



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.

Lucy’s Story:

Good neighbors are hard to find, important to care for

For many years, one of our neighbors was a plucky elderly widow. Lucy didn’t have much to spend but showed up regularly at our thrift store to make small purchases. She liked giving us her business, and we liked having her for a neighbor. When we found out how she made ends meet, we were awed anew by her spirit and became determined to do whatever we could to make life a little easier for her.

With a small Social Security check and VA pension, Lucy attempted to make ends meet by picking up aluminum cans for recycling. She found rides to “you pick” farms for tomatoes to resell during warm weather. In colder seasons, she gathered fallen branches and scrap wood as fuel for the wood heater in her kitchen.

Ladies of Charity began to supply Lucy with firewood. We arranged a monthly voucher to help her with groceries. When we learned that roof leaks had caused huge chunks of plaster to fall from her ceilings in every room, we had a new roof installed on her house. When we learned she was heating water on the one working eye of her old stove in order to bathe and wash dishes, we bought her a water heater and an electric range. Our welfare director applied to Widow’s Harvest, which responded graciously in painting Lucy’s house and replacing her old gutters and rotten wood siding. This MVC (Most Valued Customer) also receives clothing and linens from our store as she needs them.

Lucy holds a special place in our hearts!