



# Chattanooga Community Kitchen

Help from the Heart of the City

## 2021 Summer Newsletter



# Charting Old and New Paths

Last summer was far from normal around the Kitchen. Although there have been a few setbacks, many programs and volunteers are not only resuming their former activities but also finding new, creative opportunities to serve others this year. From helping onsite to promoting our mission online, there are ways you can get involved.

## 2021 Fast Day Chairs: Bill and Jo Ann Wilkerson

We are pleased to announce that Bill and Jo Ann Wilkerson will be chairing our 2021 Fast Day Campaign. As our largest fundraising effort of the year, Fast Day is critical to meeting the needs of hungry, homeless, and vulnerable people in our community.

Jo Ann is a retired teacher and guidance counselor from schools in Red Bank, Lookout Mountain and Signal Mountain. Bill is an architect in Chattanooga. Both have lived active lives volunteering in the non-profit community. They hosted many events for the Chattanooga Food Bank but in more recent years have concentrated their activities with the Community Kitchen.

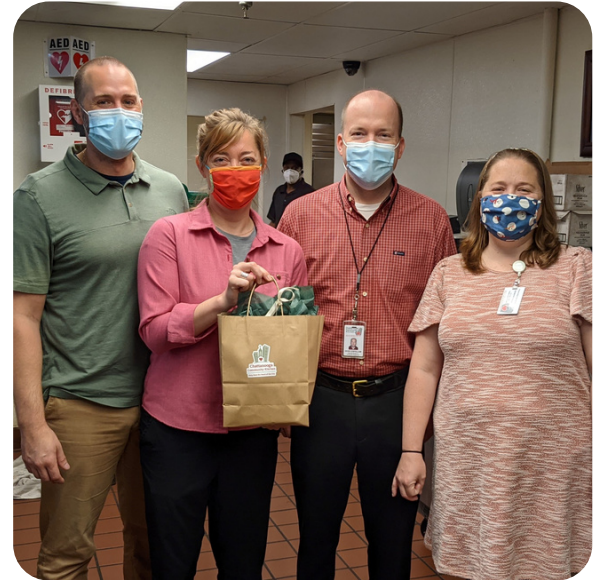
Thank you, Bill and Jo Ann for your leading our campaign! We invite you to join them in reaching our goal of \$775,000.00. Give online at [homelesschattanooga.org](http://homelesschattanooga.org).



# Volunteer Appreciation

Volunteers are vital to the operation of the Community Kitchen. Every one of our programs have an opportunity for volunteers to play an active role in the lives of others. As part of our annual volunteer appreciation, we recognize those who give outstanding service.

On Wednesday mornings, Sam Lewis faithfully serves in the Kitchen and has also served as a Day Center volunteer. During the pandemic, he not only maintained his volunteer commitment but also recruited his family to join him. Sam and his wife, Sara, are a source of encouragement and support to our food service staff and our guests.



Although the pandemic brought about concerns for groups serving in various capacities, many found opportunities to serve in other ways. Mission Chattanooga regularly packed sack lunches for outreach delivery and collected breakfast sandwiches for us to serve. They organized drives of items we needed ranging from coffee cups to batteries and canned greens for Thanksgiving. The youth group collected items and made Easter baskets for the children in the Maclellan Shelter for Families and the Family Housing and Learning Center. Pastor Katrina took on a significant video project to share volunteer stories and help recruit new volunteers at the Mission and in Chattanooga.



The student barbers from Chattanooga State are among the favorite volunteers of those we serve. Their willingness to change their schedule and join our Christmas in July Celebration on their graduation day was a key factor in the day being a success!

Volunteer with us!  
Sign up at [homelesschattanooga.org/get-involved](https://homelesschattanooga.org/get-involved)

# Seasons of Giving

We are excited to launch a new "Seasons of Giving" campaign that we hope will give your church or organization a creative way to approach a collection drive. It is also a way for the Kitchen to clearly communicate which specific items are needed in a given season to best support the people we serve. Each quarter, a different wedge of the wheel will highlight that season's needs, but the themes of each day will stay the same.

