



Issue 1
Winter 2022

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A Message from Hope

I hope you had the opportunity to spend time with family and friends over the holiday season. Winter was a very busy season at Outreach as we provided our neighbors in need with the food for a delicious Thanksgiving dinner, Christmas gift cards and Angel Tree gifts for the children. Our newsletter features these holiday activities which could not happen without the generous support of Outreach's donors and volunteers donating their time.

The Winter season also brings an increase in activity for the Families in Need of Support (F.I.N.S.) Program. Increases in heating, food and rental costs are challenging many of our struggling neighbors. Outreach is providing assistance through the F.I.N.S. Program and guiding those in additional need to resources in our area. We can only provide this assistance with the support of our donors. On behalf of the Outreach Board, a heartfelt thanks for your continued support.

Contact Information

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“Never be so busy as not to think of others.”

- Mother Teresa

Outreach Provides Thanksgiving Meals



Volunteers at Outreach boxed and distributed meals for 163 families for the 2021 Thanksgiving Holiday. The meals included all of the items for a traditional Thanksgiving dinner and our neighbors had the choice of ordering a ham or turkey for their dinner. Thanks to our community members, churches and business partners for supporting these meals for our neighbors to enjoy.

The 2021 Angle Tree Project was once again a huge success thanks to the donations from the Hickory Nut Gorge Community. Outreach volunteers distributed presents to 176 children and 167 families received Holiday gift cards to purchase items for a Christmas meal. Thank you to everyone that provided gifts or cards that made the holiday special for our neighbors.



Volunteer Updates

Volunteer Greg Szabo is reaching the milestone of picking up approximately 10,000 milk boxes from Ingles and delivering them to Outreach. Thanks for your hard work.



Christmas Activities 2021

Thank you to the students and faculty at the Lake Lure Classical Academy for sponsoring a Holiday Toy Drive. Some of the participating students are pictured on the front page of this newsletter.



Outreach welcomes new volunteers:

- Ken Bonhotal
- Andrea Whilden
- Bruce Whitney

We wish the best to Alice Neary, a five year dedicated volunteer who is leaving our area to move closer to family. Thank you..

Special Thanks

The Upper Hickory Nut Gorge Community Center sponsors an ongoing Food Drive to support Outreach. In 2021 they donated over 6,000 pounds of food to Outreach. Thank you.



Students and faculty from the Lake Lure Classical Academy sponsored a Food Drive and delivered their collection via school bus to Outreach. Thank you for your partnership..

The annual “Souper Bowl” Drive once again helped fill Outreach’s selves with nutritious cans of soup for our neighbors. Thank you to all who donated to this event.

The Women of the Church at Fairfield Mountain Chapel came together and worked on a project making blankets. Outreach was the recipient of these blankets for distributing to our neighbors. Thank you for your hard work.



How You Can Help

- Make a tax free monetary donation via check or PayPal.
- Sponsor a Food For Kids recipient for \$35 a month during the school year.
- Donate food to the Food Pantry or Food for Kids Program.
- Organize a Food Drive.
- Volunteer your time – there are lots of opportunities.

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

| | |
|-----|---|
| 90% | White / Caucasian |
| 9% | Black / African American |
| 1% | Latino |
| | |
| 52% | Male |
| 48% | Female |
| | |
| 59% | Children (0-17) |
| 33% | Adults (18-64) |
| 8% | Seniors (65+) |
| | |
| 76 | Average number of families served each month |
| 289 | Average number of individuals served each month |

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

| | |
|----|---|
| 37 | Average # of children receiving weekend backpacks |
|----|---|

2022 Calendar of Events

| | |
|-------------|---------------------------------|
| 4/23 | Shrimp and Grits |
| 5/28 – 5/30 | Spring Arts and Crafts Festival |
| 6/3 | Outreach Summer hours begin |
| 7/5 | School Supply Drive |
| 7/11 | School Supply Collection |
| 7/25 | School Supply Distribution |

***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.

