

Issue 4
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A Message from Hope

It's been a great summer, filled with family, friends and fun. Everyone enjoyed the beauty offered in our wonderful community. We had a very successful School Supplies Drive, and Outreach children went back to school with a backpack filled with the required supplies. Now autumn is here in beautiful Lake Lure! For Outreach, that means preparing for the Arts & Crafts Festival and getting ready for the holidays. The Festival is our largest fundraiser, and has a significant impact on our ability to serve those in need in our community.

The last three months of the year are always the busiest at Outreach as we create plans to make the holidays special for our clients' families, and especially for their children. Of course, at the same time, the Food Pantry and Food for Kids Programs run without a hiccup. In this newsletter, you can learn about our holiday activities, the calendar of events, and ways you can help.

Once again, on behalf of the Board, we want to thank each and every one of you for your continued support of Outreach. We just can't be successful without your generosity. Thank you for all you do to enable us to help those in need. Wishing you and your family a beautiful holiday season!



“The Service you do for others is the rent you pay for your room here on Earth.” – Muhammad Ali



The Fall Arts & Crafts Festival is Right Around the Corner

Over 80 artisans will have their products on display at the Fall Arts & Crafts Festival on October 21 – 22. Bring your family and friends, and join us for the largest Outreach fundraiser of the year! All proceeds from the Spring and Autumn Arts Festivals go directly to the Food Pantry, Food for Kids, and Financial Assistance Programs. Hope to see you at the Festival!

Here Come the Holidays!

As the holidays approach, Outreach is gearing up for the busiest time of the year. The holidays can be a real challenge for many of our clients who are unable to purchase food and gifts for their children after paying bills. At Outreach, we want to ensure our families can make the holidays a special time for their loved ones. Our comprehensive holiday program continues to evolve and this year will include Thanksgiving Meal Baskets, Christmas Meal Gift Cards and Angel Tree Gifts for children 16 and under. As always, our generous community helps to make the holidays special for our families. Please see the Calendar of Events on page 4 for 2017 dates.

You can help this year by:

- Donating food to local churches sponsoring Outreach H.O.P.E bags
- Donating food for Thanksgiving meal baskets
- Selecting a child or children from our Angel Tree and purchasing gifts for them

- Making a financial donation to our Holiday Program



Do You Know About Amazon Smile?

If you're like most of us, you love to shop on Amazon. Amazon will donate .5% of each of your purchases to your favorite charity. Just go to smile.amazon.com, log in, search for Hickory Nut Gorge Community Church Outreach Inc (our legal name) and select it. Then go to smile.amazon.com for all of your purchases. The shopping experience will be the same as you're used to with amazon.com. We would love your support.

The Angels Tree Program.....Help Brighten Up A Child's Holiday!

On November 6, the Angel Tree will once again be on display at the Outreach office. Donors can select their Angel(s) and purchase gifts, or if preferred, can donate funds and an Outreach volunteer will purchase gifts. All donations should be dropped off at the Outreach office by December 1. Thank you in advance for your generosity and for putting a smile on so many children and families!



Special Thanks

- To all individuals, businesses and churches that donated to our School Supplies Drive. 80 children were outfitted with brand new backpacks and supplies to start the new school year. 24 children at Lake Lure Classical Academy received two shirts each.
- To all individuals, businesses and churches that provided financial support to our programs.
- Lake Lure Lions Club
- Fairfield Mountains Chapel
- Bat Cave River Cottages
- Lake Lure Olympiad



Trust & Estate Planning

As Trust and Estate planning is occurring, please keep Hickory Nut Gorge Outreach in mind.

Look for information about our new Scholarship Program in the January 2018 newsletter.



Cost Savings

Beginning calendar year 2018, we will no longer send letters for each donation you make. We will instead send an annual statement for all donations made during 2018 in early January 2019. This will be more efficient for you and will help us reduce mailing costs. To further eliminate costs, if you have an email address, please send your name, address and email address to hngoutreach@gmail.com. We will then email your annual donation statement. We appreciate your support.

Who We Served – Food Pantry: January – September 2017

90%	White / Caucasian
10%	Black / African American
0%	Latino
55%	Male
45%	Female
57%	Children (0-17)
37%	Adults (18-64)
6%	Seniors (65+)
82	Average number of families served each month
307	Average number of individuals served each month

Who We Served – Food for Kids: January – September 2017

6	Average # of children receiving weekday school lunches
40	Average # of children receiving weekend backpacks

2017 Calendar of Events

- October 6: H.O.P.E. Bag distribution to Churches
- October 21 – 22: Autumn Arts & Crafts Festival
- November 3: Last day to drop off H.O.P.E. Bags to Outreach
- November 6: Angel Tree Gifts – Select your Angels
- November 20: Distribution of Thanksgiving meals
- December 1: Last day to drop off Angel Tree gifts to Outreach
- December 7 – 18: Distribution of Christmas gift cards, meals and Angel Tree gifts
- December 19 – January 4: HNGO Office Closed



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.

Visit us at <https://hickorynutgorgeoutreach.org>