

**Issue 2**  
**April 2017**



#### **Board Members**

Hope Wittmer, President

Patrick Bryant, Secretary

Steven Smith, Treasurer

Yvonne Anderson

Chuck Hailey

Bill Ramaskewich

Linda Ratschan

Patti Stewart

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## ***A Message from Hope***

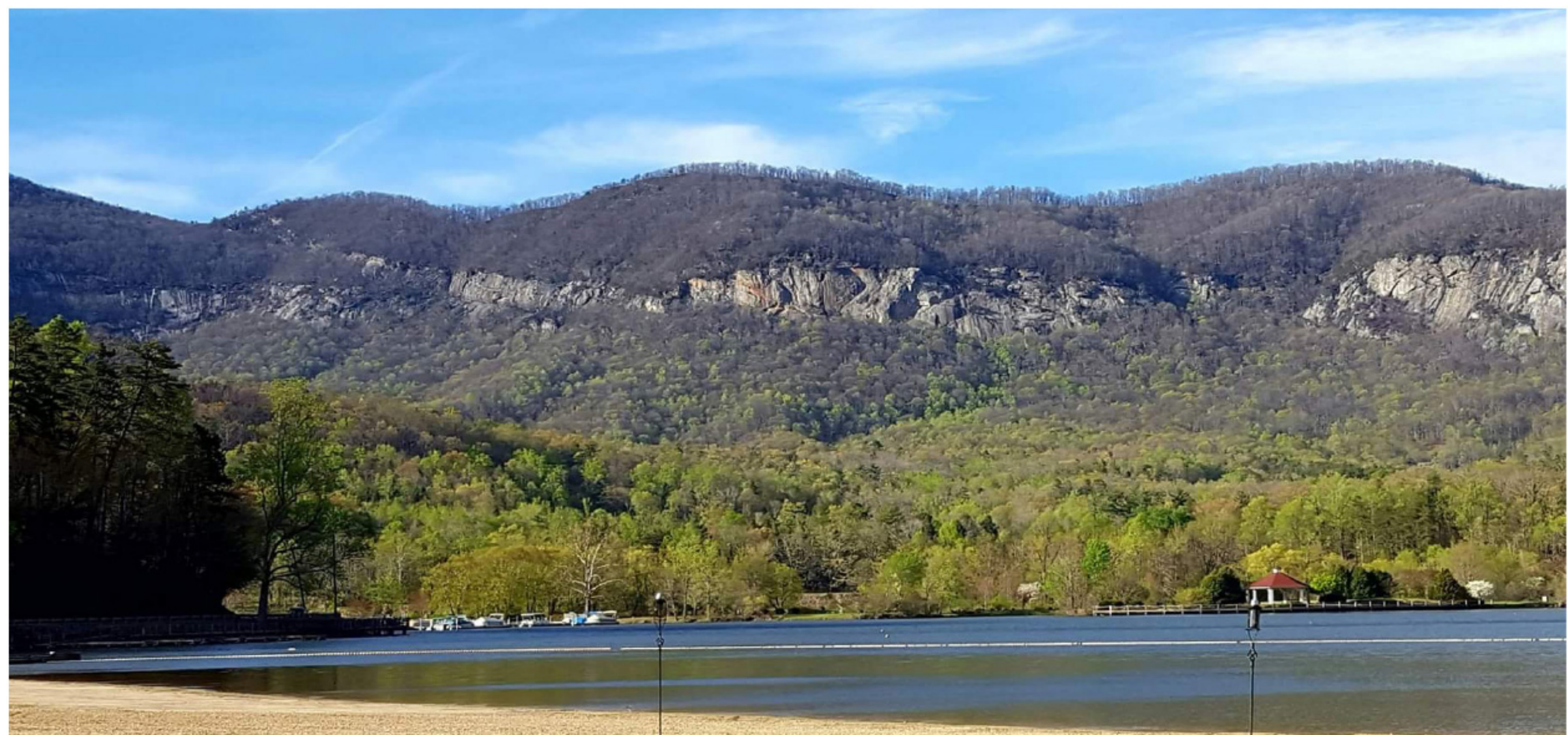
*Submitted by Hope Wittmer*

Spring is in the air around Lake Lure and with it comes change! The change of seasons brings warmer weather, colorful trees and flowers, and families spending time out of doors.

At Outreach we're seeing some changes too. The HNGO Board has some new members, replacing two longstanding members. On page 2 you can read about those who moved on and those who have recently joined the Board.

Additionally, with a grant from an anonymous donor, we've hired an Outreach Manager for the first time. This will allow us to focus on the long-term sustainability of our Outreach services. Linda Ratschan brings years of volunteer experience to the role and jumped right in on day one.

