

## Awareness Campaign to Highlight Homelessness in Cheatham County

Cheatham County, Tenn. (July 15, 2023) - Homelessness. It happens everywhere, whether you see it or not.

The Cheatham County Homeless Coalition, working to raise awareness about homelessness in the community, wants to give the public a better understanding of what it means to be without a home.

The awareness campaign will kick off with a fun competition on Saturday, Aug. 26 at the Cheatham County Courthouse in Ashland City as teams gather to build cardboard homes as part of the Cardboard City challenge. The event is from 8:30-11:30 a.m.

Families, churches, schools, nonprofits, civic organizations, and businesses are invited to form a team and participate in this experience.

Teams, which are limited to 4-6 people, will be given cardboard boxes and duct tape and can pick one extra item such as rope, tarps, blankets, and scissors to build the homes. The homes will be judged, and prizes will be awarded.

“Unfortunately, many communities, including ours, have seen an increase in homelessness due a lack of affordable and accessible housing,” said Lisa Wysocky, executive director of the Ashland City-based Colby’s Army, which assists those facing homelessness.

Teams need to register in advance for the event and can do so through the Cheatham County Homeless Coalition website at [www.cheathamhomelesscoalition.com](http://www.cheathamhomelesscoalition.com). The registration deadline is Aug. 1. There is no cost for teams to participate. Registered participants will receive a free T-shirt.

On the day of the event, teams should arrive by 8:30 a.m. A welcome and rules will be reviewed at 8:30 a.m. and the actual building will take place from 9-10 a.m. Announcements, speakers, judging, and awards will follow.

Food, including hot dogs, chips, and drinks, will be available for purchase and proceeds will benefit the local Boy Scouts.

Organizations planning the Cardboard City event include Colby’s Army, Cheatham County School District, Cheatham County Community Enhancement Coalition, The United Way’s Family Collective, Penuel Ridge Retreat Center, Tackett Consulting LLC, and Safe Haven.

For more information, please visit the Homeless Coalition’s website at [www.cheathamhomelesscoalition.com](http://www.cheathamhomelesscoalition.com) or email Lisa Wysocky at [lisa@colbysarmy.org](mailto:lisa@colbysarmy.org) or Claudette Fizer at [claudette.fizer@ccstn.org](mailto:claudette.fizer@ccstn.org).