Five Years of Keeping Families Safe and Together

On December 22nd of this year, we will celebrate the fifth anniversary of our Maclellan Shelter for Families, a critical program that provides twenty-four hour emergency shelter to families with children during what might be their most traumatic experience – homelessness. Since opening, more than 600 families have called the shelter their temporary home; last year alone, 180 families turned to the shelter in their time of need.

Before last year, we averaged about 100 families a year; however, through expanded community partnerships and a direct focus on permanent housing, we have been able to shorten the average stay, thereby increasing our capacity to serve families. Many families even transition into our Permanent Supportive Housing Program or find permanent employment through the Kitchen!

we work to help families regain stability. Most importantly, the families stay together as they rebuild their lives, rather than suffering even greater trauma through separation and uncertainty.

Since day one, the primary support for this program has come from the Grateful Gobbler Walk. Sponsored by the Maclellan Foundation and chaired by Stan and Betsy McCright, the Walk brings families together on Thanksgiving morning in support of families in transition at our shelter.

Thousands of individuals participate each year in this Thanksgiving morning tradition; 100% of the proceeds benefit the families at MSF!

We hope you’ll register today by visiting gratefulgobblerwalk.org and join us for the 20th annual Grateful Gobbler Walk, held Thanksgiving morning - there you can Gobble before you gobble all while helping families in need!

Your support has been critical on so many levels. We are truly grateful for the Maclellan Family and Foundation, our partners from the beginning, as well as all of you who have sponsored family rooms, volunteered in various areas, supported the shelter financially, or simply advocated for this critical ministry. Working together, we offer case management, housing planning, and much more as...
Fast Day: A Gift of Life, A Gift of Service

1989 has proven to be an important year in the history of the Community Kitchen. We began to serve three meals a day, every day of the year. We created a job training program and started providing more intensive case management. The clinic settled into a groove, offering primary care to those we serve. Growth was happening all over the block – and all of this growth meant we needed a serious fundraiser! In response, the Fast Day Campaign was born.

The campaign had humble beginnings, with the notion that supporters would give up a meal (fast) and donate what they would have spent on the meal to support our work. Our budget was naturally smaller in 1989, but through great leadership and hard work, the campaign has grown to become our sustaining annual campaign – ensuring that we can keep the lights on, the doors open and meals on the table every day!

A gift to our Fast Day campaign can literally give life to those we serve. It means a hot, nutritious meal, shelter from the heat and cold, shower/laundry facilities, clothing/personal belongings, permanent housing, job training and most importantly, love and encouragement from our staff.

We hope you’ll join our chairs, Ward and Ashley Davenport, as they lead us toward the $750,000 goal – a goal critical to our ability to meet needs in our community. We hope you’ll make a gift, but you can also help by encouraging others to donate, by sharing on social media, or by involving your church, workplace or social group.

Learn more at homelesschattanooga.org/fast-day. Thank you for your support!

Want to leave a lasting impact? Are you interested in a major gift or a sustaining estate gift to ensure that services are provided well into the future? If so, please reach out to our CEO, Jens Christensen; you can reach him via email at Jens@homelesschattanooga.org or by phone at 423-756-4222.

Fall Needs List

Sugar, Rice, Noodles, Disposable Razors, Deodorant, Ponchos, Socks and Gloves
People end up in Chattanooga for many different reasons. Some come for outdoor activities, business opportunities or other ambitions. However, Marcia Hayes came following a vacation; she’d been here several times and was struck with the cleanliness and beauty. “I decided that I wanted to retire in either North Carolina or Tennessee because they were both beautiful places.” Finally, she chose Tennessee.

One of thirteen children in her family, Marcia is the first and only to graduate college. She’s always desired to help others, and for many years, she felt that she was doing so through her job in corrections.

But as she moved up in her career, she felt further away from the people she served. “Although being promoted into a management level of corrections means more money, it moves you further away from the people so I began looking at nonprofit work.” Marcia wanted to help.

And almost three years ago, she found herself here, as our Day Center Manager. She was soon promoted to Hospitality Manager and now serves as our Director of Operations. She laughs, “I thought I’d never make it past my first 90-days!”

Thank you, Marcia, for leading and serving our staff and guests!

Marcia Hayes
Director of Operations

More than 20 different service groups volunteered at the Kitchen this summer!
Many folks know of the Chattanooga Community Kitchen as a church-governed organization, but most don’t know that we’re actually chartered as a church. On October 28, 1983, some two years after our founding members first met, the IRS approved Chattanooga Church Ministries, Inc. as a tax exempt publicly supported organization as defined in IRS statutes 501(c)(3) and 501(9)(a). We’ve operated as Chattanooga Church Ministries, Inc. dba/the Chattanooga Community Kitchen ever since.

That’s right, the Chattanooga Community Kitchen is a church…but not as some might think. We don’t require participation in religious programming or even an expression of faith in order to access services. Instead, we serve without expectation. The pastors and volunteers from our founding churches did not see the Community Kitchen as a replacement for their churches, but as a partnership in active ministry, one that extends hope and grace into a community too often overlooked.

