

CFC CONNECTIONS

Community Food Connection Newsletter

A Record Year

In 2025, we served 50,630 clients, of whom 25% were children and 22% were senior citizens.

- Our volunteers contributed over 15,000 hours.
- We received in-kind donations of food and other items from individuals, churches, and businesses valued at \$304,597, in addition to a record amount of cash donations.
- We spent \$137,500 purchasing food to keep our shelves full.

We give thanks to all who support this important ministry in our community!

Recent Activity & News

Board of Directors



We thank Diane Kilmer and Christy Newman for their years of service and welcome Sandie Earnest and Joe Morgan to the Board of Directors. Joe Morgan works for Denso and is the coordinator of Denso's volunteers. Sandie is retired from Maryville city schools. She has been volunteering for CFC off and on for nearly 30 years.



St. Paul Lutheran Church donated 15 Thanksgiving baskets that were raffled to our clients. They donated 846 pounds of food collected during their Reverse Advent Calendar program.



CFC and Second Harvest volunteer Allen Davis and CFC Store Coordinator Ingrid Haun pose by the AED (Automated External Defibrillator) recently donated through a safety grant from Second Harvest East Tennessee.

Welcome to this issue of CFC Connections, your electronic newsletter about Community Food Connection of Blount County. Please contact any of our Board of Directors if you have questions or ideas for articles in future editions.



L-R Tom Sims, Sharon Brothers, Sandie Earnest, Heather Reed, Mark Loudermilk, Robert Henderson, Joe Morgan, Belinda Sharp, Dwight Price. Not pictured: Todd Griffith.



We are happy to welcome Operation Vet Rescue, the new group who will take over serving veterans on the third Saturday afternoon each month. We thank the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association, who have had that role for several years.

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. Interested individuals can contact cfc.volunteer.coord@cfcbloount.com

Volunteers of the Quarter

Recognizing outstanding volunteer service

Community Food Connection (CFC) of Blount County proudly recognizes Florence (Flo) Hurst, Manisha Patel, and Tim Peterson as Volunteers of the Quarter for Fourth Quarter, 2025.



Florence (Flo) Hurst logged more than 70 hours of volunteer work during the quarter. She comes in early for each shift and gets produce and desserts out and ready to distribute. She then stays late to clean after her shift.



Manisha Patel is a responsible volunteer who sorts through produce before each shift and helps educate clients on how to prepare some of the more unusual fruits and vegetables. She often stays after her shift ends to clean, empty trash and prepare for the next day.



Tim Peterson picks up donated food every Monday. Going to three stores, he needs his trailer to haul the donations! He unloads hundreds of pounds each week and serves 60 hours.

CFC recognizes Grady Hill, Dru Verplaetse, and Mary Ann & Jeremy Johnson as Volunteers of the Quarter for Third Quarter, 2025.



Grady Hill logged over 30 hours during the quarter. He comes in early to help set up and enjoys distributing meat and dairy products to clients.



Dru Verplaetse has a heart for serving clients. She volunteers several time each month, usually handing out produce and always with a smile.



Jeremy and Mary Ann Johnson each bring a friendly face to their Saturday shift helping out as needed, usually stocking and distributing meat and fresh produce.

Thank You Donors

We could not continue serving area residents in need without the support of individuals, churches and businesses. Your generous donations are used to buy food and pay overhead and other expenses.

Please consider making a charitable donation to CFC through our website or by mail to P.O. Box 786, Alcoa, TN 37701

Check out our website <http://cfcbloount.com>.

Were you will find:

- News & update section
- Meet the board members
- Downloadable forms
- Easier ways to donate, and even FAQs!

Upcoming Events

We are planning for next year's major food drives. We thank Kroger & Food City along with all the volunteers who made this year's drives successful!

We will need volunteers at the retailers to 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 via SignUp.com. Information will also be on our Facebook page and website.

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Warren Bielenberg, Editor