

Issue 3
July 2019

HICKORY NUT GORGE

OUTREACH

serving needs with love & compassion

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A Message from Hope

It was a very busy Spring at Outreach, and Summer is bringing more of the same. The very hot and sunny weather over Memorial Day weekend brought a wonderful turnout to the Spring Arts & Crafts Festival. Thank you to everyone who visited with the artisans, volunteered to help with the huge list of tasks, or just took a stroll through our beautiful Town Center. Of course, we're now on to the next big activity. Although it seems like the school year just ended, Outreach is gearing up for the annual School Supply Drive. Read more about the Drive in the newsletter.

On behalf of the Board, thank you for your continued support of Outreach. Whether you provided your personal time to help serve clients, or made a monetary or in-kind donation, Outreach just can't be successful without you and all of our community members. Hoping you and your family enjoy the rest of the summer!



“Set your heart on doing good. Do it over and over again, and you will be filled with joy.” – Buddha

Remembering Kevin Cooley



Many residents have known Kevin as a neighbor and the beloved Mayor of our town. Here at Outreach, Kevin was a great advocate for our clients, and served as the Coordinator for the Lake Lure Arts & Crafts

Festival. For many years, Kevin, along with his wife, Yvonne, ensured that the Spring and Fall Festivals became premier events. That success has provided long term benefits to Outreach and our clients. You are sorely missed, special friend.

Spring Arts & Crafts Festival Update



Did you make it to the Festival? If so, you were one of many people that enjoyed the very hot, humid and sunny weather! Once again, locals and visitors had the opportunity to check out returning and new artisans, great entertainment, and great weather. As they always do, volunteers came together to direct the parking, man the Outreach Booth, and donate raffle prizes. The Festival serves as the largest fundraiser for Outreach, and we are so appreciative of all of the support. Hoping to see you in October for the Fall Festival!

Welcome New Outreach Board Members



Linda Stonecash is the new Outreach Treasurer. A graduate of Purdue University, she brings years of experience performing accounting and tax work. Linda and her husband, Chris, moved to Lake Lure from Minnesota in 2017. Their daughter lives in France, and their son lives in Saudi Arabia.

Matt Dolan, originally from Memphis, Michigan, and most recently, Akron, Ohio, moved to Lake Lure with his partner, Sandra, in 2015. Matt is a graduate of Western Michigan University, and retired from Marathon Petroleum Company after 35 years in Marketing and Transportation Logistics. Most recently, Matt served as the President of the Lake Lure Lions Club. He has two daughters and four grandchildren.

School Supplies Drive Begins

Each year, Outreach provides a backpack and all of the school supplies necessary to get clients' children off to a great start to the school year. Clients will begin picking up supplies for their children on July 29. If you would like to donate supplies, these are the items most needed: Backpacks for middle school and high school children (padded for laptops), black sharpies, graphing paper, #2 pencils and colored pencils, pocket folders, and wide ruled and college ruled loose leaf paper. As always, monetary donations are accepted as well. Thank you for your support!



Special Thanks

- To the MANNA Food Bank for their donation of two commercial grade freezers and one commercial grade refrigerator.
- To the Hickory Nut Gorge Foundation and the Food Lion Corporation for the generous grants they awarded to Outreach.
- 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.



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 – June 2019

90%	White / Caucasian
10%	Black / African American
1%	Latino
53%	Male
47%	Female
59%	Children (0-17)
34%	Adults (18-64)
7%	Seniors (65+)
99	Average number of families served each month
366	Average number of individuals served each month

Who We Served – Food for Kids:

January – June 2019

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

2019 Calendar of Events

7/10	School Supply Drive Begins
7/29	School Supply Distribution to Students Begins
8/9-8/11	Lake Lure Olympiad
10/19-10/20	Autumn Arts & Crafts Festival
11/4	Angel Tree Donor Selection
11/25	Thanksgiving Distribution
11/29	Final Day for Angel Tree Drop Off From Donors
12/9-12/19	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>