



# CHATT Foundation

Center for Homeless Advancement for Today and Tomorrow

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## Fast Day Fast Approaching!

We are honored to announce that Alicyn York and Garnett Decosimo are chairing Chattanooga Church Ministries, Inc., dba CHATT Foundation's 2023 Fast Day Campaign!

Now in our 41st year, our mission remains the same: **to meet the most basic needs of hungry, homeless and vulnerable people in our community while offering a clear path to self-sufficiency.**

Central to meeting basic needs and building trust among those we help is our feeding program, where we serve three warm meals a day in a dining room setting. Through hospitality and by using a trauma-informed approach, we strive to create an environment that allows the Holy Spirit to move through our work to heal the wounds of our participants,

keep hope alive, and help the unhoused navigate through a system of support.

Hailing from the Tri-Cities in Northeast Tennessee, Alicyn is now a proud resident of Lookout Mountain, where she and her husband, Garnett Decosimo, happily reside. Garnett met Alicyn when both were working in Washington, D.C., for U.S. Senator Bob Corker.

Through the peak of the pandemic, Alicyn worked as Director of Scheduling for U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander, Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee. Upon returning to Tennessee, Garnett worked as a Senior Policy Analyst and Director of Federal Relations in the Office of the Governor, until returning to Chattanooga to join Decosimo Corporate Finance. Alicyn is now Director of Special Events for Janet and Jim Ayers of FirstBank. Alicyn and Garnett enjoy giving back to the Chattanooga community in their free time as well as traveling, cooking, and taking walks with their pup, Enzo.



When asked why they accepted the leadership volunteer position to help raise \$1.1 million for Fast Day, they replied, "Through the pandemic, we witnessed the significant increase in homelessness among individuals and families that has persisted post-pandemic. In our work, we understand the importance of providing guidance counseling with assistance. We also know the value of job training to benefit families and the communities they are part of. We are honored to serve the CHATT Foundation and its mission."

*Please join us in thanking Alicyn and Garnett and in supporting their efforts to make Fast Day a great success this year!*



# Trauma-informed Design Inspiration at the Maclellan Shelter for Families

Special appreciation to the Maclellan Family for initiating and funding the renovation of the common area within the Maclellan Shelter for Families.

They worked with Kaysie Strickland of Homes & Havens to redesign the interior to promote healing by inducing tranquility. Many thanks as well to Boreal Woodworks for creating a beautiful custom-crafted table for families to enjoy together.



The Maclellan Family with our CEO and CFO inside the Maclellan Shelter for Families.

From L to R: Chris, Lisa holding Helen, Vanessa Blevins, Morgan, Owen, Baron King. In front: William and Charlotte



## Coming Soon: Grateful Gobbler Walk

Thanksgiving morning, Nov. 23 @ 8:00 a.m.



In preparation of this year's Grateful Gobbler Walk, Nicole Brown with CHI Memorial presented a generous donation for the event.

To register for the event, go to [gratefulgobblerwalk.org](http://gratefulgobblerwalk.org).

L to R: Mitchell Hall & Samantha Wright with Friends of the Festival, Nicole Brown, Baron King, Vanessa Blevins, Mickey McCamish, and Morgan Maclellan.

SAVE  
the DATE!

Moody Food Drive  
AT&T Field  
Tuesday, November 21, 2023

MOODY  
RADIO®

88.9 FM

# CHATT Foundation 90-day Program: Pathway to Self-Sufficiency

Meet CRAIG. On a bus travelling cross-country, CRAIG suffered a serious health crisis that put him in the hospital. Once discharged, he was too weak and too broke to complete his trip. Having spent his remaining funds, CRAIG hopped a train and slept for two days. When he awoke he was in Chattanooga – homeless.

About life on the streets in Chattanooga, he states, “It’s a small circle here. Everyone sees what everyone does. It’s the side that you choose that determines your future.”

CRAIG chose to enter CHATT Foundation’s 90-Day Job Training Program, where we placed him in St. Matthew’s Shelter for Men.



Now a full-time employee with a forklift operator’s credential, CRAIG helps throughout the organization and considers himself to be a “foot soldier” in CHATT Foundation’s mission to change the lives of Chattanooga’s homeless - for the better.

***“I love helping the homeless.  
I give my all.”***

Several times while homeless and alone, CRAIG thought about giving up. Once in CHATT Foundation’s Job Training Program in Recycling, he worked for Al. Said CRAIG, “Al had a plan for me. I didn’t realize it but he was mentoring me. He taught me work ethics and I applied myself. He wanted the best for me without leading me. He wanted me to find my way through faith and hard work. I didn’t want to disappoint Al. It was then that I knew I had to keep going.”

CRAIG persevered and became housed on September 12, 2023!

*Craig with his mentor, Al. Of Al, he says, “I am who I am today because of Al.”*

Ntracts, the only Contract Lifestyle Management solution exclusively created for healthcare organizations, raised \$5,000 for CHATT Foundation through their recent Waffle-a-thon Challenge.

**The Challenge:** If the Ntracts team met its 98% retention goal & 100% implementation rate for the third year in a row, CEO David Paschall, would dine-in a Chattanooga Waffle House for 24 hours and consume as many waffles as he could. Friends pledged donations based on the number of waffles David ate.

