

For Immediate Release

Chattanooga Community Kitchen is now CHATT Foundation

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. (Date) In 1982, the Chattanooga Community Kitchen was established to feed the hungry in Chattanooga. Forty years later, it still does that, but so much more, according to Baron King, CEO of the charity. "We determined that the name 'Community Kitchen' did not adequately define what our total service had become, nor did it position us to meet a growing need."

"In order to rise to the challenge of a growing unsheltered population in this community, we needed a name that meets this challenge," said King. Over the course of several months, the Board of Directors, various committees, and volunteers developed a new name that is a fitting acronym for the mission of this institution: Center for Homeless Advancement for Today and Tomorrow: CHATT. "As a 'Center,' we wish to be a rallying point for helping others in our community through our volunteers, partner churches, and corporate donors. That way, we can effectively advance the chronically homeless from the streets to becoming productive members of our community."

The CHATT Foundation provides a foundation to begin building that transition into a better, more stable life away from a life of homelessness. We are hands-on and directly involved in helping change lives through the daily hard work and dedication of our volunteers, supporters, and permanent staff members," said King.

The 'Foundation' in CHATT Foundation will always have the kitchen at its core to feed the hungry, seven days a week. But it also offers temporary housing, emergency sheltering, counseling, placement services, laundry, health and foot care, personal hygiene, clothing, and other essential services to help the homeless get on their feet.

"We have assorted needs to carry out our mission," observed King. "Some are day-to-day replenishment of food and supplies. Others are capital expenditures so that our facility can grow with the community's needs. All are important in helping the CHATT Foundation serve for the next 40 years and beyond."

The actual transition of Chattanooga Community Kitchen to CHATT Foundation will roll out over time. A new website has already been launched, but things like signage will take longer. The facility on 11th Street will remain, said King.

The official launch of CHATT Foundation happens during the organization's Fall Festival, held at its headquarters Friday, October 21, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.