Nothing expresses their intent more than our founding mission statement:

*The Board of Directors and staff of Chattanooga Church Ministries, Inc. espouse as our primary goals to strive to lessen the poverty and despair among the homeless in the City of Chattanooga, Tennessee and to restore dignity and self-reliance to those we serve.*

*The Community Kitchen is sponsored and supported by Chattanooga Church Ministries, Inc., an organization of churches in the greater Chattanooga area, the ministry and mission of which is to serve the physical, social and spiritual needs of the homeless and less fortunate without expectation of recompense, but out of love and compassion for mankind.*

Look at that last part again: “…to serve the physical, social and spiritual needs of the homeless and less fortunate without expectation of recompense, but out of love and compassion for mankind.” That’s a tall order. Imagine what that means: hungry, angry, stinky, feisty, grumpy, even those who want no help – we’re here for them; in fact, they’re why we’re here.

Two years ago, we updated that mission statement to clarify our goals. The update is a simple, easy to follow statement: “*to meet the most basic needs of hungry, homeless and vulnerable people in our community while offering a clear path to self-sufficiency.*”

Further, we expanded upon our vision: “*the Chattanooga Community Kitchen will be the leader in resolving homelessness by walking with a person throughout the journey to self-sufficiency.*”

While we don’t claim to be able to solve every issue, we do know where we stand – hungry, homeless, angry, grumpy, even those who don’t want help…we are here to serve them, to walk with them on their journey and to help meet their most basic needs.

For many, the Kitchen is the last place they can turn, their last hope. But for all, it is a community, a place of healing (supported by a wonderful staff and incredible volunteers) – a place where we come together in compassion.

And if that isn’t a church, I don’t know what is…. 
Give Hope for the Holidays!

Each year, the Chattanooga Community Kitchen offers you the opportunity to Give Hope to your family, friends, coworkers, and anyone else on your Holiday list.

When you Give Hope, we hand address, sign, and send beautifully embossed cards to everyone on your list; each card includes a lovely Give Hope ornament and informs the recipient of your gift:

- **Give hope to the homeless, encourage the less fortunate, brighten the life of a child...in all that you have, be grateful.**
- **In the spirit of the season, a gift to feed the hungry has been donated in your name to the Chattanooga Community Kitchen**

This year, leave the Holiday work to us. Send us your list; indicate how you would like us to sign the cards. We’ll do the rest.

We ask a $15 donation per card. Please remember to include a daytime phone number and e-mail address in case we need to contact you as we complete your order.

Not only does your gift go directly toward helping our area’s most vulnerable people, it is also tax-deductible as permitted by law.

Giving Hope is easy! Remove this sheet, fill out the reverse side, and send it back. Please include additional sheets to cover your entire list.

Won’t you Give Hope this Holiday Season?
CHATTANOOGA COMMUNITY KITCHEN HOLIDAY CARD CAMPAIGN

Name: _______________________________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________________________________
Phone and Email: __________________________________________________________
(Please complete this information so that we may contact you with any questions).

ORDER ONLINE (HomelessChattanooga.org) OR MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO:

    Chattanooga Community Kitchen
    P.O. Box 11203
    Chattanooga, TN 37401

Please send a card and ornament to the following (names/addresses):

1) ______________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________
   Sign this card: _________________________________________________

2) ______________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________
   Sign this card: _________________________________________________

3) ______________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________
   Sign this card: _________________________________________________

4) ______________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________
   Sign this card: _________________________________________________

5) ______________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________
   Sign this card: _________________________________________________

(Please enclose additional orders on a separate sheet of paper).
What Would You Do?

Imagine that you’ve fallen on hard times and can’t make ends meet. You try everything you can but nothing works; in an effort to start over, you make arrangements to move to a new town. You line up a job and a place to live. Finally, you’re ready to go. So, you load your family onto a bus, begin the journey to the new place and arrive filled with hope. But the person you’ve arranged to meet never shows up; the job doesn’t happen...the place to live? A dream. Instead you are stranded in the middle of the night in the rain. A tragic, but true story....

Recently, a man, his pregnant wife, and their two children (ages four and five) came to our Macelllan Shelter for Families after being left stranded at a bus station. It is difficult to imagine their sense of despair, but they refused to give up. Instead, they quickly worked to establish a home of their own. The father soon found employment at a security company, and their five year old enrolled in school.

Through strong community partnerships, we have been able to shorten the average stay for families and help them transition from shelter to safe, more permanent housing in a matter of a few short weeks. For this family, we collaborated with Family Promise and Exodus Ministries to help the family settle into their own home in just 16 days!

As you can imagine, this family is incredibly grateful that their tragic story had a happy ending. The causes of homelessness can be beyond anyone’s control, but through your support, we can continue to offer help and hope.

The Annual Moody Radio Food and Frozen Turkey Drive is **November 21st** from 6:30 am - 6:00 pm at AT&T Field.

Join us and WMBW, Moody Radio for our largest food drive of the year!

Register for the 20th annual Grateful Gobbler Walk at 8:00 am on **Thanksgiving Day** at Coolidge Park to benefit our Macelllan Shelter for Families. Unable to attend or do a 5k? Register as a sleep or virtual walker at gratefulgobblerwalk.org.

**SAVE THE DATE!**
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!