



Love, Peace, and



September - October 2025

The Manna Cafe Ministries newsletter

My late husband and founder of Manna Cafe, Kenny York, raised awareness about Clarksville's homeless population by doing something unusual: three separate times, for two weeks at a time, he lived as a homeless man. He refused all creature comforts, braved extreme weather, and wandered all over Clarksville with a sign that read *Do You Care?* on the front and *Prove It* on the back. Each evening, he blogged about his experience, and many folks kept up with his journey. As a result, countless people were awakened to the needs of our homeless population.

I've decided to revive the Prove It movement by taking to the streets like Kenny did, but in a slightly different way — through a 100-mile prayer walk. Initially my goal was to spend every mile asking God for the funds to convert our current food distribution program into a free grocery store called the Manna Market. This project is dear to my heart because it'll allow clients to select food according to their dietary needs, preferences, or cultural practices; greatly reduce food waste; and promote dignity and honor.

But then I realized that we desperately need support for everyday operations or — to be completely honest — we might not be around to fulfill the bigger dream. I'm going to be very transparent: the past two years have been financially brutal. Manna's reputation is stellar, and the community is so encouraging about what we do, but times are tough and donations are down — way down. Thus, my goals have temporarily shifted, and my 100-mile prayer will focus on securing 500 new donors at \$30 or more per month to help us with recurring expenses. I'm asking for citywide, monetary support to literally help us keep our doors open.

On September 23, the City of Clarksville will honor Kenny by renaming a portion of Oak Street (which runs through the middle of the Manna Cafe property) to Kenny York



BY VICKI YORK

Memorial Way. Immediately following the street sign reveal, I'll set off on my prayer walk, completing 10 miles per day (in various parts of the city) for 10 days. Each evening I'll blog about the experience at MannaCafeMinistries.org/100-miles, picking right up where Kenny left off in late 2020.

See page 2 for details about how to get involved. During the walk, also check out our Facebook page (facebook.com/mannacafe2010) for updates. Together, we can bring increased stability to Manna so the Manna Market can become reality.

In the words of Kenny himself, *Do you care? Prove it.*

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Prove It

Pledge per mile:

Visit MannaCafeMinistries.org/100-miles to pledge a monetary donation for each mile of Vicki's journey.

Join the walk:

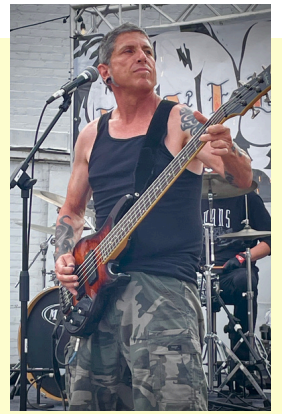
Show your support by quietly joining Vicki for a few miles as she traverses the streets and parks of our community. (Departure times/routes will be posted on FB daily.)

Follow each step:

Each day Vicki will blog about her walk of faith throughout the Clarksville area. You can follow her steps and inspirational thoughts at MannaCafeMinistries.org/100-miles.

Pray, pray, pray:

Prayer is the most powerful tool we have. "The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective" (James 5:16). As you go about your day, please pray for the vision of Manna Cafe Ministries and the Manna Market.



The evening air was filled with live music and the fragrance of a cookout as our community enjoyed a great night with The Extreme Tour on June 12. Musicians from Florida, California, and even the UK joined us for this fun event. Thanks to this wonderful nonprofit and friends in the Lord.

Let's Go Digital



Due to increasing printing and postage costs, Manna Cafe invites you to sign up here for the digital version of our newsletter:

MannaCafeMinistries.org/newsletter

Thank You

We're happy to share that we received a #TruistFoundation grant that enabled our culinary internship program to thrive over the past year. Thanks to this partnership, we're improving lives and our community one meal at a time.



 **Truist Foundation**



Tribute to Kenny York

Join the Manna Cafe family and friends as we celebrate the unveiling of the Kenny York Memorial Way street sign.
(Free coffee and breakfast fare.)

September 23, 2025
7:30am - 9:30am
503 D Street • Clarksville, TN

RSVP at MannaCafeMinistries.org/bbh-signreveal





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October 1 - 25

Join the fight against food insecurity

Preparations are under way for the 16th annual community-wide effort to raise awareness of food insecurity, promote volunteerism, and stock Manna Cafe's warehouse for the winter.

Combat Hunger is expanding from a one-day event to a nearly one-month collaboration of local businesses, organizations, and an army of individuals working together to fight hunger in Montgomery and Stewart Counties.

"Manna Cafe finds the fourth quarter is the favorite time for generous local businesses and organizations to conduct food drives as we approach the holiday giving season," explains Vicki York, Manna Cafe CEO. "With a combined effort filled with excitement and recognition of participating groups, we see Combat Hunger as an opportunity to build community pride through giving to others."

From October 1 through October 25, local businesses, organizations, and churches will be invited to hold food drives at their locations. To encourage participation, businesses will be provided with marketing materials designating

them as a Combat Hunger collection point. The corporate challenge will include a traveling championship belt, awarded to the business collecting the most pounds of food.

Each business will deliver its donations to Manna Cafe on Saturday, October 25, to be officially weighed. Staff will take photos for publishing on social media and the Manna Cafe Ministries website, recognizing the efforts of each business.

That same day, Manna Cafe — in conjunction with 5 Star Media Group and participating grocery stores throughout Montgomery and Stewart Counties — will host its traditional Combat Hunger food drive. Shoppers will be provided with shopping lists of needed items as they enter stores. Throughout the day, volunteers will collect donations at each store.

Get your business involved

To register as a collection point for food, go to the website below. Collection locations will be provided with a marketing kit to promote you as a Combat Hunger partner.

Volunteer for Combat Hunger Day

To volunteer for a two-hour shift collecting donations at one of the participating stores on Saturday, October 25, go to the website below. Be sure to designate which time slot(s) you prefer.



Register or donate online at
MannaCafeMinistries.org/combathunger

Manna Cafe Ministries
1960-J Madison St. #312
Clarksville, TN 37043

Nonprofit Org
US Postage Paid
Clarksville, TN
Permit #259



Manna Cafe Ministries

1960-J Madison St #312
Clarksville, TN 37043
931-933-0970
MannaCafeMinistries.org

Be a part of the Manna family

Help us with our mission to serve people suffering from economic insecurity while restoring hope, dignity, self-reliance, community, and the love of God through Jesus Christ.

Make your tax-deductible gift TODAY at
MannaCafeMinistries.org/donate.



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.
Matthew 25:35, NIV



Manna Cafe is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and a proud member of United Way of the Greater Clarksville Region and the Clarksville Chamber of Commerce.