



Chattanooga Community Kitchen

Help from the Heart of the City

2021 Fall Newsletter



What's Your Why?

As soon as our CEO, Olivier LeMaitre joined us, he began asking, "Why are you doing what you're doing?" and "what 'fuels' your passion to serve others the way you do?"

While getting to know his team at CCK, Olivier extended these questions to volunteers and others who serve with us. While they are important for anyone to consider, we hope you will be inspired to ask yourself these questions as we remember the influence they had on us.

In Memory of Olivier LeMaitre

In such a short amount of time, our CEO, Olivier Lemaitre, made a lasting impact on the team here at the Community Kitchen. While this may seem unusual for a person we only knew for a little over a month, for those of us who knew him, we affirm that Olivier had the incredible ability to make every single person feel valued and appreciated.

Olivier modeled leadership on an incredible level. From his weekly emails of encouragement to his desire to develop us into greater employees, his vision for the Community Kitchen will continue to live on in our hearts.

We miss him greatly and cherish the time we spent with him.



APRIL 4, 1965 - OCTOBER 27, 2021

Seasons of Giving

Bonnie Pfingst, a designer in Kalamazoo, Michigan took a board member's idea of themed collection drives and turned it into our "Seasons of Giving" wheel. We met Bonnie through Catchafire, an online platform that connects volunteer professionals with nonprofits needing specialized help with projects. The service is designed to help nonprofits access highly skilled volunteers that they would not be able to afford on limited budgets; the Community Kitchen has access to the platform through the Maclellan Foundation.

When asked why she works with nonprofits through Catchafire, Bonnie said "I found Catchafire by accident. I have a day job and I do freelance, but I've always struggled with putting a price on what I do and justifying the cost or expense of good design vs. doing good work. I wanted to do good work. I enjoy making people happy. These reciprocal partnerships end up being a win-win situation. Love wins!"

Recently, almost 1,000 pairs of underwear were collected in drives held by Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, Clear Creek Church of Christ, and Volkswagen, over \$2,000 was raised and matched, our supply of reading glasses was replenished, and our towel shelves are packed full. Some items and theme days will carry over into this quarter, while others have changed to reflect our most pressing needs at the moment.

We are so thankful for our community partners and their support this season.



Volunteer with us!

Sign up at homelesschattanooga.org/get-involved

Seasons of Giving



Contact our volunteer coordinator to schedule drives, set up tours, or book a guest speaker: volunteer@homelesschattanooga.org

Why I Do What I Do

Olivier's questions of "Why are you doing what you're doing?" and "what 'fuels' your passion to serve others the way you do?" are ones that I have been asking myself a lot over the last several weeks. The experiences of our past often shape and motivate us into the individuals we are now. While I have been involved in nonprofit human services for nearly twenty years, the reason why I do it goes back much further.

I grew up in a rural farming community where neighbors helped each other in their time of need. One summer, when my father was experiencing severe back pain, his neighbors came together to bring in the harvest. When individuals were sick or had lost loved ones, they were visited and care was given. I also remember the many times when my parents would make sure that children who were attending our church had food to eat and gifts for Christmas.

Why did they do what they did? Because all people mattered. Regardless of the circumstances that brought about the need, it was done because of the belief that individuals have worth and that we treat others the way we desired to be treated.

The seeds of compassion that were planted in my heart as a child eventually sprouted and brought forth a desire to live my life the same way as an adult. Over the last twenty years, I have had the opportunity to teach adults in poverty stricken communities how to read, provide relief to communities devastated by natural disaster, and work alongside individuals experiencing homelessness as they regain self-sufficiency.

While this has been my experience, what influences you to do what you do? If you don't know, let me encourage you to search for what motivates your employment, your retirement, or however you spend your time. Whatever you are currently doing, my hope is that it is fueled by a desire that your work matters and that it can serve others in meaningful ways.

If you are considering your "why" but haven't discovered it, let me encourage you to come and visit us sometime. There are so many opportunities around the Community Kitchen to offer help and hope to those in need. If you are uncertain of where to begin, why not stop by for a tour? Without fail, every time we give a tour, the response is the same: "I had no idea that the Kitchen does all this!"

Thank you for making our work possible.



David Costellow
Interim CEO

Your support of the Grateful Gobbler helps families experiencing homelessness have a safe, warm place to stay while they transition to greater stability. Thank you for your participation this year.



What's Your Why?



Chaplain Dale Hall

My mother decided early in my life that she had better get me into church! So when I was three years old she started taking me on Sunday morning. One of the first Bible verses I remember learning in Sunday School was Ephesians 4:32 in King James English: "be ye kind one to another."

This really shaped my young life. Later on in my 30's I would find a great affinity for Saint Francis as well, the medieval saint who exemplified kindness to others by caring for the poor, choosing poverty, humility, love and service.

In one story, Saint Francis ended up in a communal sleeping space one cold night, not unlike our Day Center on freezing nights. He looked around as more and more people came in seeking shelter from the cold. In their ruined faces he saw Christ. Francis felt his heart grow warmer and more full of love in each moment, and with each new arrival. The strong sense was that the Son of God had made himself evident as they huddled together for warmth and shelter. God himself had shown up. He wanted to be with the people, so He came as one of them, He lived as one of them, and then He also died as one of them.

