



Issue 1
January 2021

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A Message from Hope

Here's hoping that you had a wonderful Holiday Season.

As we reflect on the year just passed -- with all of its challenges -- please remember that it was the compassion of our volunteers and donors throughout 2020 that made an especially positive impact on the lives of hundreds of grown-ups and children in our community. Hickory Nut Gorge Outreach clearly makes a difference; and the generosity of Outreach's donors made a difference in an otherwise-defeated outlook of those in need. Outreach will continue to assist the struggling members of our community throughout this new year by providing possibilities and encouragement for a better tomorrow for everyone.

And so, let's ring in 2021 with a renewed commitment to supporting our less-advantaged neighbors.



“To handle yourself, use your head; to handle others, use your heart.” -- Eleanor Roosevelt

Outreach Provides Thanksgiving Meals

Volunteers at Outreach boxed and distributed meals for 214 families for the 2020 Thanksgiving Holiday. Meals included all of the items for a traditional Thanksgiving dinner and clients had the choice of ordering a turkey or ham for their dinner. Thanks to the support of our community members, churches and business partners, these meals were made possible for our clients and their families to enjoy.



Christmas 2020 Activity

The Hickory Nut Gorge Community came through BIG buying gifts and providing gift cards for the Angel Tree Project. Outreach volunteers made extra shopping trips and the Lake Lure Lions Club wrapped a large number of presents. 248 Children received gifts and 210 families received gift cards for a Christmas meal. Thank you to everyone that provided gifts or cards that made the holiday special for so many families and children.



Special Thanks



- 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 all of our local churches for their support throughout the year.
- To the Rumbling Bald Fun and Friendship Group, for their generous donation.
- To all of our 2020 Grantors who provided funding to support Outreach through a very difficult year.
- To all individuals and businesses that provided financial support to our programs especially during this pandemic.
- To Mr. Lake Lure, for the donation of linens and towels.



Welcome New Board Members



Doug Stewart relocated to Lake Lure from Annapolis MD in 2017. A graduate of Towson University, Doug has been the owner/operator of retail, service and wholesale businesses for 30 years, with a concentration in sales training and inventory management. Doug's interests include automotive restoration, boating and skiing. Doug has been a volunteer at Outreach since 2017.



Karen King was born and raised in Minnesota, near the Twin Cities. In 1981, she moved to Mexico, living in Guadalajara, Puerto Vallarta, and Cabo San Lucas over the next 15 years. She taught preschool English, baked and sold cakes, and gave windsurfing lessons before getting into the restaurant business. Karen is fluent in

Spanish. She then moved back to Minnesota and began a 20-year career selling restaurant equipment, moving to Charlotte in 2001. She retired in 2016 and moved to Lake Lure with her husband Don. They both started volunteering at Outreach in 2017.

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. 100% of your donation goes directly towards the Food Pantry and Food for Kids Programs, unless you specify one of our other programs.

Who We Served – Food Pantry:

January – December 2020

90%	White / Caucasian
10%	Black / African American
0%	Latino
52%	Male
48%	Female
60%	Children (0-17)
33%	Adults (18-64)
7%	Seniors (65+)
102	Average number of families served each month
367	Average number of individuals served each month

Who We Served – Food for Kids:

January – December 2020

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

Reminders For 2021

- **Annual Contribution Statements:** By the end of January, you will receive your annual statement that identifies your donations for 2020.
- **Amazon Smile:** Amazon donates .05% of each of your purchases to your favorite charity. Just go to 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 for all of your purchases.

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>