



CHATT Foundation

Center for Homeless Advancement for Today and Tomorrow

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WINTER 2024

Journey of Hope

CHATT Foundation is excited to announce Lisa Fritschen and Bob Franklin (*pictured below*) as Co-Chairs of our inaugural charity gala, Journey of Hope, scheduled for Thursday, April 25, 2024. This talented couple is leading the way for CHATT Foundation to have a signature event, where we gather each year to hear success stories of families and individuals we have helped achieve self-sufficiency through a combination of intensive case management, job-training, sheltering, housing, and counselling.

Bob is the architect who redesigned our kitchen, dining room and welcome center and worked with T. U. Parks Construction Company to repair and remodel our now state-of-the-art kitchen. Lisa owns Hemline Chattanooga, a fashionable ladies' clothing store in Warehouse Row. This talented couple have combined with Robert Parks of T.U. Parks Construction Company to be Presenting Sponsors of our charity gala. They are working with a dynamic Steering Committee to create what will become our signature annual event.

When asked why they accepted the volunteer leadership position, Bob spoke for the couple and shared, "Like many we were 'aware' of the homeless issue, but coming here on a regular basis and walking among those being helped on 11th Street is 'eye-opening'. One day, a very nice young man who



Steering Committee members L to R include Roy Reeves, board member Karen Sloan, Lisa Fritschen, Bob Franklin, Rebecca Hogan, Christalee Cray (not pictured Seth Gladden & Marco Swaisgood).

was physically dirty asked to use my phone. I was reluctant, but decided to let him. I listened for 10 minutes while he spoke with his father. It was gut and heart wrenching to hear a pleading son ask for money to get a marriage license, while his father explained that this was not a wise decision at this time in his life. I could hear the father's heart break as well as the son's. I recalled Matthew 25:35, "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in." The families and individuals on 11th Street need the CHATT foundation to meet their most basic needs while offering a clear path to self-sufficiency.

Please join us in thanking Lisa, Bob, Karen, Roy, Rebecca, Christalee, Seth, Marco, and Robert and in supporting their efforts to make our "Journey of Hope" a success! Please visit www.chattfoundation.org/gala-2024.



Message from the CEO



As many know, CHATT Foundation has been serving the needs of homeless Chattanoogaans for over 40 years. And while we offer a wide variety of services ranging from daily needs like meals,

showers, and mail service, as well as long-term needs like housing and workforce development assistance, I'd like to take some time to let you know about two services many do not know about.

Sadly, Chattanooga lacks sufficient shelter space for the many unsheltered individuals and families. Living unsheltered in temperate conditions is both dangerous and unhealthy, but when winter temperatures plunge below 35 degrees, the results can be and are often dangerous. On those nights, CHATT Foundation opens its doors to all in need and becomes Chattanooga's Cold Weather

Warming Shelter. Thus far, we have been open 36 nights this winter and have provided 2,681 shelter bed stays. We are confident that this has saved the lives of scores of people.

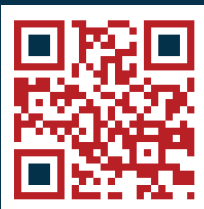
The other service we offer is our medical respite center for homeless men and women recovering from surgery or illness. Prior to this, patients discharged from hospitals would be simply dropped off on the sidewalks on E. 11th street. We believe this service is not only humane, but also reduces the revolving door of hospital readmissions.

Lastly, we would like your help. We are interested in your feedback. Please take a few minutes and complete a short survey. We are always looking for ways to improve our services, so your comments are valued!



Baron S. King, MS, LPC, NCC

**Thank You to
Confluent Medical
Technologies
Chattanooga team
helping to
meet our in-kind
needs!**



Winter Needs

- Coats, Toboggans & Gloves
- Underwear & Socks
- Hot Hands
- Deodorant (small size)
- Ponchos

Christmas Joy for Our Sheltered and Unsheltered Neighbors



Approximately 1,300 individuals in Hamilton County are living outside unsheltered. Overall, 3,500 individuals are experiencing homelessness, which includes those living in their vehicles, sleeping on a friend's sofa, seeking shelter in our Cold Weather Warming Shelter, our St. Catherine's Shelter for Women, our St. Matthew's Shelter for Men, our Maclellan Shelter for Families or other partnering agencies' shelters. Generous donors provided Christmas joy for those celebrating Christmas in our Community Center, in St. Catherine's and in our Maclellan Shelter for Families.