*L to R: David Paschall with Baron King.*





# Counting and Caring for Chattanooga's Street Patients



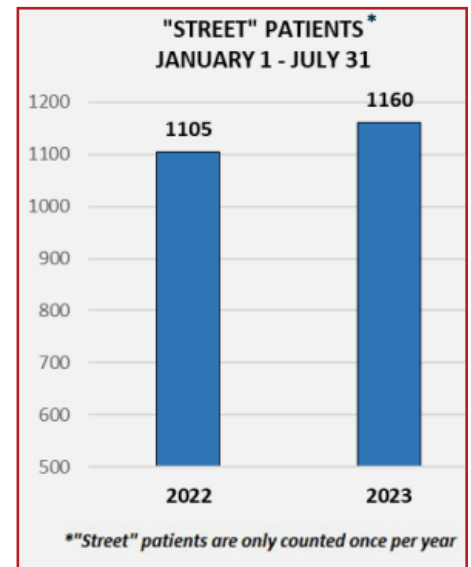
We work to get Chattanooga's homeless citizens assessed, assigned to a case manager and to health care through our partnership with the Homeless Health Care Center located across the street from CHATT Foundation.

Our Community Assessment Liason, Kacy West, travels daily into area encampments. Hamilton County nurses travel with her every Thursday and twice a month a doctor and medic go with her into encampments, as well.

A recent first-of-its-kind data report, "**HAMILTON ACCOUNTED**", generated by Hamilton County's Senior Data Analyst, Jennifer Baggett, indicated that from January 1 through July 31 of this year, 1,160 "street" patients received services at the Hamilton County Homeless Health Care Center.

This number reflects the level of services we provide as we serve 450 to 500 people a day.

Annually, we are serving 3,500 people a year, including those who are experiencing homelessness: those who are unsheltered, sheltered, living in their cars, sleeping on someone's sofa or newly housed and food insecure.



## Love and Loss

We have great working relationships and partnerships with other service providers that we call on to provide services in our Community Center on 11th Street.

On July 8th, our homeless community lost a valued member, Lisa Hill, also known as "Mama Kay", in a tragic hit and run. The incident took place at 11 a.m. just before the CHATT Foundation's lunch service. Unfortunately, many people, including children, witnessed this tragedy.

The CHATT Foundation immediately reached out to Volunteer Behavioral Health to provide crisis counseling to interested individuals and families. Missy Zensen, LMSW and Senior Director of Crisis Continuum at Volunteer Behavioral Health and her

team responded quickly to our request. Thanks to Ms. Zensen and her team, we had four counsellors onsite after Mama Kay's death. We are grateful for Volunteer Behavioral Health's support and assistance during this tragic event.



We also recently lost a beloved participant and CHATT Foundation Board Member, who stayed at St. Catherine's Shelter until our case managers secured housing for her in Patten Towers.

*In loving memory of  
Melanie Braswell  
1969 - 2023*

# Message from the CEO

## CHATT Foundation – Caring and Serving Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow



**C**HATT Foundation has long been meeting the most basic needs of men, women, and children experiencing homelessness – first as the Chattanooga Community Kitchen and now as CHATT: **C**enter for **H**omeless **A**dvancement for **T**oday and **T**omorrow. The Foundation in CHATT Foundation is the

combination of direct services and social services we provide in creating pathways toward self-sufficiency. While we are de-emphasizing “the kitchen” in name, we still believe our kitchen and dining services are an essential part of homeless services.

On June 26th of this year, we began our ambitious plan to renovate our kitchen and dining facilities. This long-overdue project will not only improve the dining experience of our homeless participants, but

will allow us to replace our aging and temperamental kitchen equipment with modern commercial equipment. In doing this, we will improve our efficiency and make better use of our food donations. Additionally, this new equipment will allow us to teach and train homeless participants who want to enter the food services trade. We are developing a 90-day culinary training program that will allow participants to learn on modern equipment and will culminate in ServSafe certification. Unemployment and underemployment are serious impediments to self-sufficiency, and this is one way we are looking to enhance our workforce development efforts here at CHATT Foundation.

While we are excited about this capital improvement, inflation, supply-chain problems, and code-related improvements have significantly increased the cost. Please help us help the homeless by donating to this important work!



### Fall Needs

Used Clothing & Shoes for Men,  
Women & Children  
Non-Alcoholic Baby Wipes

Household Cleaning Supplies  
Oatmeal & Grits



# CHATT Foundation

Center for Homeless Advancement for Today and Tomorrow

P.O. Box 11203

Chattanooga, TN 37401

Non-Profit  
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## 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@chattfoundation.org](mailto:kitchen@chattfoundation.org)

Web: [Chattfoundation.org](http://Chattfoundation.org)



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



[Instagram.com/chattfoundation](https://www.instagram.com/chattfoundation)

Charity Navigator has given Chattanooga Church Ministries, Inc. (EIN 62-1151413), a 100% rating for the accountability and finance beacon, which represents IRS Form 990 data up until FY2020.

Today, Chattanooga Church Ministries continues its mission as CHATT Foundation, where 85 cents of every dollar goes directly into local programs.

Thank you for being a partner in our work to change lives!

