**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Thermal Belt Outreach Ministry Gears Up For Annual Firewood Program**

Thermal Belt Outreach Ministry (Outreach) is gearing up for its annual firewood program by asking the community to donate wood and to volunteer for this valuable program. "Last year we distributed over 80 loads of wood to our clients," said Carol Newton, Outreach's Executive Director, "The wood that we provide can mean the difference between paying a heating bill and having food on the table."

“The Firewood Program is an invaluable resource to our clients, as many of them use wood-burning stoves to heat their homes during the winter months and use fire places or wood-burning stoves to cook their meals throughout the year," stated Jim McClintock who oversees the firewood program, "Stocking up on wood at this time of year will help ensure that we have enough to distribute to our clients during the colder months ahead."

Outreach also needs volunteers from churches, students, scouts, service clubs and other organizations to help by donating their time, tools, and labor to saw, split, and stack the wood for storage and to cut the wood to the appropriate size for stoves and fireplaces.

“Volunteers remain a huge need for this program. We currently have many large logs that need to be cut down to size and then split and stacked for distribution and use," said McClintock.

To learn more about this program and how you can help, please contact Outreach's Volunteer Coordinator, Anna McClure, at 828-894-2988. Or, visit online at [www.tboutreach.org](http://www.tboutreach.org) to learn more about Thermal Belt Outreach Ministry.