

NOVEMBER 10, 2026 | KNOXVILLE CONVENTION CENTER

MISSION FAIR OPPORTUNITIES



featuring keynote speaker

**JEANNETTE
WALLS**

- *Author of "The Glass Castle"*
- *New York Times Best Seller*
- *Journalist and Author*



event schedule

- 10:00 a.m. | Mission Fair*
- 11:45 a.m. | Keynote Speaker & Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. | Speaker/Author Book Signing

with honorary chair
LORI TUCKER, WATE ANCHOR

**Raising
awareness and
funds to benefit**

VOLUNTEER MINISTRY CENTER
VMC



*Mission Fair Booths are available for nonprofits that focus on addressing poverty, housing, & homelessness
For more information please contact us at
developmentdept@vmcinc.org or
865-524-3926 ext. 230



Dear Friends,

You are invited to participate in the Mission Fair at Volunteer Ministry Center's 18th Annual Carry the Torch luncheon on Tuesday, November 10, 2026, at The Knoxville Convention Center. **We are excited to announce that our 2026 featured speaker is renowned speaker, journalist, and New York Times Best Selling Author, Jeannette Walls. As a former journalist for New York Magazine and MSNBC, she is most recognized for her memoir, "The Glass Castle."**

As Keynote for our premier event, Jeannette will share her story of an unconventional childhood, which included a nomadic family life marked by poverty and homelessness, as she emphasizes the importance of truth-telling and empathy. Carry the Torch guests will also enjoy a Mission Fair and lunch with 600-700 other attendees coming together to raise critical funds for preventing and ending homelessness in Knoxville - a cause that we know is close to your heart.

The following options for participating in the Mission Fair are available for nonprofits that focus on addressing poverty, housing, and homelessness. Priority will be given to agencies that are members of the Knoxville-Knox County Homeless Coalition. *Booths are available on a first-come, first-served basis due to the limited number available. Details are below and reservation options are attached.

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------|--|
| • Booth (Up to 2 individuals) | \$150 | *All booths will include an 8 ft table, black table cloth, and 2 chairs. |
| • Booth and luncheon (2 individuals) | \$350 | |
| • Booth and Table of 8 at luncheon | \$1,250 | |

We hope that your organization will join us in building awareness of homelessness in Knoxville while connecting with community partners to amplify our collective impact of providing services to those experiencing homelessness and those struggling to sustain their housing.

You may complete the attached **Participant Commitment Form** and send it to developmentdept@vmcinc.org no later than October 12th. Please feel free to contact me with any questions via email or at 865.524.3926 x258.

With gratitude,

Shalee Allen

Shalee Allen
Director of Development & Marketing

Volunteer Ministry Center is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, tax ID # 62-1338748.

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MISSION FAIR OPPORTUNITIES

EVENT SCHEDULE

10:00 am - 11:45 am	Mission Fair
11:45 am - 1:00 pm	Keynote Speaker & Lunch
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm	<i>Speaker/Author</i> Book Signing

Here are a few additional details for the day of the event:

- You may arrive at the Knoxville Convention Center to set-up your booth between 9 and 10 am on November 10th. We ask that you have your booth fully set-up by 10 am when the Mission Fair is scheduled to begin.
- Please be prepared to share information about your organization/agency as well as about volunteer opportunities. All booths will include an 8 ft table, black table cloth, and 2 chairs. You are welcome to bring displays, a branded table cloth, or other materials that promote your faith-based organization/agency and services.
- You may park in the Poplar Lot next to Church Street UMC across Cumberland from the Convention Center (there is limited parking available) and there is also free parking next to the Knoxville Museum of Art.
- Enter the convention center entrance off Cumberland Avenue and take the elevator/stairs/escalator to the 2nd Floor. Head towards the Ballrooms and you will see tables setup on the concourse. Please find the table that is designated by sign for your organization/agency.
- Please make sure that your booth is staffed at all times. The door to the Ballroom will open at 11:15. You may find that many people go into the Ballroom to be seated at that time. Please stay at your booth until 11:45 to be available for latecomers. **If your participation option includes the luncheon**, please go to the table assigned to you or your agency inside the Ballroom. Please return to your booth and the Mission Fair after the program at 1 pm. **If your participation option does not include the luncheon**, you may begin packing up your materials after the 11:45 am program begins.
- There will be a hospitality room available to you located in the Rotunda (the round room) next to the information tables. Courtesy coffee will be offered.
- Please be aware that VMC Staff (identified by name badges) will be available if you need assistance or have questions.

(Limited Booths available - assigned on a first come, first served basis)

Questions: developmentdept@vmcinc.org or 865.524.3926 ext. 230



PARTNER WITH US: BECOME A MISSION FAIR PARTICIPANT

Step One: Complete this form and email by October 12th to join in

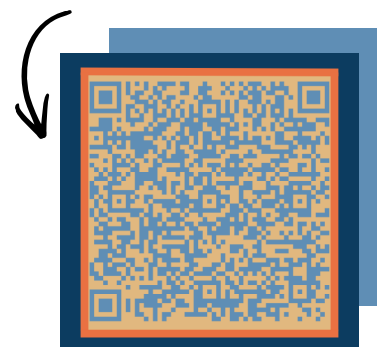
(Limited Booths available - First come, First served)

developmentdept@vmcinc.org or at 865.524.3926 ext. 230

Participate NOW!

Step Two: Select your desired Mission Fair Participation option

- ☐ Booth Only \$150 (Up to 2 individuals)
- ☐ Booth & Luncheon \$350 (2 individuals)
- ☐ Booth & Luncheon with Table for 8 \$1,250 (8 individuals)*



Step Three: Purchase your Mission Fair option

- **CREDIT CARD:** Purchase directly on the event website by scanning the QR code above.
- **CHECK:** Mail a check payable to Volunteer Ministry Center: P.O. Box 27406, Knoxville, TN 37927
- **INVOICE:** Fill out the form below and email it to request an invoice - Allie Heins, Development Specialist: aheins@vmcinc.org

Organization/Agency Name _____

Company Contact _____

Address _____

City, State Zip _____

Phone Number _____ Email Address _____

Organization/Agency Website _____

To reserve your booth, please send completed form and payment by October 12th.

Please list the names & emails of the 2 individuals that will be attending and working your booth:

Guest 1: _____ Email: _____

Guest 2: _____ Email: _____

****If you have chosen the option to have a table of 8 at the luncheon, we will be contacting you for a list of guests that will be seated at your table.***

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