



## Frequently Asked Questions

- **Is Grateful GVL truly free and open to everyone?**  
Yes! Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, donors, and fabulous local restaurants, in this case, there IS such a thing as a free lunch. Everyone, is not only welcome, but wanted at Gratefull GVL.
- **Do we need to register or RSVP for the event?**  
Advance registration is not required. We simply ask that you check in at one of our welcome stations anytime between 11:30am and 1:30pm to sign in, get your colored sticker, get in the food line and grab a seat.
- **Can I eat as much as I want and what happens to the leftover food?**  
Once the bulk of attendees have been served, we welcome anyone who would like more to go back through the line as many times as they'd like. Any leftover food will be safely transported and shared with local homeless shelters and Mill Village Ministries FoodShare Program.
- **What happens if it rains?**  
The event will happen rain or shine, but, in the event of rain, the site will be moved from the Main Street Bridge to the covered concourse at Fluor Field.
- **Who is making the food and what food safety precautions are being taken?**  
All food will be prepared and transported by generous local restaurants, in keeping with the highest levels of food safety.
- **Will there be options for vegetarian, vegan, and gluten free attendees?**  
Yes, we will do our best to accommodate dietary restrictions.
- **How many people do you expect?**  
We are expecting more than 5,000 people to come together to enjoy a delicious meal, fabulous fellowship, and a spirit of harmony and goodwill.
- **Will there be security for the event?**  
We expect this to be a safe and fun environment, but, as with any large city event, the Greenville Police Department will patrol and help with traffic management, crowd control and any other public safety related needs.

- **Is there a bag policy?**  
No, not unless the rain plan is in action, which would then require following Fluor Field's bag policy which states that one clear bag is allowed, no larger than 12" x 6" x 12".
- **May I bring my pet?**  
No animals are allowed.
- **Is smoking allowed?**  
Gratefull GVL is a non-smoking event.
- **Where are the restrooms located?**  
Restrooms are located in Falls Park (take the elevator down at Spill the Beans) or at the Courtyard Marriott behind the water fountain (near Broad St. and Main Street), and near Papi's Tacos off the Riverwalk.
- **Where should I park?**  
Parking is available in any nearby City of Greenville. Please see the City of Greenville parking map for details.
- **Can I bring a dish to share?**  
Due to food safety standards, we can only serve food donated from restaurants.
- **How can I donate?**  
If you would like to contribute or help out, please go to [www.gratefullgvl.org](http://www.gratefullgvl.org) for more information and instructions in advance of the event. We will also welcome donations the day of the event at the welcome table and will accept credit card, cash, or check.
- **Am I able to sit with the people with whom I came?**  
While we will certainly try to seat small groups of 2 or 3 together, because the purpose of the Gratefull GVL is to meet and connect with people you do not know, we encourage everyone to sit with groups other than their own. To help facilitate that, each attendee will be assigned a color coded sticker at the welcome table and asked to seek out and sit and chat with others who have the same color sticker.
- **What if I don't speak English?**  
There will Spanish translators available at the Broad Street welcome table only.
- **Why was the event created?**  
After learning of a similar event in Chattanooga, Tennessee, founders Mary Beth Cross of Gather GVL and Laura Halter Sardone, decided to roll up their sleeves and bring a family-style gathering to Greenville with the goal of creating greater connection, empathy and community spirit to our area. The goal is to bring strangers together to gain a better understanding of one another and become friends over a shared meal, but, as the name

implies, Gratefull GVL is also about celebrating the many blessings we share and the place we call home. With that in mind, Thanksgiving seemed like the perfect time to do it.

- **Why is it important now?**

It's obvious that we live in what can seem like very polarized times, but the goal of this event is to remind us that so much more unites than divides us and to tell the world that our city is inclusive and welcoming to everyone and rejects division.

- **Are there other events similar to this?**

To our knowledge, Gratefull GVL is the only event of its type and scale held anywhere in the United States.

- **Will it be annual?**

Yes, Gratefull GVL will be held every year on the Monday before Thanksgiving, barring any future global pandemic.

- **Is Gratefull GVL a fundraiser?**

Gratefull GVL is a handshake, not a handout, so it is not intended to be a fundraiser. The money donated will be used to create event itself. However, any funds donated that exceed the amount needed, as well as any leftover food, will be shared with our friends at Mill Village Ministries to support their ongoing FoodShare program.

- **How are you paying for this?**

Gratefull GVL is wholly funded through the generosity of our sponsors and donors. If you would like to help, please visit [www.gratefullgvl.org](http://www.gratefullgvl.org).