

# 2016 Program Impact

## Food Assistance

We fulfilled **2829** requests for food from our pantry by providing a generous week's worth of food each visit.

**52,820** pounds of fresh produce were provided to families, helping residents in need eat more healthfully.

**2600** packs of USDA commodities were distributed to families who receive government assistance.

## Financial Assistance

We helped **41** households avoid foreclosure or eviction by assisting with rent/ mortgage payments.

**484** families received assistance with power or water bills, or were provided with fuel oil, kerosene, fans, heaters or loads of wood.

On **44** occasions, people benefited from critical medical and dental tests, procedures and prescription drugs.



Polk County students proudly showing off their new backpacks filled with school supplies, received at the annual school supply distribution in August.

## Programs for Children

We assisted families with baby supplies including diapers, formula, wipes and other necessary items on **545** occasions.

**8007** packs of weekend food helped to alleviate hunger for school children facing food insecurity at home.

**356** backpacks of school supplies were given to qualified

school children, sharing the tools for academic success with economically disadvantaged youths.

## Special Programs

We served **423** families through our holiday program, providing each family with gift cards for holiday meals and distributing **534** gifts to qualified children and seniors.

**\$710,627** worth of in-kind donations including food, household goods and pet food benefited local families.

**30** families participated in our Garden of Hope Program and learned how to grow their own food.

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Thermal Belt Outreach Ministry, Inc.  
P.O. Box 834  
Columbus, NC 28722



Artist Chris Baschon painted beautiful trees on the walls at Outreach this summer - a Volunteer Appreciation Tree and pictured, a Client Appreciation Tree where clients can leave special notes of thanks.

Like us on Facebook  
[www.tboutreach.org](http://www.tboutreach.org)  
828.894.2988



Kids helping kids - these philanthropic kids donated money from their lemonade stand this summer to Outreach's Feed-a-Kid program.



**THERMAL BELT  
OUTREACH MINISTRY**

# 2016 Annual Report

Serving Polk County Since 1991

## A Message From Our Executive Director

In 2016, we celebrated twenty-five years of providing compassionate assistance to our neighbors in need. In 1991, local churches – many of whom continue to provide vital support today – partnered with Outreach to consolidate their food pantries into one centralized organization. Thanks to the Polk County Community Foundation, our loyal volunteers, local businesses, and many generous donors, Outreach has grown into a \$1.2 million organization with a client population in excess of 2,500 households.

As the need for Outreach's services has grown and evolved, we have expanded our programs and services to meet the most critical needs of families and individuals living in poverty. Today, Outreach offers a variety of services such as our client choice food pantry and financial assistance for shelter, utilities, dental, and medical needs. Programs include the Feed-a-Kid Back-Pack Program, an annual school supply distribution, Holiday programs, and the Garden of Hope.



George Alley

We have also been there for clients and foster families when there seems there is nowhere else to turn. We have provided a specialized car seat for a child with cerebral palsy, bunk beds to keep siblings in the same foster home, a specialized prescription for an ailing diabetic, and home repairs for disabled senior citizens. All this has been accomplished through the generosity of our donors and without any direct financial support from local, state, or federal government!

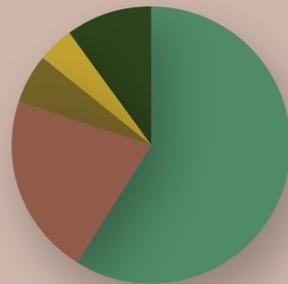
As we begin to plan for the next 25 years, we have recognized the need for quality data and improved communications with our clients. We have installed a new database, improved our website and social media presence, created a client advisory committee, and introduced a group text messaging platform. We are also working on improving our referral system to ensure our county resources are being used to effectively meet our client's needs.

If you have not had a chance to visit the pantry and see your donations at work, please consider scheduling a tour with us in 2017. We are so grateful for your support and the opportunity to make sure no resident in Polk County goes hungry or without shelter!