This realization rocked Francis' world as he embraced the poor and the homeless around him. This was his reason to live and do. When I read this story it totally resonated with me, having spent several years in social services. Every week I think of this story as I serve at The Community Kitchen. When we serve others we serve Christ. He comes in disguise every day, do we have eyes to see when he does?



Meeting basic needs while offering a clear path to self-sufficiency

Because your Fast Day donation means ...

- Three nutritious meals a day
- Shelter from the heat and cold
- Shower and laundry facilities
- Clothing, shoes and other personal belongings
- Permanent, stable housing
- Job training and placement
- Foot care services and medical care access
- Love and human contact

Why Support Fast Day?

Bill Wilkerson, Fast Day Co-Chair

"Fast Day is about the success stories of people we bring out of homelessness. It is the story of the young woman with a child that went to the Maclellan Family Shelter for two weeks. We taught her life skills, found her a job and a place to live. It is the story of a homeless man who suffered for ten years with substance abuse, but we never gave up and together lifted him out of homelessness and substance abuse. Every week stories like these motivate the staff. Some volunteer, many help financially and some do both."

Visit our website: homelesschattanooga.org

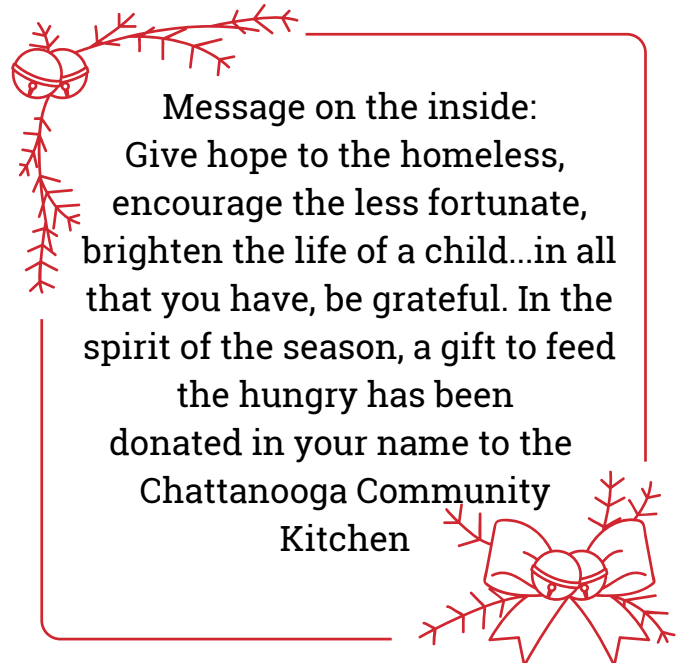
Give Hope for the Holidays!



Each year, you have the opportunity to Give Hope to your family, friends, coworkers, and anyone else you would wish to honor this holiday season.

For a \$15 donation, we hand address, sign, and send beautifully embossed cards to everyone on your greeting card list; each card includes a Give Hope ornament and informs the recipient of your gift.

Giving Hope is easy! Scan the QR code below, email orders to GiveHope@homelesschattanooga.org or call (423) 305-6821 with questions regarding your order. Not only does your gift go directly toward helping our area's most vulnerable citizens, it is also tax-deductible.



Visit homelesschattanooga.org/give-hope

People and Programs

Meet Chef Danny Heath

Chef Danny has joined the CCK team as our new Director of Food Services. He came to us out of retirement from operating his own bakery and has brought new recipes as well as energy and leadership to the Kitchen!

Danny would love to interact with our supporters in matters relating to cooking. If you have a question for him, please submit an email with "Ask the Chef" as the subject to volunteer@homelesschattanooga.org. He will respond via our newsletter and social media channels.



New Opportunities for Young Volunteers at the CCK

We are excited to announce the opening of a new space for families with young children to come and learn about our mission while working on age appropriate projects. At this time, we are booking one hour visits one week in advance.

U.S. Xpress has generously provided us with a Community Support grant to purchase furniture and start up supplies for the projects.

Case Management at the Community Kitchen

Case managers work with individuals and families to find permanent housing as quickly as possible; once housed, case managers continue to work with participants to ensure stability and success. This team has recently assisted 66 families/individuals with rental payment arrears, preventing eviction. They have also housed 11 individuals and three families. They are working with another 13 individuals who are currently in hotels, awaiting housing.





**Chattanooga
Community Kitchen**

PO Box 11203

Chattanooga, TN 37401



Contact Us:

Street Address: 727 East 11th Street
Chattanooga, TN 37403

Mailing Address: PO Box 11203
Chattanooga, TN 37401

Phone: (423) 756-4222

Email: kitchen@homelesschattanooga.org

Web: homelesschattanooga.org

Facebook: [facebook.com/CommunityKitchen](https://www.facebook.com/CommunityKitchen)

Instagram: [chattcommunitykitchen](https://www.instagram.com/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!