Photos; starting top left:

Special thanks to Santa and Santa's helper, Shana Hilson, for making Christmas bright for all in our Community Center

Gifts provided by Robert Half Talent Solutions for unsheltered neighbors on Christmas Day in our Community Center.

Gift baskets and boxes provided for ladies sheltering at St. Catherine's donated by the Women's Ministry of Ooltewah Seventh-day Adventist Church. L to R: Vanessa Blevins, Nichole Dillard, Alvin Auls, and Margo Haugee.

Thank you to Dayz of Deception band and @chattanoogabands for donating 3 truck loads for presents to our Maclellan Shelter for Families! L to R: Tyler Hodges, Kimberly Posey Smith, Devin Hodge, and Drew Huggins.

A special delivery of children's bicycles and helmets contributed by the Bustamantes at LOCALfare of Chattanooga from their annual "Gift-A-Bike" fundraiser.



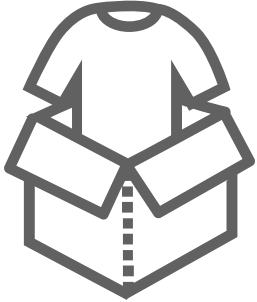
rh Robert Half®
Talent Solutions



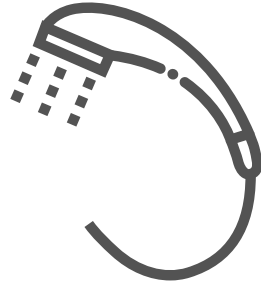
2023 In Review



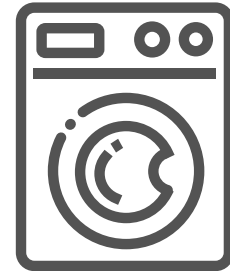
138,623 Meals Served



\$601,798 in Clothing Giveaway



6,801 Showers Provided



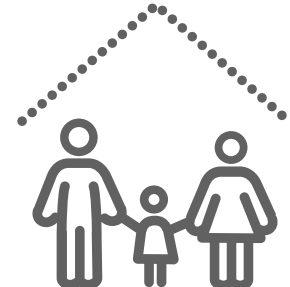
3,959 Laundry Services Provided



30,647 Volunteer Hours



5,756 Emergency Shelter Beds Provided



71 Families Served at Maclellan Shelter



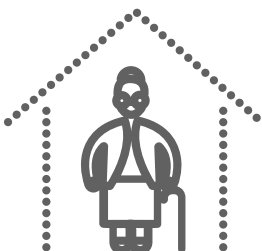
173 Respite Care Bed Nights



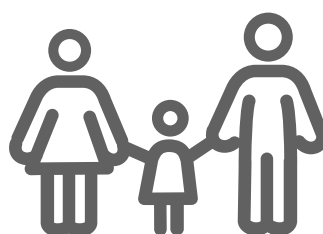
222 Persons Assisted in Encampments



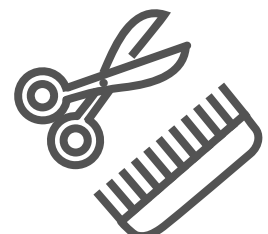
749 Foot Care Appointments



38 Homelessness Preventions



48 Households Housed



804 Haircuts Provided



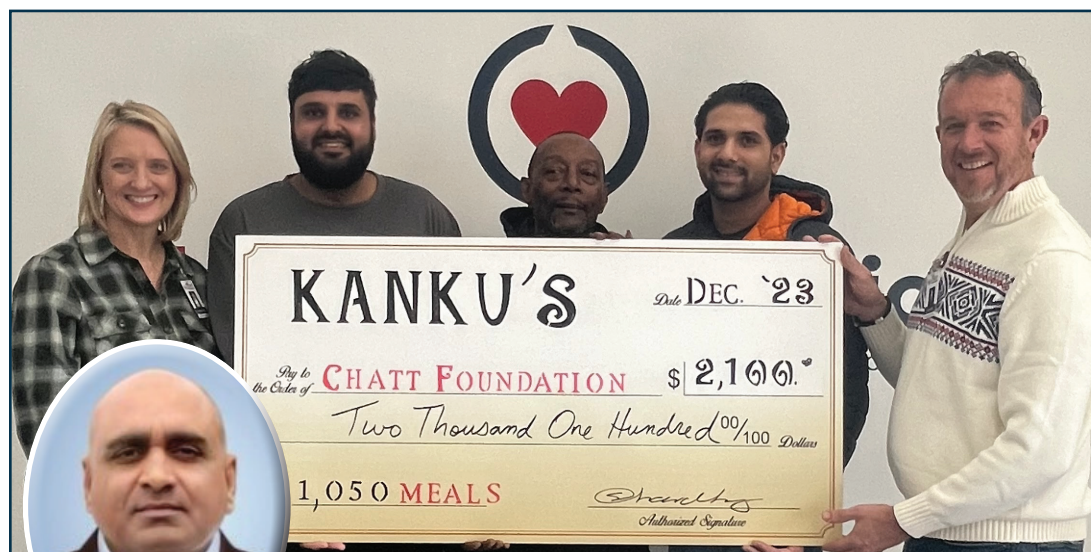
Fast Day 2023 Campaign a Success!

