

HINTON RURAL LIFE CENTER

“Retreat, Reflect, Renew”

The Hinton Rural Life Center is a mission agency of the SEJ and is located in rural Western North Carolina. The Hinton Center, a year round Christian mission and retreat center, is located on breathe-taking Lake Chatuge on the North Carolina-Georgia line. The retreat has a wide range of accommodations including houses with lake views, the mountain lodge, cottages, group retreat houses, and RV sites. In addition to the accommodations, Hinton hospitality includes an Executive Chef with mouth-watering meals, often straight from the garden, throughout your stay. Whether you're looking for overnight accommodations for private retreat and renewal or seeking facilities for a church group, Hinton is sure to have something for you. Our retreat includes multiple conference rooms, a serene setting for weddings and receptions, a gift shop, dining rooms, trails, complimentary wi-fi service, a lake-side pavilion with dock, indoor and outdoor chapels, and a rocking chair porch overlooking beautiful Lake Chatuge!

Perhaps the best thing about staying at Hinton is your opportunity to pay it forward. The revenue generated through Hinton Center accommodations helps to fund home repairs, ministries to end generational poverty, and programming that focuses on building healthy and effective communities of faith. Our core ministries include Rural and Small Membership Church Vitality, Year-Round Volunteer Missions, Affordable Housing, and Conference and Retreat Center.

For many years, through Rural and Small Membership Church Consultation, Hinton has held a reputation for leading many churches through visioning and planning sessions leading to new life in the church. Our new vitality ministry continues to build on our history of success. With financial support from The Duke Endowment, we are working with district superintendents and districts throughout the SEJ in their role as missional strategist and with small and rural congregations. We facilitate a process of learning, discernment, and planning for transformational ministry and congregational vitality. Each initiative is customized for the unique needs of the district or church. Ministry consultants guide each congregation and/or district through the process and provide follow-up for at least a year to insure ongoing success.

Year-Round Volunteer Missions, referred to as the “Cadillac of mission experiences,” by Rev. Brad Thie of Duke’s Thriving Rural Communities Initiative, includes the repair work, times for spiritual formation and reflection, soft beds, beautiful surroundings, and awesome food! The price for the week-long experience has been reduced to be more in-line with other mission experiences and individualized trips can be designed upon request. Our 2014 summer slots were nearly 100% booked by December of 2013. This spring, we hosted our first interfaith mission experience as well as alternative spring breaks for college students. Hinton hosts over 1,000 volunteers each year with weeks specifically for youth and other weeks for of all ages in mission together. We offered 83 worship services for our summer volunteers alone. Whether working on a home or in our firewood ministry, volunteers are helping to meet the needs of this rural community where 1/5 of the population lives below the poverty line.

As our ministries continue to strengthen, so does our financial position. This strength was evidenced in 2013, as we entered into the black. Hosting nearly 17,000 overnight stays, we have a 24% increase in lodging and continue to grow our volunteer mission ministry into a year-round experience with over 1300 registered for 2014 summer alone. With assistance from the SEJ and donations through our Capital Campaign, we are working on paying down our debt.

1 Furthermore, we are addressing much needed upgrades to our facility, vehicles, and tools. In
2 our Capital Campaign, we are over half-way to our minimum goal of \$150,000 and have
3 aspirations to reach our celebration goal of \$400,000. Upgrading our facilities, providing fresh,
4 healthy meals, and increasing our marketing will help Hinton become more financially secure,
5 ultimately, providing Hinton with the opportunity to expand its ministries and sharing the Love of
6 Christ.

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8 To learn more about Hinton Center, please visit our website at www.HintonCenter.org, like us on
9 Facebook, and follow us on Twitter.

10 Dr. Jacqueline Gottlieb, President and CEO