We are honored to announce that Chris and Susan Maclellan will be serving as Fast Day Chairs this year. Chris and Susan actively support ministries that have both local and global impact. As Chairman of the Board of the Maclellan Foundation and several other local and national boards, Mr. Maclellan’s investment in the lives of others has great influence. His support of our family shelter and others service-based ministries, gives him a great understanding of the needs in our community.

Mrs. Maclellan serves on the board of Chattanooga Prep and The Bethlehem Center as well as being active in the Lookout Mountain Garden Club. She knows the struggles of families in need through her involvement with The Bethlehem Center and the difficulties of a family member who recently experienced homelessness.

We are proud to announce Ward and Ashley Davenport as Chairs of the 2019 Fast Day Campaign. The campaign started over 35 years ago with the notion that anyone could fast for a meal and donate what would have been spent on that meal toward our work (feeding and housing those on the streets). Since that time, the campaign has grown to be the primary source of funds for our services - it is the life-blood of our work.

We couldn’t imagine better leadership for the campaign than that of Ward and Ashley. Native Chattanoogans, with long-standing roots, the Davenports were inspired by the work of those that came before. From an early age, Ward watched his father and late mother be heavily involved in the community; Ashley was inspired by those in her family as well, especially her mother and grandmother who volunteered throughout her childhood. With three children of their own, the Davenports realize that they’re now setting the example - and a great example it is. Ward and Ashley believe that philanthropy is important, that they should give back to the community and help those in need, especially at a grass roots level (like CCK). We hope that you’ll join them in changing lives by contributing to the campaign and helping us reach the $750,000 goal.

Visit our website homelesschattanooga.org/fast-day for more info and promotional ideas.
Family Dinner Week Sees Growth

After a successful Family Dinner Week last year, we are pleased to report that the second year raised even more support for our Maclellan Shelter for Families. Four local restaurants: Chicken with Bones, Embargo 62, STIR and State of Confusion joined together to contribute a portion of their sales for the week in an effort to not only encourage families to dine together but also to support local families experiencing homelessness.

This June, our family shelter served its 555th family since opening in December 2014, and we are on track to serve over 150 families again this year. As we serve more families, your increased support provides a safe place for them to turn any time of day and every day of the year. Thank you for your involvement!

SCOPE Classes Offer Practical Help

Each week, we offer life skills classes covering various topics such as GED/Hi-SET testing, employment skills, and information related to housing. Recently, we have broadened our “scope” to include a variety of practical subjects that have proven to be helpful.

During the month of July, our SCOPE (Skills Class Opportunities for Personal Enrichment) classes dealt with various aspects of the legal system. Representatives from Legal Aid, Social Security & Disability, and other fields provided many helpful tools for our guests.

Future topics include health and nutrition, budgeting, relationships and mental health. If you have relevant knowledge that you would like to share on these topics, we’d love to hear from you as a potential guest speaker. If interested, contact Jimmy Turner: jimmyt@homelesschattanooga.org. SCOPE classes meet each Thursday at 1:00 p.m. in our Day Center.

L-R: CEO Jens Christensen, Melinda Bone (Chicken with Bones), COO Jimmy Turner, Fletcher Thompson (STIR & State of Confusion), Katie Davison (State of Confusion) and Shanna Haynes (STIR).

Sam Lewis presents on various aspects of criminal law and access to legal services.
Summer has been busy around the Kitchen!

Over two dozen groups provided service projects

Little Caesars Love Kitchen stopped by to provide lunch

On My Own 2 Feet & Wheels July Give-away

Summer Brunch

Birthday Party at our Family Housing Center

Back to School Bash serving dozens of kids
A Note From Our CEO

If you haven’t been down to 11th street lately, you might consider a quick visit – you may just be surprised. I often hear the same thing from folks who haven’t been here before (or recently): “I had no idea.” No idea of the scope of services. No idea of the level of need. No idea that a person could find a meal, case management, health care, and possibly housing – all in one place, with one mission: to meet the most basic needs of hungry, homeless and vulnerable people in our community while offering a clear path to self-sufficiency.

But the biggest “I had no idea” I hear is: “I had no idea there were so many children and families.” On October 7, 2014, the Times Free Press printed an article on homelessness and public schools. At the time, the school system estimated that 1,700 children would experience homelessness in area public schools that year. That’s one thousand seven hundred children with no safe place to sleep at night – and those were only the children that the school system could confirm as homeless; likely hundreds more would slip under the radar.

The article also shared the story of a young mother with five children who was living in our Family Housing and Learning Center. She was doing well, working hard and finding her path. Despite the subject, it was a great, hopeful article. That said, one sentence from the article haunts me to this day: “It took three weeks until the woman could get into a shelter.” Three weeks on the street with five children not knowing where they’d sleep at night. Three weeks.

Two months after that article was published, we would open the doors to our Maclellan Shelter for Families. No longer would a family need to wait three weeks on the street for shelter. No longer would a child wonder where he or she would sleep that night. Since that time, hundreds of families have called the shelter home; in fact, we reached 555 families this June!

We know that today there are more homeless children in our schools than there were in 2014. We also know that there are more families experiencing homelessness in Chattanooga than ever before…more veterans…more men and more women.

But each day on 11th Street we find hope and celebrate the success of the hundreds of men, women and children we are able to help get off the streets every year. And each day I am grateful for the support of good people like you who join in our efforts to improve the community and help people escape the trauma of homelessness.

Thank you.
If you have ever visited our thrift store, you have likely met Jack Lane. For nearly twenty years, Jack has worked in our thrift store, first as a volunteer and later as an employee. Over the years, Jack has helped folks with their clothing needs. This role suits him well; Jack was a men’s clothing and shoe salesman for many years in Chicago before moving back home to Chattanooga.

Jack also brings a personal understanding of our work, having experienced homelessness himself. “A lot of people give up on you when you’re an addict, but Denyce (our Clothing Supervisor) never turned her back on me.”

Jack is also an accomplished artist. While in junior high, he went to work with his father at what was known as the Little Art Shop (now the location of Art Creations) on Frazier Avenue in Chattanooga. He learned the skill of framing and later went on to earn a degree in advertising art from Chattanooga State. Jack also holds the claim to fame for producing a backdrop for Ray Charles when the singer performed at Lake Winnepesaukah in the 1980’s.

Thank you, Jack, for your years of service in our thrift store as well as your example of overcoming addiction and adversity.

Veteran Family Finds Home

With the opening of our family shelter in 2014, and even before, we’ve seen a tremendous shift in homelessness toward families with children. In response, we’ve prioritized services to meet their needs.

Recently, we had a family with two children, including an expectant mother and a veteran father, enter our Maclellan Shelter for Families. The father, while dealing with losing their home, also struggled with severe PTSD.

Over the course of their two month stay in our shelter a third child was born into the family and they were able to find a home with assistance through the MASH/VASH programs. These programs are a partnership between HUD and VA to help veterans and their families find and sustain permanent housing.

Over 90 families this year have found a place of safety at our Maclellan Shelter for Families. Thank you to all our community partners for your support of this critical work and for your help in changing lives for families.
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.

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