



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.

James’ Story: Giving the gift of peace

When we met James, he was 66 year old with multiple health issues, including kidney failure for which he underwent dialysis three times every week in a local clinic. James also suffered from severe heart problems. He existed on a Social Security check and lived alone in an apartment for low-income residents.

Given his poor health and relative isolation, a social worker at James’ dialysis clinic recognized his need for some kind of medical alert device. Such items are not covered by health insurance, however, and the monthly cost can be a burden for those on a small, fixed income. The clinic social worker came to Ladies of Charity on James’ behalf, asking us to provide and pay the monthly cost of a medic alert necklace for him. We were glad to add him to the growing list of elderly individuals for whom we provide this service.

Within two weeks of receiving his necklace, James experienced such serious chest pain that he couldn’t get to his phone to dial 911. He used his necklace instead, and help arrived within ten minutes. Paramedics discovered that he had suffered a massive coronary attack. He was hospitalized for several weeks and eventually returned to his home.

James passed away in late 2007, succumbing to his multiple health problems. His clinic social worker later told us that his last months were a time of peace for him, knowing that help was close via the device we provided. James told her he owed us his life. We treasure knowing that our help gave him the peace of mind he enjoyed in his last months.