



# Reaching Out

Summer 2025  
Issue # 2

Post Office Box 634  
2556 Memorial Highway  
Lake Lure NC 28746

“Life is all a green old English garden and time an endless summer afternoon.” — Henry James

## 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

July 28 <sup>th</sup>	School Supply Distribution Begins
August 15 <sup>th</sup>	Regular Hours Resume
October 18 & 19 <sup>th</sup>	Fall 2025 Lake Lure Arts & Crafts Festival

## Contact Us

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## A Message from Karen

It's summer in the Gorge again, here's hoping it will be a great one!

We have had some changes to our board recently. We said goodbye and good luck to Matt Dolan, and Patti Stewart will be stepping off the board in July. Many thanks to them for their years of service!

We have added 2 new board members-Marla Somerville and Cathi Culbertson are food pantry volunteers that have agreed to serve on the board-welcome!

Please keep volunteer Vickie Schappert in your thoughts as she is dealing with some health issues. We hope to see you back with us soon, Vickie.

The school supplies drive begins in July. We will start collecting these items on July 7, with distribution to students beginning on July 28. We are requesting donations of backpacks, composition books (wide and college rule), erasers, pencils, dry erase markers, black and blue ink pens, and ear buds/headphones.

Thank you to Mr. Lake Lure Vacation Rentals and Rutherford Cleaning Company for their generous donations of towels and linens. Also, thanks to Lake Lure Jeep Rentals for their donation of t-shirts and sweatshirts.

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.

## 2025 Fall Lake Lure Arts & Crafts Festival

After a year's absence, the 2025 Lake Lure Arts & Crafts Festival is returning. Helene disrupted just about everything in the town of Lake Lure. The damage to the town and to the vendors was so substantial that we could not hold the Festival. Now, the town is recovering and while there is still much to be done, it is time for a celebration. There is no better way to celebrate than a festival.

The Fall Festival will be held October 18 and 19 in the public area next to the Lake Lure Inn. While the vendor registration for the Festival will not open until June 25 (at 8:00 am), we have been fielding requests and questions about the festival for weeks. We have a website dedicated to the Festival: <https://lakelureartsandcraftsfestivals.com/>. We have tried to display all the answers that we have on those website pages. For vendors: <https://lakelureartsandcraftsfestivals.com/vendors> has more answers for those who intend to sell their arts and crafts at the festival. The Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/people/Lake-Lure-Arts-and-Crafts-Festivals/100057332063536/> has notices and announcements and lively conversations about the Festival.

Now for some pictures from past Festivals:



## Custom Built Table and Chairs by BUILT-SMART WOODWORKING

Looking to upgrade your dining set? We received a more than generous donation, from **Steve Smart, Built-Smart Woodworking** in Rutherfordton, of a **handcrafted table and 6 chairs**, the table measuring approximately **7'x 40"**. Construction of this one-of-a-kind table will begin in July and pictures of his progress will be posted on both the HNGO FB page <https://www.facebook.com/hickorynutgorgeoutreach/> and Built-Smart FB page. <https://www.facebook.com/p/BuiltSmart-Woodworking-100048813863800/>. The finish will be a white hand glazed antique finish on the chair frames and table base, and a custom weathered finish on the tops. The retail value of a piece such as this is around **\$2,000**.

Steve has told us how very excited he is about starting this project. In his words, "I am going to find some ways to make this a very special table set. Not sure yet exactly what that will be, but most of my best ideas come to me as I am build a project".

Upon completion, the table can be viewed at the HNGO offices, 2556 memorial Hwy in Lake Lure. Office hours are Monday and Thursday, 10 am – 4pm and Friday 10 am – 1 pm. You will have an opportunity to "win" this dining set by purchasing raffle tickets from (?) at a cost of \$10 each or three (3) for \$25. The raffle will be held on **DATE?** at **WHERE?** The winner will be responsible for transportation from **WHERE?**

We met Steve in a vendor capacity at our Spring 2024 Arts & Crafts Festival, and he will be returning for our Fall Festival on October 18 and 19. His custom woodworking projects include amazing wooden toys, crafts, and furniture items, and bunk beds.

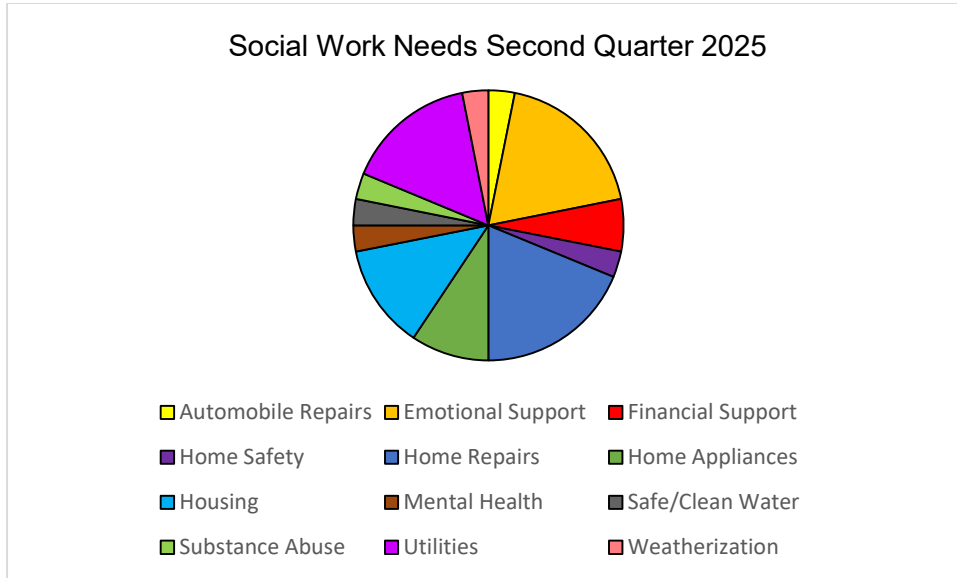
And we have pictures of his work:



Like table to be donated



**Social Work Summary, March 2025 through June 2024** Hickory Nut Gorge Outreach continues to provide Social Work support to clients who have needs beyond food insecurities. From March through June 2025, Outreach provided social services support to an average of ten clients per month. The greatest needs our clients experienced during this timeframe were home repairs, emotional support, and housing. The following chart illustrates a summary of all the client needs during this time:



Hickory Nut Gorge Social Work Outreach coordinated with community agencies and businesses to meet client needs. We are grateful for the support of each of these organizations:

- **Episcopal Church of the Transformation**
- **FEMA**
- **Hickory Nut Gorge Outreach Board and Volunteers**
- **Housing Assistance Corporation of Hendersonville**
- **Lake Vista Apartments**
- **Rutherford Housing Partnership**
- **Shane Core Handyman Services**

We wanted to take this opportunity to highlight one positive outcome that occurred for one of our clients, Mark. He bought his home fifteen years ago. He is single and has been working hard to pay off his home. He paid his mortgage in full by paying a little bit extra each month. Mark said he did it “with the good Lord’s help.” Hickory Nut Gorge Outreach is very proud of this significant accomplishment and gave Mark a little party to celebrate this major achievement. Mark said that he hoped sharing his story might give someone else hope that they could pay off their mortgage as well.

