**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact Person: Wendy Thomas**

**Company Name:** Thermal Belt Outreach Ministry (Outreach)

**Phone Number:** 828.894.2988

**Address:** P.O. Box 834, Columbus, NC 28722

**Email:** **wendy.thomas@tboutreach.org**

**Outreach Receives Grant for Wood Program Improvements**

Thermal Belt Outreach Ministry (“Outreach”) has received a grant from Rotary Club of Tryon Foundation to make improvements to its wood program.

“We’re so grateful to the Rotary Club of Tryon Foundation for this generous grant,” said Carol Newton, Outreach’s Executive Director. “During 2014 we distributed nearly 100 truckloads of wood to Polk County residents who use the wood to heat their homes during the cold winter months.”

Wendy Thomas, Resource Development Manager for Outreach said, “This is a project that could easily have been overlooked by potential funders, but the wood that we distribute is an important resource for our clients and their families who might otherwise go without heat. We’re thankful that the Rotary Club of Tryon Foundation supported our mission of compassionate assistance.”

The project entails moving Outreach’s existing wood-shed from the back of the Outreach campus to the new site on White Drive. Additionally, Outreach will use grant funds to purchase a new 40’ x 12’ shed to double the storage space, to securely attach the two structures together and to install gates to protect the agency’s equipment from the elements and theft.

“Our wood program is supported in large part by the church groups and other community groups that spend a couple hours on a weekend splitting and stacking wood,” said Newton. “This grant award will allow us to make conditions more safe and pleasant for our volunteers who will soon be able to work throughout the year, in any kind of weather.”

Outreach is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in 1991. The organization's mission is to provide compassionate assistance to Polk County residents who are unable to provide for their basic life needs. If you or your group would like to volunteer with Outreach, please contact Anna McClure at 828-894-2988. For more information on Outreach, please visit www.tboutreach.org.