housing, no family shelter and no cold weather shelter. We had just crossed the 100,000 meals/year mark. Our clothing program was housed in the shell of a building formerly occupied by World Sales. The farmer’s market still operated daily across the street, along with a bank and a few restaurants. Most of the people we served were single men; and our family shelter had not yet even become a dream.

But that’s all changed. Because of the great need and your support, not only are we serving more people today than ever before, we’re doing a better job of it. Families in our shelter are moving into greater stability within just a few weeks (180 families with 401 kids just this past year). Our House of All Souls, Matthew’s Place and Family Housing Learning Center homes create community for the men, women and children living there. The quality of our meals has never been better than it is today. The Day Center offers programming, case management and safety to several hundred people throughout the week. We’re open every day of the year, 24/7 in select programs, and we have not missed a meal in over 35 years. And we’re preparing to do more.

Sometimes I read articles like this, and I wait for the author to say “I’m humbled just to be involved in such a wonderful thing.” It’s no cliché, however. Authors use that phrase for the same reason I do: there’s no better way to say it.

I’m humbled by our staff – I know of no better team. I’m humbled by our services – we certainly can’t meet every need, but we do meet an incredible number of needs for thousands of people each year. And, I am humbled by you – your ongoing support and meaningful partnership in our work is truly the lifeblood of our services; we can only do what we do because of your involvement.

Thank you.
167,692 Meals Served

38,320 Volunteer & Community Service Hours

$615,886.38 in Clothing Given Away

581 People Kept Safe in our Cold Weather Warming Shelter

156 Tons of Material Recycled

1,037 People Received Foot Care

31 Women Sheltered at St. Catherine’s Shelter

8,125 Showers Provided

28 Men Sheltered at St. Matthew’s Shelter

180 Families Served at our Maclellan Shelter for Families

91 Single Individuals Housed

85 Families Housed

Thank you for making our work possible!
2018: YEAR IN REVIEW

Highlighting the Past; Affecting the Future

Thank you for your support in 2018. Thousands of lives were influenced for the better because of your help. As we reflect on the year, we look forward to helping even more families and individuals find their way to self-sufficiency in 2019.
Grateful Gobbler Sets New Record

Before gathering together with family and friends on Thanksgiving this year, over 5,000 people came together to support families in our community who are experiencing homelessness.

For the last few years, 100% of proceeds from the annual Grateful Gobbler 5K have supported our Maclellan Shelter for Families. Individuals walk, run, or stroll through downtown Chattanooga (often in their best turkey attire) to support the many families in our shelter.

2019 will mark the Grateful Gobbler’s 20th year. From sponsors to volunteers, participants, and the many folks who work tirelessly to make it a success, we are truly grateful!

Not only did the Walk have a record number of participants in 2018, but our shelter did too, serving 180 families with 401 children! The Maclellan Shelter for Families offers short-term emergency shelter where families stay together as they work toward greater stability in housing - by walking, you join in helping these families. Thank you!

Since obtaining housing, Chifon has continued to pursue self-sufficiency by applying for jobs in the area. Thankfully, she just accepted a job offer to work part-time in our Consider the Lilies clothing program.

When her case manager met with her recently, he asked her if she was enjoying her apartment. She replied that she was just so happy to not have to live in a shelter anymore. She finally has a place she can call home.

Chifon Stroud had been homeless for over a year before being referred to a case manager at the Chattanooga Community Kitchen. For the previous seven months, she had been staying in a shelter with three of her daughters. She felt discouraged to have lived at the shelter for so long and was eager to find permanent housing for her family.

In late November, 2018, she started working with a case manager here at the Community Kitchen; on December 21, 2018, she signed a lease for an apartment at the our Family Housing and Learning Center. She felt so excited to move in to her own apartment - and just in time for Christmas! The day she received her keys, she was beaming with joy.

Learn more at GratefulGobblerWalk.org
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!