Under the leadership of our Fast Day Chairs, Alicyn York and Garnett Decosimo (pictured right), CHATT Foundation is pleased to report that **together we met our 2023 Fast Day goal**. Giving was up **8.4%** in this, our largest fundraising campaign of the year, all while we continued to seek support of our capital project, the renovation of the Community Kitchen and Welcome Center.



One special gift from KANKU's memorialized a beloved family member, **Vijay N. Chaudhari**, while providing funding for nutritious vegetarian dishes.

Thank you, Alicyn and Garnett, and thank you to all in the greater Chattanooga area who contributed to make this year's campaign a success!



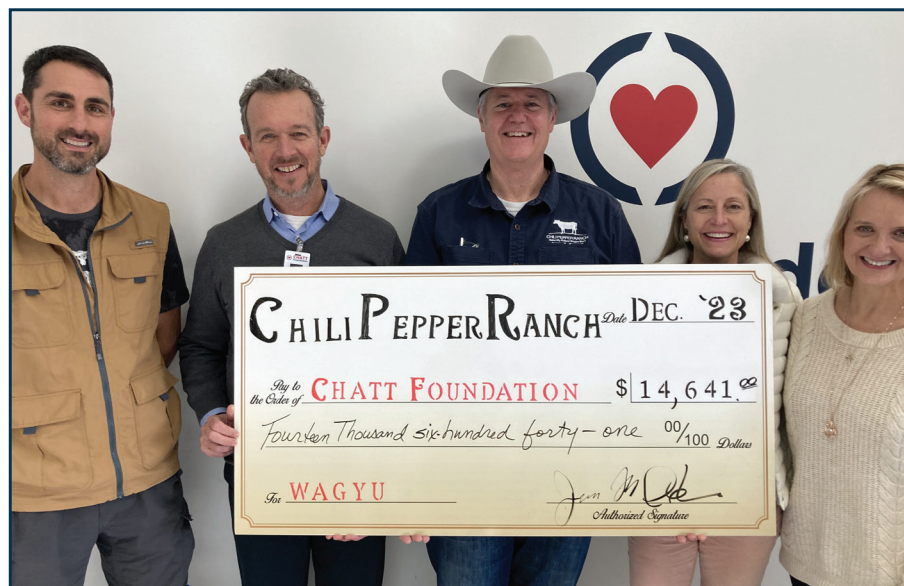
Pictured, left to right: Vanessa Blevins, Sammy Kanku Chaudhary, Chester Bowles, Push Kanku, and Baron King (not pictured: Kamta Chaudhari Kanta and Ajit Chaudhary.)



**In loving memory of Vijay Narsingbhai Chaudhari
1960 – 2023**

In presenting \$14,641 worth of wagyu beef, Jim Osborn stated, "Our family has been blessed in many ways. We have also experienced significant hardships. It is important to us to give to our community in different ways. We are so happy we can support CHATT Foundation through Chili Pepper Ranch. We are confident that our donations will warm both the heart and stomach of the individuals who need CHATT Foundation's help and support."

Left to right: Richard Koethke, Baron King, Dr. Jim Osborn, Amy Jo Osborn, and Vanessa Blevins.





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Center for Homeless Advancement for Today and Tomorrow

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[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 78 cents of every dollar goes directly into local programs.



Norfolk Southern donates \$35,000 to Chattanooga Church Ministries, Inc. dba CHATT Foundation to help alleviate homelessness in Chattanooga.

Pictured: Elizabeth Kennedy Lawlor, Regional VP Government Relations at Norfolk Southern Corporation with Baron King, CEO of CHATT Foundation.