

Helen and Ellen's Love Kitchen

Two twin sisters, named Helen Ashe and Ellen Turner, are great leaders from Tennessee's history. Helen and Ellen founded The Love Kitchen. The Love Kitchen is a volunteer organization that provides meals and necessary supplies to the elderly, homebound, homeless, and others in need in East Tennessee

Helen and Ellen were passionate about The Love Kitchen. They saw a need of solving hunger in their community, and they knew they could step in and help others. They started The Love Kitchen in 1986, serving meals at a small church in Knoxville. Since then, they have served more than a million meals! Ellen thought there was a reason she and Helen were born as twins—because there was so much work to be done to help others.

Helen and Ellen were both hard workers. They grew up working in the field with their parents as sharecroppers. They also gardened, milked cows, and washed dishes for a lady. After high school, they worked at S&W in Knoxville, opened two restaurants, and worked as nurses. Their biggest goal was starting The Love Kitchen.

Helen and Ellen knew the power of love. Without love, is a leader really that good? Without love, a leader wouldn't try to protect her followers, she would probably just try to get people out of her way. Helen and Ellen were filled with love. Helen had an interview with the news and said, "Oh, honey, there's just so much love. You know that's what keeps you going."

Helen and Ellen were both very generous with their time and resources. There is no easy way to measure the impact they've created. Helen passed away in February 2018 at age 89, and Ellen passed away in April 2015 at age 87. The compassion, love, and joy they shared have inspired me, as well as countless others. That is what proves they were great leaders.