Outreach cannot effectively operate without the generous support from local residents, churches, businesses and volunteers. On behalf of the Board, *thank you* for the monetary and in-kind donations, as well as the time you've provided so graciously, enabling us to serve community members that need all of us the most. Wishing you and your family a wonderful spring!



***Happiness...consists in giving, and in serving others.***

***- Henry Drummond***

## Meet the Outreach Board of Directors



(Absent from picture: Yvonne Anderson)

Pat Cook and Ursula Harris recently left the Board after years of service. We are so grateful for their contributions to the Board. The new Board includes Hope Wittmer, President (2013); Patrick Bryant, Secretary (2014); Steven Smith, Treasurer (2016); Yvonne Anderson (2016); Chuck Hailey (2008); Bill Ramaskewich (2016), Linda Ratschan (2010); and Patti Stewart (2016). We are able to capitalize on the unique experiences each member brings as we implement new strategies to help our community members.

## Special Thanks

Souper Bowl Sunday was another big success! Six of our local churches collected 500 pounds of canned goods for the Food For Kids Program. Special thanks to all and to the members of Transfiguration who donated the most goods. Special thanks to all of the churches that provided financial support for Souper Bowl Sunday. Thank you!



The Hickory Nut Gorge Foundation generously donated \$1400 to support the Food For Kids Program. It was a special day as the Board accepted a check from Michael Frierman, HNGF Chair. Thank you to the Foundation!



(Hickory Nut Gorge Foundation Presentation of Check)

Ursula Harris, Board member and volunteer since 2002, made the difficult decision to leave Outreach and move on to new opportunities. Ursula has been a mainstay since Outreach was a part of Shepherd's Care, and performed just about every function possible. Although we wish her well, we sure are going to miss her smiling face and caring nature. Thank you for all you've done Ursula, and best of luck as you move into your next chapter!



## Shrimp & Grits Fundraiser: A Night of Family, Friends, Fun and Food



The Shrimp & Grits Fundraiser had a great turnout with 165 tickets sold (25 more than last year). Despite a little bit of wind at the Pavilion on the Beach, everyone had a great time and feasted on Shrimp & Grits supplied by the Lake Lure Inn and treats provided by BI-LO and our volunteers.

*Shrimp & Grits (con't.)*



*Who We Served – Q1 2017*

*Food Pantry:*

Submitted by Jennifer Spence

The Food Pantry provides a selection of healthy food options, toiletries and paper products. Clients shop once a month for a 3 – 5 day supply of the food items that best suits their families.

93%	White / Caucasian
6%	Black / African American
1%	Latino
56%	Male
44%	Female
62%	Children (0-17)
33%	Adults (18-64)
5%	Seniors (65+)
87	Average number of families served each month
337	Average number of individuals served each month

*Food For Kids:*

Submitted by Linda Ratschan

The Food For Kids Program provides school-age children with well-balanced, healthy food for breakfast, lunch and snacks each weekend during the school year.

6	Average number of children receiving weekday school lunches
39	Average number of children receiving weekend backpacks

## *How You Can Help*

Your donations are what make HNGO successful. We appreciate any and all of your support. Below are ways you can help!

Make a tax-free monetary donation in any amount at any time. See the insert in this newsletter.

Adopt a Food For Kids recipient for \$35 per month during the school year.

Donate food to the Food Pantry or Food For Kids Program. Items needed include low sugar cereal, single serve oatmeal, individual raisins, soup, crackers, tuna fish, peanut butter, jelly, pasta, rice, toiletries and paper products.

## *2017 Calendar of Events*

May 27 – 29: Spring Arts and Crafts Festival

July 17 – August 7: School Supplies Drive

October 21 – 22: Fall Arts and Crafts Festival

November 6 - Angel Tree Start Date

November 20: Distribution of Thanksgiving Meals

December 1 – Last day to return Angel Tree Gifts

December 11 – 21: Distribution of Holiday Gift Cards, Meals and Angel Tree Gifts

## *About Hickory Nut Gorge Outreach: Our Mission*

Hickory Nut Gorge Outreach is a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization serving families in the Hickory Nut Gorge community, which extends into four counties. Our mission is to help eliminate hunger and provide emergency services with love and compassion to those in need that live in our community. HNG Outreach is solely funded through donations from generous members of our community, fundraisers, and local food drives. HNG Outreach does not receive any federal funds. Food and other products are purchased at a minimal cost from the MANNA Food Bank (a Feeding America partner), as well as at local stores. All Outreach programs and activities are fully supported by 50+ volunteers.

