



Ladies of Charity of Chattanooga

Stories of those we serve

*Serving the needy
of our community
in a spirit of faith,
humility & simplicity.*

The Ladies of Charity of Chattanooga are dedicated to helping people in crisis — those who would otherwise fall through the cracks in our affluent society. This is why our members contribute and why our volunteers show up on schedule to make our Greater Good Thrift Store thrive. Our store generates much of the funding that allows us to help our neighbors. Please help us in turn by volunteering and/or by donating materially and financially to our work. We, as a community, cannot tell neighbors “no” when their need is real.

Edward’s Story: Hope for the future

Edward is a 54 year-old single father who has had custody of his eight year-old son since birth. He worked for seven years in the laundry of a large hotel, never earning more than \$15,000 a year. In early 2008, he became ill. Though he tried unsuccessfully to continue on at his physically demanding job, by early summer he was being treated for kidney failure. In July Edward went on dialysis. In those few short months of unemployment, he had to rely on emergency social assistance of \$140 a month for his son and \$190 in food stamps. This was a blow to the ego of one who had always worked to support himself and his child.

Ladies of Charity saw the hard work and pride that were evident in the story of Edward and his child. The devoted family man did not have the chance for education, since he went to work at age thirteen to help support his siblings. Edward left home and was on his own when he was fourteen. He comments with pride that his eight year old son is all ready better educated than he is, and pushes his child to take pride in his achievements.

LOCC decided to provide \$1,000 as a special gift to Edward for rent, power and phone for two months. This gave him peace of mind while he applied and was approved for \$637 per month in Social Security disability benefits. Dialysis has improved his health to the point where Edward thinks he can return to work for a few hours a week to augment these benefits. He is a prime candidate for a kidney transplant and will be presented to Erlanger’s Transplant program in September.

Edward’s son is gifted. He brought LOCC’s social services chairman a huge envelope crammed with awards from school, including the President’s award for excellence and many awards for behavior and perfect attendance. When he registered for the second grade this year, the principal informed Edward that his son would be promoted early to third grade.

This father’s dream is that his talented son will become the one to find a cure for renal disease.