



Chattanooga Community Kitchen

Help from the Heart of the City

2022 Spring Newsletter



Volunteer Appreciation Month

Over the course of 2021, volunteers helped prepare and serve 149,864 meals. Student volunteers provided 573 free haircuts, 587 foot care appointments, and partnered with us at the Chattanooga Marathon and IRONMAN to earn grant funds for special projects. Other volunteers sorted clothing, helped in the Day Center, worked on special events and spent nights as the hosts at our off-site shelters.

At the same time, in our programs, 3,273 loads of laundry were washed and dried, 5,319 showers were taken, \$89,519.81 of clothing and housewares were given away, 99 evictions were prevented, and 115 families were served by the Maclellan Shelter for Families. All of this was made possible by the network of volunteers who have invested their time, energy, and talent into the work of the Community Kitchen and allowed us to carry on our programming through a challenging year. The Community Kitchen simply would not exist without our volunteers!

Meet Our New CEO

We are excited to announce that Baron King is our new CEO. Baron recently served as Executive Director for Liberty Ministries, Inc, a large nonprofit prison ministry in Schwenksville, Pennsylvania. Prior to Liberty, he served as the director of health and counseling services as well as clinical supervisor and adjunct professor in the graduate counseling program at Cairn University. He is passionate about serving underserved populations and meeting their needs.



Volunteer Appreciation and Celebration

Volunteer of the Year - Iain Hoefle



Iain is a regular volunteer with our maintenance team, who served well over 800 hours in 2021 by helping with daily maintenance tasks and larger projects. He now serves as a project leader, teaching other volunteers how to install new windows, repair a deck, and prepare housing and shelter rooms for families who need them. Most recently, Iain has taken on co-captain roles at the Chattanooga Marathon and IRONMAN events by volunteering and assisting with grant writing. Iain's sense of humor and positive attitude are uplifting at the CCK, and he is a valued member of our team. In addition to his title as our CCK Volunteer of the Year, Iain is currently a finalist for the Volunteer of the Year Award with the United Way of Greater Chattanooga.

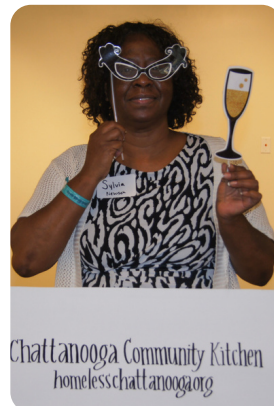
Group of the Year - Collegedale Connect Seventh-day Adventist Church

Led by Marlene Rasi, the volunteers from Collegedale Connect are a force. They start by making sandwiches, notes, and bags at their church. Volunteers arrive at the CCK bright and early to prepare lunch from scratch. Families with younger children have helped pack treat bags and often decorate beautiful cupcakes for our guests to enjoy. We deeply appreciate the compassion and energy this team brings to the Community Kitchen.



Young Volunteer of the Year - Charlotte Koehl

When five year old Charlotte Koehl first took a tour of the CCK, our story and participants reminded her of her nightly prayers and the people she keeps in her heart. She inspired us to think deeply about the potential of young volunteers to make a difference as well as the need to create a safe space for age appropriate projects.



Support our Work

 **Chattanooga Community Kitchen**

May Needs

- Canned vegetables
- Corned beef hash
- Drawstring/elastic waist sweatpants in all sizes for M & W
- Razors and deodorant
- Used plastic grocery bags

www.homelesschattanooga.org



Calling All Volunteers!

Day Center

Our Day Center is a place for visitors to access services & find relief from the weather.

- **Shifts** - Monday-Friday, 8-11:30 & 1-3:30
- Help with front desk & mail
- General cleanup
- Hand out hygiene items & towels for showers

Clothing Program

The Consider the Lilies clothing give-away program and thrift store distributes free clothing & goods to those we serve while also selling items at reduced prices to the general public.

