

Issue 4
October 2019



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A Message from Hope

It's been a fantastic summer in the Hickory Nut Gorge. We hope you and your families had the opportunity to experience all that Lake Lure has to offer. At Outreach, we just concluded another very successful School Supplies Drive, and our client's children went back to school with backpacks filled with the required supplies. The Autumn Arts & Crafts Festival also wrapped up and it was outstanding. See more information about both of these events on the following pages.

Before we know it, the holidays will be here, so we have shifted gears quickly. Preparations are underway for the Thanksgiving meal distribution, Christmas gift card distribution and the Angel Tree Gift Program. We anticipate serving a record number of clients this holiday season. See the information in this newsletter for details about how you can help.

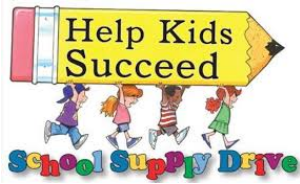
Western North Carolina is one of most food insecure regions in the country, and one in four children don't know where their next meal is going to come from. It goes without saying that we need you. Thank you for all do to support Outreach. Your financial and in-kind contributions are what enable us to continue to serve clients in the Gorge. Wishing you and your family a wonderful fall and happy holiday season!



“There is no exercise better for the heart than reaching down and lifting people up.” - John Holmes

School Supply Drive Update

Once again, another record was broken! 114 children received a backpack and all of the school supplies necessary to start the school year. 26 children received two shirts each as part of their LLCA uniform. Thank you to everyone that provided school supplies or financial donations!



Autumn Arts & Crafts Festival Update



Hopefully you, your family and friends were able to join the hundreds of visitors to the Autumn Arts & Crafts Festival. It was great to see so many returning artisans while welcoming a number of new ones. Despite a little rain on Saturday, the Festival was a huge success. Special thanks to all of our entertainers, who donated their time and did a wonderful job.



Special Thanks

- To the RHI Legacy Foundation for the very generous grant awarded to Outreach. The funding will be used to pay for additional food, fruits and vegetables provided to clients. A portion will also be used to replace existing hardware and software.
- To Riverbend and the Upper Hickory Nut Gorge Community Center for their organized collections for the School Supply 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 and in-kind support to Outreach Programs.

their loved ones. Items include a turkey or ham, vegetables, mashed potatoes, stuffing, gravy, dinner rolls, butter, and a cake mix with frosting.

- Christmas Gift Cards: Each family receives a \$35 VISA gift card. They generally use the funds to purchase items for their Christmas dinner.
- Angel Tree Program: Each child aged 0 – 17 receives gifts from donors. Children 12 and under receive a toy and clothing item and children 13 – 16 receive a gift card. Gifts are wrapped and ready for families. If you'd like to participate in the Angel Tree, you can select a child or children beginning 11/4.



Jimmy Dancy, RHI presenting grant award to Steven Smith

Here Come the Holidays!

The holidays can be a real challenge for many of our clients, many of whom are unable to purchase food and gifts after paying bills. At Outreach we will be helping them make the holidays special for their families. With that in mind, we want to share three very special events that happen during the holiday season. If you'd like to donate funds, time or in-kind donations, give Outreach a call.

- Thanksgiving: Outreach provides food items to each family, enabling them to prepare a full Thanksgiving meal for

**Who We Served – Food Pantry:
January – September 2019**

88%	White / Caucasian
11%	Black / African American
1%	Latino
52%	Male
48%	Female
55%	Children (0-17)
38%	Adults (18-64)
7%	Seniors (65+)
97	Average number of families served each month
348	Average number of individuals served each month

**Who We Served – Food for Kids:
January – September 2019**

8	Average # of children receiving weekday school lunches
34	Average # of children receiving weekend backpacks

2019 Calendar of Events

11/4	Angel Tree Donor Selection
11/25	Thanksgiving Distribution
12/2	Final Day for Angel Tree Drop Off From Donors
12/5-12/19	Angel Tree Distribution
12/20-1/1/20	Outreach Closed
1/2/20	First Day Open

***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>