

## **Outreach Council Guidelines for Support to Charities**

As Hickory Neck Church transitioned from a pastoral church to a program church, its outreach efforts expanded along with its fund raising activities. An outreach council was created in March 2006 to guide and direct the church's outreach program. The mission of the program is to show Hickory Neck's Christian commitment to the community by:

- Giving money;
- Providing hands on support;
- Developing new initiatives; and,
- Becoming an advocate.

The following guidelines are used by the council as Hickory Neck expands its outreach efforts:

- To conduct periodically a strategic assessment of community needs through interviews with county officials and charitable organizations;
- To identify high priority service gaps;
- To select charitable organizations that address those gaps and ask them to make presentations to the Outreach Council;
- To select organizations to support based on the council's assessment of the charity and Hickory Neck's ability to provide the charity with treasure and/or talent;
- To select a council member(s) to be Hickory Neck's liaison to the charity by being a volunteer coordinator, Board Member, etc.

By the end of 2006, the Vestry was pleased with the progress the council had made, but it was concerned that constant requests to the congregation for support would overwhelm the parishioners' very charitable nature and detract from the effectiveness of the church's overall mission.

To address this concern, all OUTREACH programs must be approved by a committee headed by the Vestry Outreach Liaison. Approval will be based on the following considerations.

- Hickory Neck's previous involvement, including the dependency of the charity on the church's support and the success that the church has had working with the charity;
- Information from the charity on the services it provides, the number of its clients, and its budget and financial statements;
- The timeliness of the request; and
- The existing competing or overlapping programs.

These guidelines are not meant to discourage Hickory Neck's participation in charitable efforts but to ensure the viability of the mission of Hickory Neck.