



# Chattanooga Community Kitchen

Help from the Heart of the City

## 2022 Summer Newsletter



### More Than A Kitchen

When that first meal was served forty years ago, we were simply attempting to meet a basic need without being able to see the full extent of what we would become as an organization. While we are still widely known as a place that feeds the hungry, we have grown to not only offer such basic needs as food, clothing, and shelter but also employment and housing opportunities.

Whatever images one may have of the "Community Kitchen," there is so much more to discover about us. Through your support, we are able to offer help and hope to thousands of individuals each year. Thank you for partnering with us as we walk alongside our neighbors on the path to self-sufficiency.

### Celebrate Fast Day - Any Day

For over thirty years, our annual Fast Day campaign has not only raised hunger awareness in our community, but it has also provided critical financial support to address basic needs and provide operational support. This year, our campaign will be chaired by our 40th Anniversary Committee. Find out ways to support Fast Day at [homelesschattanooga.org/fast-day](http://homelesschattanooga.org/fast-day).

Pictured (L-R): Vanessa Blevins, Baron King, Kent Davis, and David Costellow; Photo by: Tiffany Wolf

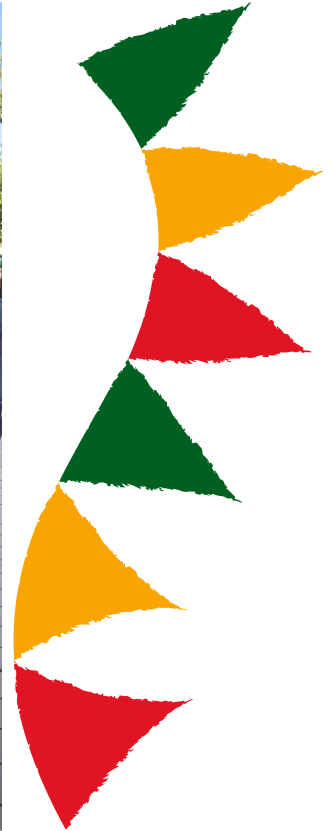


40th Anniversary Committee





# Summer Events and Updates



## Seasons of Giving Wheel



We recently changed our donation acknowledgement process, which has delayed us at times in sending a prompt thank you letter. We apologize for this and appreciate your understanding and support.



# Summer of Service



Summer around the Community Kitchen is always filled with groups who do a variety of helpful tasks to help us fulfill our mission to meet basic needs and promote self-sufficiency. This summer, we had groups from various states such as Mississippi, Alabama, and North Carolina. It is always encouraging to see their passion to serve and their interaction with our guests.

Just because the summer is winding down, it does not limit the opportunity to serve. Whether you are part of a group, family, or you want to serve individually, check out our website or send us an email.

To learn more about hosting a collection drive or volunteering, please reach out to [volunteer@homelesschattanooga.org](mailto:volunteer@homelesschattanooga.org)

# Welcome Our New CEO

On Monday May 16th I walked into Chattanooga Community Kitchen for my first day of work. I was eager to meet the team, engage with the program participants, and begin to get assimilated with my new surroundings. I had accepted the job 5 weeks prior and had been busy transitioning out of my previous job, packing up my personal belongings, and planning the transition from southeast Pennsylvania to the scenic city of Chattanooga. As with any job, there are multiple factors that come into consideration, but I'd like to share with you the things that stood out to me about CCK that made it an easy decision.



Baron S. King  
CEO

The primary component was the philosophy that guides all we do at "the Kitchen." CCK holds to a philosophy that all of our efforts should be designed with the goal of moving people toward a path of self-sufficiency! To me that was a huge factor. Yes, the Kitchen provides numerous services that meet the immediate needs of the homeless such as food, showers, haircuts, foot care and a place to be inside during hot or cold weather. But that's just a part of the work we do. Our team actively works with individuals and families to help them navigate and overcome the barriers to self-sufficiency. From assisting with employment, to helping people navigate the housing process, the Kitchen actively works with hundreds of people a year to place them into safe and secure and sustainable living situations.

A second factor that came into play was the positive name recognition of the ministry in Chattanooga and the long history of partnering with a multitude of volunteers to provide our vast array of services. Since my first day I have been impressed by how many people serve as volunteers; some have been serving for decades! Without this army of volunteers and supporters, our ability to meet the enormous need of the homeless would not be possible.

The third factor that influenced my decision was the warmth and generous attitude of everyone I had encountered in this great city. Everyone I spoke with was aware of the significant number of homeless individuals and families and seemed willing and eager to band together and help provide help and solutions. And it's this last point that I want to make an appeal to you, friends of the Kitchen.

We have a huge task ahead of us. As we continue to add services and improve on what we do, the challenge is quite large in scope with nearly 4,000 individuals in our region needing assistance. My appeal to you is to take a few minutes and think of people who may not know about CCK. Forward this newsletter to them. Introduce me to them. Share our website link with them. I am confident that together we can solve this crisis, but it will take more people. It will require additional resources. I'd like to significantly grow the ranks of those who further our work, either through volunteering or through financial donations. Your assistance in this will go a long way! Will you help?

Let's continue the great tradition of generosity that I have found in Chattanooga!



# In Their Own Words

## At The Kitchen

At the Kitchen there are kind people that you meet,  
They give us food to eat and sometimes even a treat,  
They give us warmers to heat our hands and feet,  
And socks to put on when our shoes are wet from the street  
They give us gift bags to brighten our day,  
We never know what might be coming our way,  
The staff and volunteers treat us really well,  
You take a lot, this I know  
Yet, you always show up, rain, sunshine, or snow,  
Where would the homeless people be without you guys,  
Depressed and hungry, I guess, with no more tries,  
I wish the people would be more grateful when they come your way,  
But for those who don't, there are some of us who would like to say "Thank you" and  
"Have a Good Day."

- submitted by someone recently housed

## Why I Support the Kitchen

I first learned of the Chattanooga Community Kitchen in 1987 when I joined the pastoral staff of First Baptist Church, one of the founding churches. I occasionally joined the volunteer team that served lunch. I now serve as a Board Member representing our congregation, a member of the Executive Committee and past Board Chair. It has been exciting to observe first-hand how the "Kitchen" has expanded to offer –in addition to three meals a day – shelter (including individual and family), clothing, case management (for jobs and housing), foot care, a day center, access to health care – and so much more!

Now retired, my husband, Bill, and I continue to support the CCK financially and as volunteers. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve God by serving the most vulnerable in our community.

**Mary Jayne Allen**







**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](mailto:kitchen@homelesschattanooga.org)

**Web:** [homelesschattanooga.org](http://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!**