



LOAVES & FISHES

News and Notes



2025 IN REVIEW >>>

As we look back on 2025, we are filled with gratitude for the way our community has shown up for one another. This year, Loaves & Fishes served thousands of hot, home-cooked meals, welcomed hundreds of volunteers through our doors, and provided nourishment, dignity, and connection to neighbors of all ages – from children and families to seniors. Whether through daily meal service, new outreach efforts, or moments of fellowship around the table, every tray served represented care, compassion, and community in action. None of this would be possible without the generosity, time, and heart of those who support our mission.



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Food Security in a Season of Anxiety

Over the last two months, we've seen firsthand how fragile food security can be when government systems stall. With the national shutdown and uncertainty around public assistance, many of our neighbors faced a difficult reality: SNAP benefits were suspended, and families who were already living close to the edge suddenly had no margin. We could feel the anxiety the moment guests walked through our doors. People weren't only hungry—they were worried. Mothers and fathers asked the same question in different ways: "What happens if my benefits don't come?" "How am I going to make it through the week?" "What do I tell my kids?"



In moments like that, Loaves & Fishes exists for one purpose: to step in when someone else can't. But we didn't do it alone. In November and December, Loaves & Fishes partnered with the Community Action Agency to assemble and distribute more than 350 emergency food boxes to families in our community. Each box represented more than groceries—it was stability, dignity, and reassurance for a household that needed help right now.

**Red River
Spartan's Hockey
Team assembled
over 26,000
pounds of food
for distribution at
Loaves & Fishes
in December.**





Community Partner Highlight

THE MILLAN FOUNDATION

We want to celebrate a remarkable partner in our mission: The Millan Foundation. Their leadership and generosity are helping power our new fundraising campaign – an opportunity for businesses and individuals to sponsor chairs at our tables, ensuring every neighbor who comes to Loaves & Fishes has a warm meal waiting for them.

The Millan Foundation stepped forward early, not for recognition, but because they believe in feeding the hungry, strengthening families, and building a stronger Clarksville. Their commitment reminds us what can happen when a company chooses compassion as a core value.

To The Millan Foundation: thank you for standing with us and caring for those who need it most. To our wider business community: we invite you to join this crusade. Adopt a chair. Feed a neighbor. Be part of restoring dignity, hope, and stability – one meal at a time.

To Give: www.givebutter.com/seatatthetable

MILLAN
ENTERPRISES

GREAT PEOPLE. GREAT PROJECTS. REAL IMPACT.

LET'S TALK NUMBERS

2025



TOTAL NUMBER
OF CHILDREN
SERVED:

3,065



POUNDS OF
FOOD
DISTRIBUTED:

143,165 LBS



NUMBER OF
VOLUNTEERS:

4,302

TOTAL MEALS
SERVED, 2025:

59,384



TOTAL MEALS
SERVED
(1983-2025):

1,210,000



MEET OUR GUESTS

Why it matters: This is what transformation looks like—help received, hope restored, and service multiplied.

Meet Theresa



Theresa came to Loaves & Fishes during a season of homelessness, doing whatever she could to get through each day safely. Now she's here consistently—and she's giving back by serving others right alongside our team. "I was homeless, sleeping in cars, sleeping anywhere I could sleep when a friend of mine told me about Loaves and Fishes and I'm grateful for them showing me the right pathway. I'm here six days a week, every day, every month. I want to give back so I volunteer by helping serve food to others."

Meet Terry



Terry had security most of his life—until everything fell apart. After losing it all and ending up on the streets, he needed help fast. Loaves & Fishes became the place where he could find support and start moving forward again. "I'd always been stable, and then I lost everything. It really humbled me. I ended up homeless and had to find help somewhere. By the grace of God, Loaves & Fishes was it."

Why it matters: Your support helps people facing real hardship find stability, dignity, and a way forward.

UPCOMING EVENTS:



Clarksville Feeds the World — Let's Do It Again

Last year, Clarksville Feeds the World united thousands of volunteers to pack 500,288 meals, and Loaves & Fishes received over 8,000 pounds of donated food through the concurrent local food drive. This year, the goal is even bigger: 600,000 meals in one day.

Now scheduled for Saturday, February 14th, 2026, we invite our community to sign up to volunteer and bring a canned good to support the local food drive and help restock Loaves & Fishes and other local food ministries. Let's show up again with compassion and make an impact locally and globally. (Loaves & Fishes will be the Agency of Record for Service Hours for this event.)

To Learn More: ClarksvilleFeedsTheWorld.com

Empty Bowls Clarksville — A Simple Meal with a Powerful Purpose

Loaves & Fishes is grateful to be a recipient of support through Empty Bowls Clarksville, a community event that raises awareness about hunger while helping fund local organizations serving families facing food insecurity. Guests are invited to share a simple meal of soup and bread, enjoy fellowship and local art, and take home a handcrafted bowl as a reminder of the empty bowls many neighbors face each day.

All proceeds benefit local hunger-relief efforts—including Loaves & Fishes. Sign up for a meal or help sponsor the event and be part of filling bowls and hearts across Clarksville.

To Learn More: <https://emptybowlsclarksville.com>



NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

As we begin a new year, I'm inspired by the way this community continues to rally around our mission. Because of faithful supporters, volunteers, and partners, Loaves & Fishes is able to faithfully serve thousands of meals and help provide food throughout Clarksville and Montgomery County every single month.

We're starting this year with momentum. There's more to do—and we're ready. We're excited about new opportunities to engage the community, expand our reach, and serve our neighbors with care, dignity, and genuine hospitality.

Mayor Joe Pitts will issue a Proclamation recognizing February as Empty Bowls Month. Now in its 18th year in Clarksville, this event brings together community-minded companies and individuals to raise awareness of food insecurity. Please see the announcement in this issue and plan to join us for a simple meal in February.

Thank you for believing in this work. We are honored to serve in a city that actively supports and partners with local nonprofits to make a difference.

With gratitude,
John Durnell





WAYS TO HELP:

1. Volunteer your time
2. Consider supporting us as one of your preferred local charities
3. Donate Food / Beverages to Loaves & Fishes

WISH LIST

- POP-TOP CANNED FOOD
- FRESH MILK AND DAIRY
- SUGAR, BULK
- DELI / SANDWICH MEATS
- PLASTICWARE + NAPKINS

Since 1983, Loaves & Fishes has been feeding the hungry in Clarksville, Tennessee - no questions asked. We serve over 6,000 hot meals each month with the help of a dedicated team of more than 350 rotating volunteers. Our mission is simple: to provide food, compassion, and hope to anyone in need.

CONNECT

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