

Issue 3
July 2020

HICKORY NUT GORGE

OUTREACH
serving needs with love & compassion

Board Members

Hope Wittmer, President
Patrick Bryant, Secretary
Linda Stonecash, Treasurer
Linda Ratschan, Outreach Manager
Matt Dolan
Bernadette Smith
Steven Smith
Patti Stewart

Newsletter Editor

Bernadette Smith

Contact Information

Address: 2556 Memorial Highway,
PO Box 634, Lake Lure NC 28746

Phone: (828) 625-4683

Email Address:
hngoutreach@gmail.com

Website Address:
<https://hickorynutgorgeoutreach.org>

A Message from Hope

Welcome to summertime in Lake Lure! Visitors are back and it sure looks like everyone is enjoying spending time outdoors. But this summer is different as we all continue to work through the challenges brought on by the spread of the corona virus. At Outreach, we are carefully following federal, state, and local recommendations -- in order to keep our clients and volunteers safe and healthy. Everyone has adapted to our new processes, particularly the curbside service, which limits physical contact.

Since the onset of COVID-19, and as a result of school closings and job losses, a number of new clients have begun to utilize Outreach services. With the support of our very generous community, we have welcomed them with open arms while continuing to provide our existing clients with the support they need. While some clients have returned to work, we are closely monitoring decisions that will be made about children going back to school later in the summer. Our annual School Supplies Drive is underway, and we will be ready to provide school children with all of the supplies they need to start the new school year.

The Outreach Board made the difficult decision to cancel the Autumn Arts & Crafts Festival. We believe this is in everyones best interest. See page 2 for more details.

Although we expect the impacts of COVID-19 to last for some time, we do look forward to the day when we return to a new normal, or something akin to "normal" – with our environment a bit quieter and a little less uncertainty. With that in mind, thank you for your continued generosity and enabling us to help those in need who need us the most. Outreach simply cannot exist without you!



“People will forget what you said, forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.” - Maya Angelou

Autumn Arts & Crafts Festival Cancelled

With all of the unknowns about COVID-19, and after discussions with the Mayor of Lake Lure and others, the Outreach Board made the difficult decision to cancel the Autumn Arts & Crafts Festival scheduled for October 17th and 18th. As our largest fundraisers of the year, not holding the Spring and Autumn Festivals presents a financial challenge for Outreach that we will need to overcome. We know it will be disappointing for our vendors, local residents and visitors to the area, but we believe this is the most responsible decision for the community and our volunteers.

School Supplies Drive

Although we do not yet know if children will be attending classes in person or through virtual learning, they will still need all the supplies to get them ready for a great year at school. We always appreciate your support with donations. The items below are those most needed and can be dropped off at the Outreach office by August 14.

- Erasers
- Backpacks
- Graphing Paper
- Binders (1", 1 ½", 2")
- Clorox Wipes and Hand Sanitizer
- College Rule and Wide Rule Paper



Ways You Can Help

It is more important than ever that we receive support from the Hickory Nut Gorge community. Here are ways you can help!

Financial Support

The best way you can help is through monetary donations. We have received financial support from grantors, churches and individuals throughout the community and it has helped us stay afloat as we add more clients and provide more food to those in need. 100% of your donation goes directly towards the Food Pantry and Food for Kids Programs, unless you specify one of our other programs.

Help Fill Our Shelves

If you would like to donate products, the items we need most are:

- Beef, chicken, pork in 1 to 1 ½ pound packages
- Canned meals: Ravioli, chicken and dumplings, beef stew
- Canned fruit: Fruit cocktail, pineapple, peaches, oranges
- Canned vegetables: Green beans, corn, mixed vegetables, peas
- Strawberry jelly
- Personal care items: Shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, bar soap, deodorant
- Pull Ups: 3T/4T or 4T/5T
- Baby wipes
- Laundry detergent and dish detergent



Highlighting the Upper Hickory Nut Gorge Community Center

Did you know the Upper Hickory Nut Gorge Community Center (UHGCC), located in Gerton, began the tradition of holding a monthly community dinner in 1958? Attendees have enjoyed a delicious meal while getting to know new neighbors. A huge supporter of Outreach, UHGCC drops off food every two weeks, and since March, has provided 2,429 pounds of products. We are so thankful for this wonderful organization!

Special Thanks

We are so grateful to those that make financial and in-kind donations to Outreach. This quarter, we are especially grateful to the wonderful people in the Hickory Nut Gorge community for their extra support during the COVID-19 crisis.

- To the RHI Legacy Foundation for a generous grant to be used for Outreach programs
- To the Lake Lure Lions Club and MANNA Foodbank, who provided financial support
- To the following organizations or individuals for their donations of amazing amounts of food products:
 - The Ingles Team, led by Bob Cassano
 - Rutherford Regional Medical Center: 13 boxes of food
- To the Blue Ridge Humane Society and P.A.W.S. for their ongoing donations of pet food products
- To all individuals, churches and businesses that provided financial support to our programs, especially during this unprecedented time
- And last but not least, to all of our wonderful volunteers who have provided so much time and effort though such a challenging situation



**Who We Served – Food Pantry:
January – June 2020**

90%	White / Caucasian
10%	Black / African American
0%	Latino
54%	Male
46%	Female
64%	Children (0-17)
30%	Adults (18-64)
6%	Seniors (65+)
100	Average number of families served each month
408	Average number of individuals served each month

**Who We Served – Food for Kids:
January – June 2020**

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

2020 Calendar of Events

- 8/14 Please drop off your School Supply donations to the Outreach
- 10/17-
- 10/18 Lake Lure Autumn Arts & Crafts Festival - CANCELLED
- 11/2 Angel Tree Donor selection begins
- 12/2 Final day for donors to drop off Angel Tree gifts to Outreach

***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>