Please contact our volunteer coordinator with any questions, to schedule a drive, to request a guest speaker for your group, or to obtain the accompanying promotional materials, which include signs for collection barrels and social media templates that will incorporate your logo and the dates of the collection drive.



Contact our volunteer coordinator:  
[volunteer@homelesschattanooga.org](mailto:volunteer@homelesschattanooga.org)

# Transitional Thoughts

Transitional thoughts and phrases are key writing elements. From my earliest school memories, my teachers would express the importance of using them for smooth and enjoyable reading. While my writing was probably not always smooth or enjoyable, it certainly made an impression on my writing.

Life, as we know, is full of transitions, and some are smoother and more enjoyable than others. Although the last several months have been busy determining how to best provide direct services in the midst of a socially distant pandemic, I am always encouraged by the people we serve, their stories, and our staff who go above and beyond to help individuals in their greatest times of need.

As we seek to fulfill our mission to meet the most basic needs of hungry, homeless, and vulnerable people in our community while offering a clear path to self-sufficiency, the path to self-sufficiency for some is less challenging than others. Sometimes the obstacles along the way are varied and even derail the process. For many, they arrive to what seems like the end of the path to struggle to find affordable housing, but your support is often what is needed to find the right path forward.

As Interim Director and my regular role as Community Engagement Director, I have the privilege of learning about the lives that are influenced for good on a daily basis, but I also have the opportunity to lead tours of our facility. With almost every tour, I get the same response of "Wow, I had no idea the Community Kitchen did all of this!" so let me encourage you to come and see it too. I would love for you to see first-hand why the Kitchen is the first place many turn to for help.

We will soon be transitioning into new leadership. This is an exciting yet anxious time as we imagine what the future holds. Although the needs of those experiencing homelessness are various, the resolve we have remains the same as we travel the path together.



David Costellow  
Interim Director



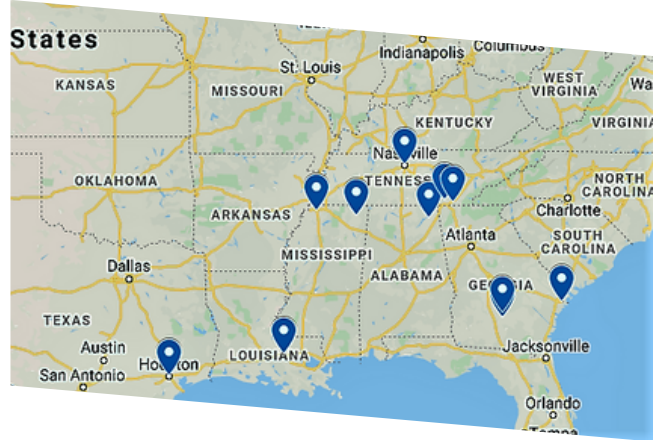
Meeting face to face has enabled more professional development opportunities for our staff. This quarter, we have been trained in Mental Health First Aid as well as certified in CPR and First Aid.

Plans are being made for an "in-person" Grateful Gobbler this year. This event is critical to the operation of our Maclellan Shelter for Families. Whether you run, walk, or even sleepwalk, don't forget to register at [gratefulgobblerwalk.org](http://gratefulgobblerwalk.org)



# Scenes from a Summer of Youth Service

Youth group volunteers visited from near and far, bringing their strong work ethic, their incredible faith, and their willingness to complete any task in support of our mission. Collectively they brought joy to the Kitchen while they planted flowers, served meals, scrubbed walls, packed sack lunches and hygiene bags, sang songs, conversed with those we serve, sorted food, houseware and clothing donations, wrapped presents, decorated cakes, and handed out Christmas in July gifts with Santa!



Visit our website: [homelesschattanooga.org](http://homelesschattanooga.org)



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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!**