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November 28, 2023

Dear friends,

This past week, as my family enjoyed Thanksgiving together, I reflected on things I'm thankful for. A big one for me is being part of an organization like Hinton Rural Life Center that truly makes a difference in the lives of our neighbors in Southern Appalachia. A few weeks ago, local volunteers gathered on a Saturday to provide Safe & Healthy Home repairs for an elderly veteran and his family. And, just the other day, a family with children in desperate need of firewood for heating their home was able to get the wood they needed from Hinton's firewood lot. I'm also thankful that Hinton continues to offer a safe, welcoming place for those who need to rest, connect with God, and renew mind, body, and soul.

I am thankful for Hinton's excellent staff of 22 full- and part-time employees, who work diligently to create, organize, and support our programs, ministries, and facilities, offering great hospitality to guests and walking alongside our neighbors in need. And, I am thankful for YOU. Without the support of donors and volunteers, none of the things I've shared with you could happen. Here is what you've helped us achieve this year:

- Over 50 homes worked on in Clay and Cherokee counties, NC, and Towns County, GA
- 200+ Safe & Healthy Home Repair projects
- 600+ truckloads of firewood distributed
- Over 800 volunteers, including 40+ mission teams, hosted and supported

Folks who know me know I'm passionate about Hinton. They also know I tell it like it is! As a nonprofit retreat and mission outreach center, Hinton's lodging and conference center revenue only covers 60% of our \$1.3 million budget. (Outreach ministries are mostly non-revenue producing.) The difference is made up with grant funding – typically for specific outreach needs – and donations. **Your giving helps make up the difference, providing much-needed support for keeping our 30-acre campus and 17 facilities ready and welcoming for thousands of retreat and mission guests, as well as supporting our staff.** This, in turn, enables our Lodging & Conference Center to generate income. Some specific needs include:

- \$25,000 – urgently needed to replace the commercial dishwasher in our kitchen, required for a food service provider, since parts are no longer being made for our current one
- \$10,000 – to remodel the current laundry room into a handicap-accessible apartment
- \$20,000 – to complete the much-needed replacement of mattresses across campus
- \$70,000 – to remodel the current tool shed into a new laundry facility with commercial appliances
- \$40,000 – to remodel the area under the Chapel into a revenue-generating lodging space, Ponder's Porch

Lastly, one of the things for which I'm most thankful is how Hinton is impacting the lives of young people. **I hope you'll take a few minutes to watch a short video featuring two of our former summer staffers – Ella Stilwell and Jeremy Jenkins – sharing how Hinton has helped shape their life and faith, leading them to their current positions on Hinton's staff. You'll find it at www.hintoncenter.org/donate, along with opportunities to make an online donation or to make a "tribute" gift.** (We are accepting rocking chair tribute donations through the end of the year.) Thank you, in advance, for the many ways you support Hinton Rural Life Center.

Gratefully yours,

Jacqueline Gottlieb, President & CEO