

## Candy Hemphill Christmas

Candy Hemphill Christmas is a veteran performer with gospel roots that stretch back three generations. Her grandmother's family, the Goodmans, are legends on the concert circuit with a long string of recordings to their credit.

A love of gospel music prompted the Hemphills to move to Nashville in the early 1970's to pursue opportunities as Christian concert and recording artists. Success came early for Candy, whose first recording, "I Came On Business for the King," climbed to #5 on the gospel charts in 1973. Many other great songs followed.

Candy was on fire with God, when at age 26 she met and married Kent Christmas, a dynamic young evangelist from Washington state. After a few years off to start a family, God opened up a door to restart Candy's music ministry. Gospel singer and songwriter Bill Gaither invited Candy to sing on a videotape project called "Gaither and Friends Revival." He quickly recognized the ease with which Candy fit into the mix and invited her to join his Homecoming Tour.



Although Candy has been part of many projects for which she has received countless Dove and Grammy awards, her heart is dedicated to winning the souls of the homeless and poor. While maintaining a full schedule of traveling on weekends to minister with her husband across the



*Candy with the kids at Shelby Street location*

country, Candy and her dedicated volunteers are on the street somewhere every Tuesday and Thursday night.

God Uses People Just Like You  
To Make it Happen!



## The Bridge Ministry

Candy Christmas,  
Founder/President

PO Box 463

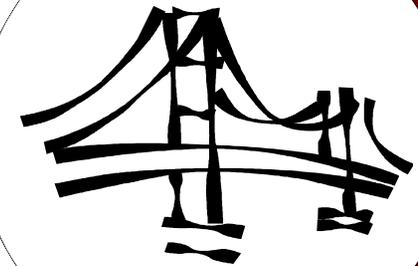
Goodlettsville, TN 37070-0463

Phone: 615-855-2611

Fax: 615-855-2699

[www.bridgeministry.org](http://www.bridgeministry.org)

[www.candychristmas.com](http://www.candychristmas.com)



The Bridge Ministry

*People with a  
passion to win the  
souls of the poor*



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## History

The Bridge Ministry began in 2005 from a desire God had placed in Candy's heart years prior to reach out to the poor and hurting of Middle Tennessee. It began humbly, as Candy took a pot of jambalaya to feed a few families who were living under the Jefferson Street Bridge in Nashville, Tennessee. There she shared the gospel of Jesus Christ and realized this is where her heart is. She used the family garage to store clothes, new shoes



*Hot meal serving line under the bridge*

and non-perishable food. Today, "The Bridge Ministry" overflows a 4000-square-foot warehouse facility and is blessed with a multi-denominational band of over 100 dedicated volunteers who feed, clothe and share the gospel with the homeless and poor in Nashville and across the southeast. The Bridge Ministry does not take the place of the local church; it complements it by offering an environment that is non-traditional and non-threatening to attract people who might not otherwise hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



## Today

### Tuesdays

The Bridge Ministry serves the physical and spiritual needs of the homeless every Tuesday night under the Jefferson Street Bridge in Nashville, TN. Volunteers provide a hot, home-cooked meal while Candy Christmas and friends share the gospel of Jesus Christ through song and spoken word.



When every soul has been prayed for, volunteers distribute new clothes, new shoes, sleeping bags, blankets, and non-perishable groceries.

### Thursdays

The Bridge Ministry serves the needs of lower-income neighborhoods in and around Nashville. After spending time sharing the gospel, truckloads of food and name-brand household products



are distributed in three (soon to be four) rotating locations. Currently, The Bridge Ministry serves two neighborhoods in Nashville (Shelby Street and Murfreesboro Road areas), as well as Gallatin.

## Food for Kids Program

Many of the children whose families qualify for "free and assisted school lunch programs" cannot afford snacks for school snack time, nor adequate nutrition on the weekends. The Bridge Ministry serves the needs of these elementary school children at nearby schools by providing the school with nutritious snacks to distribute during snack time. In addition, each qualifying child receives a take-home pack for the weekend with enough non-perishable food to supply their nutritional needs.



## Crusades

The Bridge Ministry reaches out to neighboring lower-income communities in the southeast with weekend crusades. When the trucks roll in, you can look for new furniture, new appliances and TONS of non-perishable food and household products. While Candy and her friends share the gospel of Jesus Christ through song and sermon, other volunteers prepare for a mass distribution when the service ends.

