

Issue 2
April 2019



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A Message from Hope

Spring has sprung in Lake Lure! Yes, there has been a lot of rain, but it's brought beautiful new growth and colors all around. The same has happened at Outreach. The new facility opened on February 4th, and just a few short months later, it feels like we have been there forever. Most importantly, our volunteers can provide a more effective and efficient shopping experience for Outreach clients.

This year's annual Shrimp & Grits fundraiser was a huge success. Despite the winds, over 200 attended the event. And of course, before you know it, Memorial Day weekend will be here, and we'll be hosting our largest fundraiser of the year, the Spring Arts & Crafts Festival. We hope you will visit and spend some time with the 100+ vendors selling their wonderful handmade crafts, and enjoying the delicious food and entertainment. We can't wait to see you there!

On behalf of the Outreach Board, thank you for all of you do enable the organization to operate so effectively. Local residents, churches, and businesses continue to generously donate financially and provide their time to serve those in need in the Gorge community. Wishing you and your families a beautiful spring!



*“When you open your heart to giving, angels fly to your door.
— Author Unknown*

About Our New Facility

Outreach volunteers spent over 1000 hours cleaning, painting, organizing, packing and unpacking, and the new facility is now fully up and running. The Food Pantry is now double in size, and there is plenty of additional space for storage. With support from grants awarded by the RHI Legacy Foundation and CFWNC, Outreach now has two shopping areas, a consultation room and plenty of space for storage. The storage space enables us to shop for sales, purchase items in large quantities when appropriate, and manage the inventory. Additionally, clients now receive 5 -7 days of food per month, up from 3 – 5 days.

A Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting ceremony was held February 6th, and the Outreach Board welcomed community leaders and residents to the monthly Hickory Nut Gorge Chamber of Commerce Recharge Meeting held at Outreach in March. Both were wonderful opportunities to educate the public about the changes made at Outreach and the services provided to community members in need of support. Getting to showcase the new facility was great fun. Thanks to everyone that came out!









Special Thanks

- To Hickory Nut Gorge Foundation for awarding Outreach with a grant in the amount of \$1,500.
- To the MANNA Foodbank for their donation of a three-door cooler.
- To Kevin Honbarger and the wonderful group of young men from Carmel Christian School that helped move boxes from the old facility.
- To everyone that donated chunky soup and other canned goods to Souper Bowl Sunday drive.
- To the Blue Ridge Humane Society for their monthly donation of dog/cat food.
- To all individuals, businesses, organizations and churches that provided financial support to Outreach programs.



Kevin Honbarger & Carmel Christian School students

Ways You Can Help Outreach

Outreach always accepts in-kind donations. The following are the items that we can accept that are most needed for the Food Pantry and Food for Kids Program.

- Low sugar cereal
- Chef Boyardee products
- Chunky soup
- Canned tuna and chicken
- Canned fruit
- Peanut butter and jelly
- Juice boxes and large containers
- Condiments – ketchup, mayo, mustard
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Deodorant for women/men
- Bar Soap
- Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Small packages cookies/crackers/fruit
- Diapers and wipes

Who We Served – Food Pantry:

January – March 2019

90%	White / Caucasian
9%	Black / African American
1%	Latino
54%	Male
46%	Female
61%	Children (0-17)
32%	Adults (18-64)
7%	Seniors (65+)
100	Average number of families served each month
386	Average number of individuals served each month

Who We Served – Food for Kids:

January – March 2019

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

2019 Calendar of Events

- 5/10 Classic Boat Parade
- 5/11 Classic Boat & Car Show
- 5/25, 26 & 27 Spring Arts & Crafts Festival
- 6/8 Lake Lure Olympiad
- 7/10 School Supply Drive Begins
- 7/29 School Supply Distribution to Students Begins



***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. Outreach is solely funded through donations from generous members of our community, fundraisers, and local food drives. 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 40+ volunteers.

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