



MEDIA RELEASE

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Festival of Lights at the Cove Collected Lots of Food, Cash for Love Kitchen

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.—This year’s Holiday Festival of Lights at the Cove at Concord Park turned out to be quite the success, raising \$7,272.25, and enough non-perishable food items to fill roughly 11.5 large barrels.

The 23rd annual event ran almost the entire month of December and concluded Sunday, Jan. 2. This was the first time the event accepted Venmo payments, which totaled \$1,386. Next year the plan is to be cash-free.

“To me, these collection amounts show that this event is continuing to grow in popularity and becoming a staple celebration in Knox County,” said Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs.

The family-friendly event was free and open to the public though visitors were encouraged to bring non-perishable food items or monetary donations. The donations will be turned over to The Love Kitchen, which provides meals, clothing, and emergency food packages for the homebound, homeless, and unemployed.

During the festival, the Cove’s three-quarter-mile greenway was illuminated by a sparkling light displays coordinated to music. The Knox County Parks and Recreation Department oversaw the decorating, which included placing dozens of displays and thousands of lights. It was sponsored by Radio Station B97.5.

The Knox County Commission later this month is expected to officially accept the donations on behalf of the county. The Mayor and several Parks and Recreation crew members will deliver a check and the food donations to the Love Kitchen in February.

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