

CLARKSVILLE

Manna Café receives grant to keep food trucks running in Clarksville



Portrait

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Manna Café Ministries has received a grant from the O'Reilly Automotive Foundation to support upkeep of the vehicles that power its countywide food distribution efforts, the organization announced this week.

The foundation, which serves as the philanthropic arm of O'Reilly Auto Parts, awarded the grant to support upkeep of the trucks Manna Café relies on to deliver meals and retrieve surplus food for its distribution programs.

“Manna Cafe is helping with so many basic needs,” Julie Gray, president of the O'Reilly Automotive Foundation, said in the announcement about the grant.

“Not only are they providing food, but also showers and hygiene products, clothing, diapers and school supplies. Their culinary internships are lifting people up by training them for roles in the restaurant industry. We're pleased to continue to help fund their good work.”

Manna Cafe seeing more demand

When the government hit its longest government shutdown in October 2025, Manna Café saw an increase of over 60% in sign-ups, with about 30% from the military alone, Doretha Minor, Manna Café's Chief Operating Officer, told The Leaf-Chronicle.

By the end of October 2025, Manna Cafe was serving about 226 people a day, which became a new normal.

"Even though our workload is high right now, we're not overwhelmed," Minor said. "We're going to be able to keep serving the community and Stewart County, doing our best."

Beyond serving meals at its building, Manna Café distributes food throughout the week at various sites across the community.

This grant will allow the nonprofit to continue serving the community.

"We are so thankful for the O'Reilly partnership," Minor said in the announcement. "This grant will keep our fleet in top shape and safe on the roads while we are out in our community rescuing 1.5 million pounds of food a year and getting it to the people who need it."

Always taking volunteers

Manna Cafe Ministries is always in need of volunteers and donations. More information can be found at mannacafeministries.org.

Kenya Anderson is a reporter for The Leaf-Chronicle. Story ideas and tips are always welcome and can be sent to kanderson@gannett.com. Sign up for the Leaf-Chronicle to support local journalism at www.theleafchronicle.com.