



MANNA MATTERS



OCTOBER 2021

A HAPPY ENDING



Meet Chester, an ex-military man with a story to tell of how Manna Cafe has impacted his life. About 2.5 years ago, Chester was homeless, unemployed, and in need of some understanding—not to mention some extra groceries. Then someone told him about Manna Cafe, and he visited us for the first time. "It truly helped tremendously and took a lot of the pressure off," he says. "It makes a huge difference when you're struggling because you don't want to tell anyone, and you don't want to ask for anything." To this day, Chester and his wife still call Food Distribution their favorite Manna Cafe program because food boxes are "so full and sufficient."



In the past year or two, Chester has also utilized Manna's hot meal program as well as Basic Adulting classes. He says of the classes, "They helped me to learn, to get myself back up, and to bring up my self-confidence and motivation—because sometimes when you're down, you are *really* down." He speaks with gratitude about local agencies like Manna that "want to see you succeed, treat you like a real human being, and don't talk down to you."

With the help of his family, Operation Stand Down, and Manna Cafe's resources, Chester was able to find employment and "catapult out of homelessness." He now shares his story with other struggling families, especially those with children.

Way to go, Chester!

Photograph: Rachael Hickman

IN A FIX

For more than 11 years, thousands of Clarksvillians have experienced the rewards of volunteering at Manna Cafe. Though we're blessed with wonderful employees, certain tasks simply can't be completed without the help of volunteers. Currently, we're looking for help with maintenance.



Are you skilled at fixing things? Can you spare a few hours each week to help keep things running smoothly? If so, call 931-933-0970 and email Ken@MannaCafeMinistries.com. Thank you!

BABY LOVE

Manna Cafe is thrilled to announce its partnership with



Nashville Diaper Connection. Each month, clients with children can request up to 50 diapers per month, per child. Says Operations Manager

Christina Golden, "We gave out 350 diapers last month in

just two weeks! Clients are very grateful and happy about this new program."



NASHVILLE DIAPER CONNECTION

BRRRR !

Winter is coming.

That seems like a cruel thing to say when we're enjoying soft sweaters, pumpkin spice cake, and crisp, fresh air. But to do our best in regard to Clarksville's homeless population, we must start preparing now. This is why we're looking for some dedicated, compassionate individuals to add to our warming center team.

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, What are you doing for others?"

— Martin Luther King, Jr.

When the temperature falls below freezing, we will open our doors to homeless men and women.

We'll offer them a warm bed, nutritious food, hot showers, and safety. If you'd like to be part of the team, email Tanya@MannaCafeMinistries.com or Shelly@MannaCafeMinistries.com.



We are also collecting the following supplies for the warming center:

tents
sleeping bags
razors
deodorant
men's boxer briefs

men's coats
men's pants
men's winter gloves
hairbrushes/combs
bath towels

Thank you!



Many thanks to our local donors and supporters. This month, we'd like to specifically mention Publix Super Markets Charities for their assistance with the Food Distribution program as well as Regions Bank, supporters of the Operation Refuge program.

MORE THAN JUST A HAM SANDWICH

Are certain prayers or concerns too trivial to take to the Lord? Apparently not.

Over the years, I've collected a lot of stories that have greatly impacted my life and the way we do things at Manna Cafe. One story goes back to when I first started doing street ministry in



Nashville. One of my jobs at the ministry where I served was to fix the food for the weekly meal for the homeless and poor. Every Thursday a truck would deliver panned food that had been donated from restaurants and stores.

Let me back up: before moving to Nashville I'd worked as a sound engineer and breakfast cook. One of the best things about being a cook was occasionally eating a piece of country ham, which I absolutely loved.

Well, that morning in Nashville while waiting for the delivery truck, I was really hungry for country ham. I made very little

money, so I couldn't just go get some. But I remember saying, "Lord, a little piece of country ham sure would be nice." Then I went about my day and didn't think any more about it.

Finally the truck came. I never knew what we were going to get till we got it, so I had to look through every pan to see what I could fix for supper that night. There was spaghetti, mac and cheese, barbecue ... and then I saw a small pan of rolls. I realized there was something under the rolls, and as I looked, I just had to laugh because—lo and behold—there was a piece of country ham. In the two months I'd been there I'd never seen that before. I might have gotten a little choked up as I said, "Thanks, God." Then I made myself a couple of country ham sandwiches. I knew God was winking at me that day.

Sometimes we think God doesn't hear our prayers or that He's not concerned about everything we do, but the Scripture says God watches over the sparrows: "Not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. And

even the very hairs of your head are all numbered." He also says we're "worth more than many sparrows" (Matt. 10:29–31). I tell the country ham story a lot because God does care about the little stuff. If He knows the number of hairs on our head and even cares when we want a piece of ham, we can be sure He's going to take care of us.

Even in these trying times, we can trust God with the little stuff *and* the big stuff. He's going to see us through. Our hope is not in ourselves; it's not in the person to the left or the right or the political party we like best. Our hope is in Jesus Christ. He alone will take care of us.

Peace out.
— Kenny

"I knew God was winking at me that day."