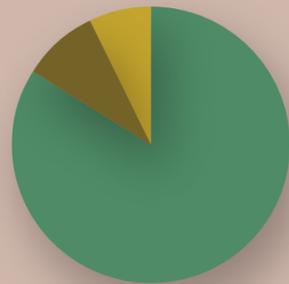
George Alley

# 2016 Stewardship

## 2016 Contributions



## 2016 Distributions



- ▶ In-Kind Donations - 59%
- ▶ Individual Donations - 21%
- ▶ Grants - 6%
- ▶ Church Support - 4%
- ▶ Other - 10%

- ▶ Client Services - 84%
- ▶ Administration - 9%
- ▶ Fund-Raising - 7%

**Total Contributions: \$1,207,064**

**Total Distributions: \$1,272,364**

### Auditor's Remarks:

A recent independent audit of Outreach's finances performed by Goldsmith Molis & Gray, PLLC found Outreach to be in a sound financial position. Outreach met every requirement, exceeded every measure, met every compliance standard and received no findings. Complete audited financial statements may be obtained by request.

## 2016 Grantors

Thank you to the following organizations for providing critical financial support to help Outreach fulfill its mission.

**The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina**

**Duke Energy**

**Food Lion**

**Polk County Community Foundation**

*Culberson Agricultural Development Grant, JM Fund, Student Intern Program Grant, Unrestricted Grant, Bosien, All Thrive 365, Seasonal Assistance*

**Rotary Club of Tryon Foundation**

**Timken Foundation of Canton**

**TimkenSteel**

**Total Families Served**  
**3504**

**Total Individuals Served**  
**8987**

*One family or individual may have been served several times during the year. All family members are counted. On average families visit Outreach 4-5 times a year.*



Generous food donation given by our friends with Unity in the Community.



The 2nd annual Empty Bowls event was held at The Barn at Parker-Binns Winery. There was a great turnout for a great cause -to raise money and awareness for all the empty bowls across Polk County and around the globe.



Over 265 runners participated in the Tryon Half Marathon in support of Outreach in November.



Volunteers working at the annual Holiday Distribution. Hundreds of volunteers donate over 11,000 hours of service to Outreach every year. Together, their contributions amount to a savings of over \$265,000 and provide the work of six full time employees. We are so grateful - we simply would not be able to serve our clients without them.



The Kiwanis Aktion Club collected 251 pounds of food for Outreach during the Holiday season.

# 2016 At A Glance



Thanks to a generous grant provided by Timken Foundation, a new 25' X 12' walk-in cooler was installed in Outreach's Food Pantry in May.



Through the MANNA Nudges Program, Outreach provides recipes, nutrition information and tips to our clients as they shop in our client choice food pantry.



623 pounds of fresh vegetables were harvested from our Garden of Hope and given to clients via our client choice food pantry. Our Garden of Hope program is funded in part by the Polk County Community Foundation, Culberson Agricultural Development Fund.



Santa and Mrs. Claus were able to squeeze in a quick visit to Polk County to wish everyone a Merry Christmas at the Holiday Food and Gift Distribution in early December.

# Board Members



Outreach Board Members, past and present, celebrate 25 years of service to Polk County residents at the 25th Anniversary Open House reception in June.

**Dave Scherping** President

**Stacey Lindsay** Vice President

**Connie Lomax** Treasurer

**Ambrose Mills** Secretary

**Michael Baughman** At Large

**Isabel Carson** At Large

**Ben Davis** At Large

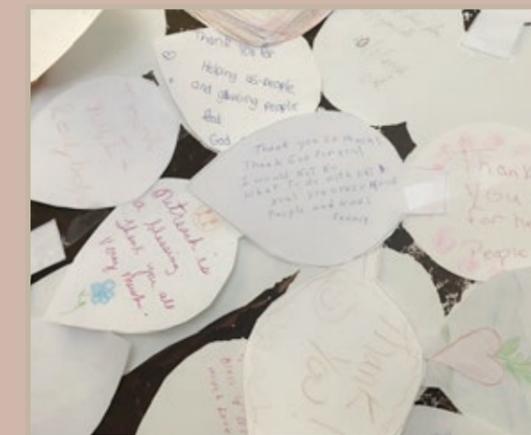
**Peter Franklin** At Large

**Jeff Harris** At Large

**Rachel Ramsey** At Large

**George Sweet** At Large

**Kathy Wright** At Large



Client thank you notes written for the Client Appreciation Tree.