- **Shifts** - Monday-Friday, 10-1:00 and 1-4:00
- Sort clothes and linens
- Assist customers
- Straighten up merchandise on the floor

Crown Subaru



First Presbyterian



UNUM



Chattanooga High School Center for Creative Arts



To learn more about hosting a collection drive or volunteering, please reach out to volunteer@homelesschattanooga.org

Onward!

In a speech in 1963, John F. Kennedy stated, “For time and the world do not stand still. Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future.” Although these words are probably less well known than those spoken the day before during his “I am a Berliner” speech, his statement still rings true nearly sixty years later.

As an organization, we can focus on past successes or current achievements and fail to notice what lies ahead of us. This September marks the 40th anniversary of the Chattanooga Community Kitchen. If we were to look back on that first meal in 1982, it would be quite discouraging. Legend has it that because no one showed up to eat, Dot Walkley went down to 9th Street (now MLK Blvd.) and started serving meals on foot.

However, since that day, we have continually served those experiencing homelessness by offering food, clothing, shelter, employment, housing, and a variety of other services through the support of generous donors. Over these past forty years, the Community Kitchen has fulfilled its mission to meet the most basic needs of hungry, homeless, and vulnerable people while offering them a clear path to self-sufficiency, yet we must look ahead to how we must meet the needs of a growing homeless population.

Much has changed since 1982, both at the Kitchen and in our world. While it may be uplifting to remember the past and even satisfying to see where we are today, there is much work to be done. The latest count of homelessness in our community reflects a 250% increase over the last two years fueled by a lack of emergency shelter and growing housing costs.

From that speech in Frankfurt, President Kennedy would also state, “And a partnership, by definition, serves both partners, without domination or unfair advantage. Together we have been partners in adversity—let us also be partners in prosperity.” Your partnership helps us serve those experiencing great adversity while at the same time helping them discover a new path to prosperity.

Thank you for your support over this past year of transition. I look forward to the days ahead as we partner together to find ways to address the challenges of our community.



David Costellow
Interim CEO

David will continue to serve in his role as Director of Community Engagement and help to produce the newsletter. As a nine-year employee of the Kitchen, he is grateful to work with our community partners and see first-hand the many ways the Community Kitchen is meeting needs.

What's Your Why?

Family Housing and Learning Center's New Property Manager

Since joining our team in April, Ben Mollenhauer has been getting to know the families who live in the apartments at Family Housing and Learning Center (FHLC). Originally from Boston, Ben spent 2 years studying Social Work at Gordon College before moving to Chattanooga to take on this new position. He's excited to live in the South, partly because of his love for fried chicken and mac and cheese. More importantly, Ben is motivated to take on this position because it allows him to spread the love of Jesus every day.

Located at the end of our block on 11th St, FHLC is an apartment complex for families with children. The apartments are fully furnished and the rent is based on a sliding scale. Providing affordable housing is an important part of our mission to strengthen families and promote self-sufficiency. Ben is excited to be a part of this mission by investing in the lives of these families and ensuring that FHLC continues to be a healthy and safe place to live.



Joni Renhack, Strategic Planning Committee Member and Board Representative from Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

Joni is a member of Thrivent and uses her two annual Action Team Project mini-grants to support the work of the Community Kitchen. The most recent project was called "Homeless Housing Spruce Up" which provided funds for materials including paint brushes, caulk, work gloves, paint rollers and tray liners, nails, screws and other items needed in renovations and repairs.

When we asked Joni how she came to be a supporter of the CCK, she told us a story about traveling on a Greyhound bus in the seat next to a young woman recently released from prison. She had nothing but the ill-fitting clothes on her back and a trash bag containing some hygiene items and clothing that no longer fit. As they continued to talk, Joni gained a new understanding of what it was like for someone in that situation, and how hard it must be to start over. She felt called to help the woman, and then to help individuals experiencing homelessness in Chattanooga. Her church collected hygiene items and fundraised for other items and donated them to the Community Kitchen with no previous knowledge of our work, just because we popped up in their internet search!



Visit our website: homelesschattanooga.org



Chattanooga
Community Kitchen

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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!