

**Issue 1**  
**January 2018**



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***A Message from Hope***

Welcome to winter in Lake Lure! Although it's often cold, cloudy and just a little bit snowy, it's the perfect time to end a terrific year at Hickory Nut Gorge Outreach and start 2018 with a lot of optimism. The last quarter of 2017 was our busiest yet, filled with activities that raised funds for Outreach, while serving more clients than ever in the holiday season. As you read all about the holiday action throughout this newsletter, please know that this wonderful work cannot be done without you, our donors. You made it possible for us to serve more clients than ever with a delicious Thanksgiving dinner, Christmas gift cards and Angel Tree gifts for the children in our community. On behalf of the Outreach Board, a heartfelt thanks for your continued support. Sending warmest wishes for a wonderful new year!

***Outreach Volunteers are the Best***

Outreach volunteers continue to be the mainstay of Outreach. From ordering and buying food and other supplies, helping unload the MANNA food delivery truck, stocking the Food Pantry, prepping boxes for the Food for Kids Program, sorting school supplies, assisting clients as they shop, completing the data entry process and generating reports, our volunteers do it all with a smile on their faces! In 2017, volunteers donated 4000+ hours of their time. A warm thank you goes to every volunteer that dedicates her/his time to make the lives of our clients better every day.



***“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others”***

***- Gandhi***

### *Fall Arts & Crafts Festival Success*

Once again, the Fall Arts & Crafts Festival was a huge success. As the largest fundraiser for the Hickory Nut Gorge Outreach, proceeds from the Festival allow us to help hundreds of those in need each year. Over 80 artisans had their beautiful products on display at the Festival, and the beautiful weather brought a record number of locals and visitors to join in the fun!



HNGO Information Booth

### *2017 Holiday Activities Update*

The number of families served over the holidays increased significantly over last year. Thanks to the donations of our wonderful community members, churches and business partners, we were able to accommodate all of our clients, despite the increase and a number of last minute requests.

- # of families who received Thanksgiving Meal boxes: 182 (10% increase)
- # of families who received Christmas gift cards/meals: 189 (19% increase)
- # of children who received Angel Tree gifts: 206 (14% increase)



Thanksgiving Food Box Assembly



Mt. Nebo Thanksgiving Pick Up



HNGO Angel Tree



Everette & Jenny Chapman, Al & Veronica Spitzer



HNGO Volunteer Holiday & Thank You Luncheon

### *Reintroducing the Outreach Scholarship Program*



This spring Outreach will introduce a refreshed scholarship program, designed to help meet the financial needs of our clients attending secondary school programs. Scholarships will be awarded to a small number of students who meet specific criteria focused on ability and intent to learn. Students of all ages attending community and four year college programs, as well as technical and vocational schools, can apply for scholarships. Donors will have the opportunity to specify if they would like their donation designated to the Scholarship Fund.

### *Reminders for 2018*

#### **Annual Contribution Statements:**

Beginning this year, we will send you an annual statement for all of your 2018 contributions. With this new, more efficient process, we will no longer send individual contribution receipts. Your first statement will be mailed at the end of January 2019. If you have an email address, please send your name, address and email address to [hngoutreach@gmail.com](mailto:hngoutreach@gmail.com). We will then email your annual donation statement. We appreciate your support in helping us reduce costs.

#### **Amazon Smile:**

Amazon donates .05% of each of your purchases to your favorite charity. Just go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), log in, search for the charity of your choice and select it. Hickory Nut Gorge Outreach is one of the charities available to be selected, and we would love your support. Once you select your charity, go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) for all of your purchases.

#### **Trust & Estate Planning:**

Please keep Hickory Nut Gorge Outreach in mind as you set up Trust and Estate planning.

### *Special Thanks*

- To all individuals, businesses and churches that provided financial support
- To the Blue Ridge Humane Society for their monthly donation of dog/cat food
- To the organizations who made significant donations or lent their time:
  - Lake Lure Olympiad Committee
  - Lake Lure Lions Club, Angel Tree gift wrappers extraordinaire
  - New Beginnings Historic Farm for their financial donation and donation of a fresh Christmas tree and gift card to a HNGO client
- To Fairfield Mountains Chapel WOC for adopting 100 Angels

## Special Thanks (cont.)

- To the following organizations for holding food drives:
  - Lake Lure Classical Academy
  - National Honor Society: 1700 items
  - Riverbend Community: 937 pounds
  - Northland Cable: Over 300 pounds
  - Lake Lure Baptist Church, who helped sort and box all of the proceeds from the food drives.



Riverbend Food Drive



Lake Lure Olympiad



Northland Cable Food Drive



Lake Lure Classical Academy Food Drive



New Beginnings Historic Farm Xmas Tree Fundraiser



Lake Lure Baptist Church Youth Group



Lake Lure Lions Club



HNGO Volunteer Thank You Luncheon

*Who We Served – Food Pantry:  
January – December 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+)
90	Average number of families served each month
337	Average number of individuals served each month

*Who We Served – Food for Kids:  
January – December 2017*

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

*2017 Calendar of Events*

February 4: Souper Bowl Sunday

April 20: Shrimp & Grits Fundraiser at the Lake Lure Beach Pavillion

May 26 – May 28: Lake Lure Spring Arts & Crafts Festival

October 20 – 21: Lake Lure Fall Arts & Crafts Festival

November 19: Thanksgiving Distribution



*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>