



Issue 2  
Spring 2022

#### Board Members

Hope Wittmer, President  
Patrick Bryant, Secretary  
Linda Stonecash, Treasurer  
Karen King, Outreach Manager  
Matt Dolan  
Laura Krejci  
Doug Stewart  
Patti Stewart

#### Newsletter Editor

Matt Dolan

#### Contact Information

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

Phone: (828) 625-4683

Email Address:  
[hngoutreach@gmail.com](mailto:hngoutreach@gmail.com)

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

### *A Message from Hope*

With the addition of new Neighbors in need and continuing to expand our relationship with Lake Lure Classical Academy, it has been a very busy Spring at Outreach. Our volunteers worked hard on the return of the Shrimp and Grits fundraising dinner at the Lake Lure Beach, and we welcomed Laura Krejci as a new Outreach Board Member. As the 2021-2022 school year draws to a close, Outreach's volunteers continue working towards the annual School Supply Drive to further meet the needs of our neighbors' children. Do read more about the drive in this Newsletter.

On behalf of the Board, please accept our heart-felt thanks for your continued support of Hickory Nut Gorge Outreach. Whether you volunteer your time, make monetary or in-kind donations, please know that Outreach simply cannot be successful and grow our services, without you. Thank you, again, for helping in the efforts to support our Neighbors.



*“There are people who make things happen, there are people who watch things happen, and there are people who wonder what happened. To be successful, you need to be a person who makes things happen.” —Jim Lovell*

### *Outreach's Shrimp and Grits Fund Raiser Returned*



Thank you to all the volunteers who supplied deserts and worked this year's Shrimp and Grits fund raiser. The volunteer's positive energy and hospitality over came a few delays and made this event successful.

We heard many compliments about how delicious the food was and what good work Outreach provides. Thank you to everyone who attended the event.

### *School Supply Drive*



As the school year comes to a close, we are already looking forward to the needs of our neighbors for the upcoming school year. Outreach provides a backpack and all of the school supplies necessary to get our neighbors' children off to a great start to the new school year. Clients will begin picking up school supplies for their children on July 26<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to donate supplies, you may drop off at Outreach during our normal business hours.

The following are items most needed:

- Backpacks (with computer sleeve)
- 1", 1 ½", 2" Three Ring Binders
- Black Sharpies (wide, fine, ultra-fine)
- Graphing Paper
- #2 Pencils and Colored Pencils
- Pens (Black, Red, Blue)
- Glue Sticks and Glue Bottles
- Pocket Folders (cardboard and plastic)
- Wide Ruled and College Ruled Loose Leaf Paper
- Scissors (Safety and Non-Safety)

### *Special Thanks*



The Lake Lure Lions Club's new service project to collect and deliver personal care hygiene products to Hickory Nut Gorge Outreach has been a wonderful success. Thank you Lion's for all of your wonderful work with this project and fulfilling a need for our neighbors.

### *Thanks for the Thank You*

Outreach received a very nice card from Ms. Caitlin at the Lake Lure Classical Academy and signed by students participating in the after-school program (Raptor Care).



“Hickory Nut Gorge Outreach thank you so very much for all the food, snacks, help, and support you have provided for our after-school program (Raptor Care). We all appreciate you all so much.”

Your donations help support programs like this, Thank You!

**Welcome New Outreach Board Member**



Laura Krejci joined the Hickory Nut Gorge Outreach (HNGO) Board in January 2022. She serves as a volunteer social worker at HNGO and is assisting clients and their family members with social service needs as they arise.

Laura also works for the Town of Lake Lure where she serves as the Communications Director. Laura retired from the Department of Veterans Affairs after many years of service supporting Veterans across the country.

Laura received a Master’s Degree in Social Work from the University of South Carolina.

Laura and her husband Richard moved to Lake Lure in 2017. She said that “Lake Lure is our dream home and we could not be happier being a part of this lovely community.” Laura is an active member of the Fairfield Mountains Chapel where she serves as an Elder and the Outreach Chairperson. Laura also serves as a mentor at Lake Lure Classical Academy.

**Who We Served – Food Pantry: January – March 2022**

90%	White / Caucasian
9%	Black / African American
1%	Latino
55%	Male
45%	Female
66%	Children (0-17)
28%	Adults (18-64)
6%	Seniors (65+)
81	Average number of families served each month
342	Average number of individuals served each month

**Who We Served – Food for Kids: January – March 2022**

38	Average # of children receiving weekend backpacks
----	---

*2022 Calendar of Events*

6/3	Outreach Summer hours begin
7/5	School Supply Drive
7/11	School Supply Collection
7/25	School Supply Distribution
8/12 – 8/14	Lake Lure Olympiad
8/26	Regular Hours Resume

*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>