



Issue 2
April 2021

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A Message from Hope

As Spring brings beautiful, vibrant, welcomed colors and perennial renewal to our Lake Lure community, in 2021 it also brought changes to the Hickory Nut Gorge Outreach. We welcome Karen King as the new Outreach Manager and send best wishes to our friend Linda Ratschan on her new adventures. Too, we have grown with recent changes on Outreach's Board of Directors, and celebrate new volunteers joining our team.

Happily, starting on May 1, 2021, the food pantry doors at Outreach will once again be open for clients to enter and shop for their needs. During COVID-19 restrictions, the efforts and flexibility of Outreach's volunteers has been extraordinary. Our volunteers never missed a beat and exemplified Outreach's commitment of "serving needs with love and compassion." Thank you everyone for supporting Outreach throughout the pandemic.



"Where flowers bloom, so does hope." – Lady Bird Johnson

Ongoing Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers are the mainstay of Outreach. If not for them, Outreach would be unable to successfully operate and help so many in our community. In 2020, 40+ volunteers worked 5000+ hours supporting all of our programs.

We are always looking for new volunteers who come with fresh ideas and perspectives. Tasks are generally easy and always rewarding. Some of our opportunities are:

- Staffing in the Food Pantry on a regular basis, assisting clients as they shop and stocking shelves.



- Staffing the Food Pantry on an On-Call Basis.
- Staffing in the Food for Kids Program on a regular basis, preparing weekend backpacks and school lunches.



- Staffing for Fund raising and events.



For information on volunteering visit our website at <https://hickorynutgorgeoutreach.org> or call 828-625-4683.

Welcome New Volunteers

In 2021, Outreach welcomes new volunteers:

Dawn Lytle
Candice Norrie
Dee Rooney
Dawn Ryder
Barbara Weige

Donor 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. A Donation Pledge card and return envelope are included with the newsletter for your convenience.

Special Thanks



Linda Ratschan started as a volunteer at Shepherd’s Care (now Hickory Nut Gorge Outreach) in 2010 and went on to serve as the Outreach Manager. Linda built the Food for Kids Program, managed the daily operations of the Food Pantry and Families in Need of Support (F.I.N.S.) along with many other duties. Linda has made the decision to relocate closer to family to help with her grandchildren.

In Linda’s note to volunteers she wrote. “We are so lucky to have talented, devoted volunteers, who have been such a help to me over the years. Thank you so much for all you have done for Outreach and me. I will miss you all.” We will miss you too!



Steve and Bernadette (Bernie) Smith joined Outreach as volunteers in 2016 and soon after became Board Members. Steve’s banking experience was an excellent fit for the Treasurer position and Bernie used her experience with personnel management to help organize volunteers at Outreach. Together they worked on researching and applying for grants which have been used to bring Outreach to a higher level of service for the community.

Steve and Bernie made the difficult decision to leave Lake Lure to move closer to family. They leave behind a legacy of positive improvements in Outreach’s operation. Thank You!

*Who We Served – Food Pantry:
January – March 2021*

93%	White / Caucasian
7%	Black / African American
0%	Latino
55%	Male
45%	Female
66%	Children (0-17)
27%	Adults (18-64)
7%	Seniors (65+)
81	Average number of families served each month
340	Average number of individuals served each month

*Who We Served – Food for Kids:
January – March 2021*

5	Average # of children receiving weekday school lunches
40	Average # of children receiving weekend backpacks

2021 Calendar of Events

5/15	Lake Lure Boat and Auto Show Parking donations
7/4	Lake Lure Fireworks Show Parking donations
10/15-10/16	Fall Arts and Craft 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>