

CFC CONNECTIONS

Community Food Connection Newsletter

In this issue

- Recent Activity & News
- Store Hours
- Thank You Volunteers
- Thank You Donors
- Upcoming Events
- Meet CFC Board members

Recent Activity & News

More Than Food is now Path of Hope

The More Than Food pilot program started at CFC has successfully graduated 7 families. Second Harvest's board of directors has approved the expansion to 17 other counties in East Tennessee, and the program is now called Path of Hope. Discussions have already begun with agencies in 3 counties. If you have any motivated families that need assistance in reaching their goals and becoming self-sufficient, contact Kevin Kilmer at CFCpathofhope@cfcblount.com to learn more about the program or to set up an interview with the family.

Record Year at CFC

Total donations received in 2023 exceeded \$450,000. This includes monetary donations, USDA products and food donations. Simply put, this means approximately \$38,000 in food is distributed each month—THAT IS A LOT OF GOOD!

It took about 500 volunteers and over 12,000 volunteer hours to process intake and distribution of food. THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

Please remember that CFC is dependent on donations of all types to carry out our Mission Statement.

Welcome to this issue of CFC Connections, your electronic newsletter about Community Food Connection of Blount County. We plan to publish CFC Connections quarterly to help our volunteers and donors know what we are doing and how they can help. Please contact any of our Board of Directors if you have questions or ideas for articles in future editions.



2024 CFC Board of Directors

(Left to right) Robert Henderson, Gaines Lee, Christy Newman, Board President Dwight Price, Heather Reed, Tom Sims, Belinda Sharp, Mark Loudermilk, Diane Kilmer. Not present: Todd Griffith.



We thank outgoing Board members Kevin Kilmer and Sarah Price for their service and dedication to CFC.



We received a card from Second Harvest thanking CFC for our part in helping to distribute 2,294,127 pounds of food, worth over \$3 million, in Blount County!

St Paul Lutheran Church donated 1,425 pounds of food collected through their Reverse Advent Calendar program and provided 16 Thanksgiving baskets that were distributed to our clients through a raffle.

More Than Food Graduate Gets a House

WATE featured the More Than Food program in January 2024. They interviewed Misti, who graduated in 2023, and one of her goals was to purchase a home. She was homeless shortly before joining the More Than Food program, but through the program she improved her financial position and was able to close on a home in November 2023.

Misti worked diligently to meet three goals during the program. She worked two side jobs on evenings and weekends to meet her financial goal. Misti no longer stands in line at CFC, but she and her two sons have actually moved inside to volunteer as they are extremely thankful and want to give back.

For more information on Second Harvest Food Bank's "Path of Hope" program, which guides people through a series of coaching sessions to help get them back on their feet, visit secondharvestetn.org or call 865-521-0000 or contact Kevin Kilmer at CFCpathofhope@cfcblount.com.

Store Hours

Monday 10 AM -12 PM

Wednesday 10 AM - 2 PM

Thursday 5 PM - 7 PM

Saturday 10 AM -12 PM

3rd Saturday 2 PM - 4 PM

Thank You Volunteers

We are truly blessed to have many groups and individuals who volunteer their time and energy to support our ministry. In 2023, about 500 individuals volunteered 12,000 hours. There are still days and times when we can use more volunteers, especially rescue food pickup drivers. Individuals can register to volunteer on our website <http://cfcblount.com>



Each Tuesday and Thursday, groups of volunteers sort the hundreds of pounds of “rescue” food we receive from area stores and Second Harvest. In 2023, over 250,000 pounds of food was distributed.



We thank our area businesses that make excesses available to us: Walmart, 2nd Harvest, Bimbo bread, Cheddars, Publix, Horn of Plenty, Walgreens, Chick-Fil-A, and Starbucks



Wednesday afternoon volunteers from St Paul Lutheran Church.



CVMA food drive at United Grocery Outlet

Meet Members of the Board of Directors



Robert Henderson joined the Board in 2023. I serve on CFC to give back to those in need and to further the mission of the church.

Thank You Donors

We could not continue serving Blount County without the support of individuals, churches and businesses. Your generous donations are used to buy food and pay other necessary expenses.

Please consider making a charitable donation to CFC!

Check out our new and improved website at <http://cfcblount.com>. Some new features include:
News & update section
Meet the board members
Downloadable forms
Easier ways to donate, and even FAQs!

Stay Connected

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Email: info@cfcblount.com
Webpage: <http://cfcblount.com>
Facebook: Community Food Connection of Blount County
Volunteer Coordinator email: cfc.volunteer.coord@cfcblount.com

Upcoming Events

Our next food drive is April 11-13, 2024 at Maryville Food City on West Broadway.

We will need volunteers at the store to welcome shoppers and distribute grocery shopping lists, drivers to bring food to CFC, and others to sort and shelve the food.

More information about future food drives and how to sign-up will be emailed 2-3 weeks before the drive. Information will also be on our Facebook page and website.

Warren Bielenberg, Editor