

**Issue 1**  
**January 2020**

# HICKORY NUT GORGE

OUTREACH  
*serving needs with love & compassion*

## **Board Members**

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## *A Message from Hope*

I hope you had the opportunity to spend good quality time with family and friends over the holiday season. At Outreach, we wrapped up the very busy final months of the year and are beginning 2020 with a lot of optimism. The last quarter of 2019 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!



*“A kind gesture can reach a wound that only compassion can heal.”*

*- Steve Maraboli*

### *2020 Holiday Activities Update*

The number of families Outreach 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. It warms our hearts to now that clients were able to share in the holiday spirit with their families.

- # of families who received Thanksgiving Meal boxes: 201
- # of families who received Christmas gift cards/meals: 210
- # of children who received Angel Tree gifts: 248



### *Outreach Volunteers Are The Best*

Outreach volunteers continue to be the mainstay at Outreach. From ordering and buying food and other supplies, helping unload the MANNNA 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 45+ volunteers do it all with a smile on their faces! In 2019, volunteers donated 6000+ hours of their time. During the last quarter, volunteers spent hundreds of hours helping Outreach to enable families to have a

wonderful holiday season. A warm thanks goes to every volunteer that dedicates her/his time to make the lives of our clients better every day.



### *How You Can Help*

At Outreach, we always look for community members interested in supporting the mission at Outreach. We have opportunities to serve on the Board of Directors as well assist in many volunteer activities. If you are passionate about helping others and sharing your ideas, please contact the Outreach office during regular business hours.



### *Reminders For 2020*

- **Annual Contribution Statements:** By the end of January, you will receive your annual statement that identifies your donations for 2019.
- **Amazon Smile:** Amazon donates .05% of each of your purchases to your favorite charity. Just go to [smile.amazon.com](https://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](https://smile.amazon.com) for all of your purchases.

**Special Thanks**

- To the Gateway Wellness Foundation, who provided a very generous grant for the Food for Kids Program
- To the Upper Hickory Nut Gorge Community Center, for their generous donation that well exceeded the goal they set for themselves
- To the Lake Lure Olympiad Committee, for their generous donation
- To the Ingles Corporate Team and local store manager Bob Cassano, who designated Hickory Nut Gorge Outreach as the charity of their choosing. Ingles donated hundreds of food items to the Food Pantry
- To everyone that selected a child from the Angel Tree and provided so many gifts to make the holiday special for our children
- To the Lake Lure Lions Club, who wrapped and organized gifts for our Angels
- To Mr. Lake Lure, for the donation of linens and towels
- To the Blue Ridge Humane Society for their on-going donation of dog/cat food
- To the Lake Lure Classical Academy National Honor Society, who collected in excess of 3000 cans (Picture Below)
- To all of our local churches for their support throughout the year, including many of whom made significant donations during the holiday season.
- To all individuals and businesses that provided financial support to our programs



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

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 2019**

11	Average # of children receiving weekday school lunches
46	Average # of children receiving weekend backpacks



***2020 Calendar of Events***

- 2/4 Souper Bowl Sunday
- 4/24 Shrimp & Grits Fundraiser at the Lake Lure Beach
- 5/15 Lake Lure Boat Parade and Dinner
- 5/16 Lake Lure Boat Show
- 5/23 – 5/25 Lake Lure Spring Arts & Crafts Festival



***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>