



Post Office Box 634
2556 Memorial Highway
Lake Lure NC 28746

Reaching Out

Spring
2025
Issue # 1

"It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade."

Charles Dickens

Board Members

Karen King, President & Outreach Manager
Hope Wittmer, Vice President
Linda Stonecash, Treasurer
Monica Faherty, Secretary
Patti Stewart
Doug Stewart
Laura Krejci

Newsletter Editor

Chris Stonecash

2025 Calendar of Events

May 30 th	Summer Hours Start
July 28 th	School Supply Distribution Begins
August 15 th	Regular Hours Resume
October 18 & 19 th	Fall 2025 Lake Lure Arts & Crafts Festival

Contact Us

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Email: hngoutreach@gmail.com
Web: <https://hickorynutgorgeoutreach.org>

A Message from Karen

As winter comes to an end, we look forward to warmer weather and the renewal that spring brings.

The last quarter of 2024 was a challenge, with storm recovery in full swing.

A huge thank you goes out to all the generous donors from all over, local, and out of state. You made it possible for us to serve more clients than ever-Thanksgiving and Christmas gift cards, and Angel Tree gifts for the children in our community.

I would also like to thank all our volunteers for stepping up during this busy time, I could not do it without you!

The need is ongoing, as we have added 27 families and have given out over \$18,000 in financial assistance so far this year.

I know you as a community will continue to support this organization and its work, we appreciate everything you do for us.

Karen

Karen King
Outreach Manager
Hickory Nut Gorge Outreach

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.

Hickory Nut Gorge Outreach Volunteer Luncheon

In January, a heartfelt Thank-You-Volunteers Luncheon was held at La Stradas celebrating the hard work of Outreach's volunteers. The event was filled with appreciation and delicious Italian food. It was a wonderful afternoon highlighting the spirit of giving that drives Outreach's mission.



Robin Kiser, Ruth Braun, and Laura Krejci



Ruth Braun and Cindy DeHaven

We Love our Community Donors.

Outreach relies on the support of donors from our community to carry out its programs. We have received financial support from businesses, churches, and grantors throughout the community. Special thanks to Hickory Nut Gorge Foundation, Food Lion Foundation, the Community Foundation of Western North Carolina, Gateway Health Foundation, RHI Legacy, and Carolina Foothills Foundation for their support of Hickory Nut Gorge Outreach.

But You Can Also Help!

The best way you can help is through monetary donations. These donations help us stay afloat as we add more clients and provide more food for 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.

Firewood Ministry

The Transfiguration Church provides firewood for those who need it for heating and cooking. They made multiple deliveries throughout the winter season. The church is busy stockpiling wood in the shed for delivery next Fall. If you know of someone who could benefit from this effort, contact Richard Glassen at 704-232-2194 or glassennc@gmail.com.



Food for Pets

When we say that Outreach is a *food pantry*, we naturally think of providing food to people. But these people often have pets that are very dear to them. And Outreach is taking care of all the needs of our clients.

Dr. Libby Alexander and her team at Ambassador Animal Hospital in Greenville, SC, collected 1,200 pounds of pet food and donated it to Outreach to support our distribution of pet food. We appreciate their generosity.

Coach Lattimore (and helpers) delivering pet food to Hope Wittmer.

Souper Sunday

There are many ways to support Outreach. On Super Bowl Sunday, we ask our supporters to collect soup in various forms and donate it to Outreach. The efforts of Hickory Nut Gorge Outreach are supported by many acts of generosity, some large and some small, but all important.

The Kids of Lake Lure Classical Academy are All Right

The Basketball team of Lake Lure Classical Academy organized a toy drive. They collected a bus load of toys for our Angel Tree kids. This is just another example of the support that our community gives us.



Fairfield Mountains Chapel Donates Coats

Fairfield Mountains Chapel collected winter coats that they donated to Hickory Nut Gorge Outreach. After Helene, the gift of a coat can make a world of difference to someone in need.

A Donation from Lil's Thrift Shop

Lil's Thrift Shop accepts donations of gently used furniture and household goods. The volunteers of the shop display and sell these items and donate the proceeds to organizations that take care of animals and people. Outreach is one of the organizations that has received generous donations from Lil's. Lil's Thrift Shop Board Members, Kathy Jack, Betty Martinez Lowery, and Karin Solomonson presented the donation to Karen King.



Charity Ride Benefits Outreach

On February 23rd, a charity ride with over two hundred motorbikes was organized in Lake Lure to raise money for Hickory Nut Gorge Outreach. It was a huge success! The group stopped at La Strada's for a meal and raised over \$6,500 to donate to Outreach!



Food Lion Gives Outreach a Grant



Food Lion Grocery Store (through its Food Lion Charitable Foundation) has been a long-time supporter of Outreach. This year Food Lion gave us four times what we asked for to help us deal with the aftermath of Hurricane Helene. Karen and Don King stopped into the Food Lion on Railway Avenue in Rutherfordton to accept the grant from Food Lion's Chad McFarland. We appreciate their generosity.