



Ontario Christian Gleaners

USING SURPLUS PRODUCE TO FEED A HUNGRY WORLD

Charitable #85923 0476 RR0001

Gleaners Mix Aids Ukrainian Relief

Dr. Gordon Balfour,
Executive Director, Mission Eurasia Canada

The escalation of hostilities between Russia and Ukraine at the end of February 2022 resulted in a humanitarian crisis of staggering proportions. Literally millions of people fled Ukraine, pouring over the borders into Poland, Moldova, Romania and further beyond. The neighbouring countries to Ukraine, while sympathetic and helpful, were overwhelmed in trying to meet the needs of so many displaced persons.

The Ontario Christian Gleaners had worked in the past with Mission Eurasia Canada to send dried soup mixes into war torn areas of Eastern Europe. In early 2022 we began to work together to get a container of soup mix and dried vegetables across the sea and into Ukraine to provide refugee support. Little did we realize how challenging it would be.

The war in Ukraine affected international shipping logistics and the availability of cargo shipments going into the area. The process dragged on a bit, and it was a few months before the container was secured, and then loaded at the Gleaners Cambridge facility, and prepared for overseas crossing. Shipping dates would be secured, and then delayed, more than once. Finally, the container was sent from the Port of Montreal over to Constanta, Romania, and overland trucked into Moldova. In Moldova, the shipment was offloaded by our Mission Eurasia staff on the ground into a central warehouse from which it could be disbursed. The food finally made it into circulation very early in January of 2023.

The team in Moldova wrote to us how they distributed the products. We received soup mix packages and potatoes in buckets, barrels, and boxes.

We looked for places with large numbers of people, which had the capacity to cook the soup and potatoes, and which had the most need. We decided that this food would best be used in Ukraine, but we had some complications with shipping them to Ukraine. We were able to deliver a smaller amount to Ukraine in late- December. Then the customs for transporting humanitarian aid to Ukraine was closed for three weeks, and after that, the rules for export and import to and from Ukraine became stricter.

We were finally able to send all the remaining soup mix packages, and recipients are in the process of receiving them.

One of the centres that received the soup mixes was the Odesa Regional Hospital. Since the beginning of the war, this hospital has been overflowing with patients. Apart from regular patients, this hospital now receives patients who have been wounded from shelling in the Mykolayiv and Odesa regions. There are around 6,000 patients there and 1,500 medical workers. Our volunteer and friend Yevheniy went there to deliver much-needed help and talk to the cooks and some doctors. Here is what the cooks shared with him: "It's very hard to cook for so many people, and power outages interrupt our cooking. We do have some generators, but they are primarily used for operating rooms and other important procedures. Sometimes we start to cook something, then we have to stop for 30-40 minutes or more because of a power outage. That complicates our work, and the quality of the food also suffers. When we received the soup packages from you and started making them, we were so happy! They really simplify our work and we are able to cook a large amount of food quickly. Now, when we have a power outage, we make this soup, and that makes our lives easier."

One of the doctors also shared, "We always monitor the quality of food in our hospital, and there are certain rules that we must follow. But of course, we try to balance between the food items we have available for us and their nutritious value. These soup mixes, their quality, taste, and ingredients are the best that I've ever seen. We've received other humanitarian aid that contained soup mixes, but those were just powder. These are so much better. We are so happy that we can give this quality food to our patients."



Apart from this hospital, supplies of soup went to two more hospitals. The last batch went to Mykolayiv, and further in the southern region of Ukraine, where shelling has been taking place regularly and where there is much need. Moving forward, this soup mix will also be used for the new Mission Eurasia iCare mobile kitchens that are now being used to make hot meals for people who are affected by the war and have no access to quality food.

Mission Eurasia Canada wants to express our deep appreciation to the Ontario Christian Gleaners for the stellar work you do, and the considerate and cooperative manner which your staff demonstrated throughout this project. We trust that we will be able to work together again in the future to assist people in critical need by supplying them with your nutritious products, packaged simply and well. Thanks for all you do!

Contact & connect



519.624.8245



www.OntarioGleaners.org

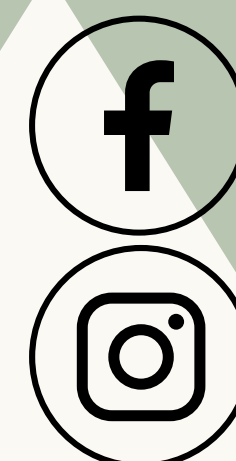


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OCG MANAGER

Elaine Merkus

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A Word From The Manager

“Praise the LORD, all nations! Extol Him, all peoples! For great is His steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD!” Psalm 117

Our building expansion has begun! On Friday, April 21st, volunteers and visitors joined the staff and board members in dedicating this expansion project to the Lord. It is only through His blessings and guidance that this is happening. We are thankful for generous donations and pledges that have been received and ask that you join us in prayer as we move forward with the project and continue to encourage donations to complete this project. We look forward to a second cooler enabling us to store our vegetables at optimal temperatures for food preservation and warehouse space for split peas and donations of beans and barley, as well as staging space upcoming shipments as they are packed. For those that receive our news via mail, the quick start times for construction crews left us with only time to email churches and individuals.

Praising God! He continues to bless so abundantly. Our current sweet potato donor is no longer growing sweet potatoes and yet that ‘one more load’ continued for a few months! A new sweet potato donor has provided us with thousands of pounds of sweet potatoes and when our supply of dried potatoes ran out, a local distribution centre had emailed with a donation of potatoes ready to be picked up. These are just a few examples of the Lord’s blessings that we see daily at the Gleaners.

Our new zoning changes enabled us to increase the number of volunteers in our building. Come join us for a morning, <http://www.ontariogleaners.org/volunteer.html> or give us a call 519.624.8245 and we will sign you up. (Signup are required to limit numbers for septic approvals.)

4.3 million servings of food have left our building this year to date with the most recent leaving for Haiti, Zambia, Ukraine and South Sudan. Other food aid requests are before us and we await shipping date confirmations.

Praising Him,
Elaine Merkus



PRAYER & PRAISE

PRAYER

- God’s blessings on our addition and for safety as the construction begins
- For God’s protection on the Gleaners food as it ships around the world
- For God’s protection and blessings on mission groups as they serve in difficult situations and as they obtain needed paperwork to ship food to countries in need
- For God’s blessings on our first ever **Golf Tournament** on **June 9**, as the funds raised will support the building fund
- For God’s blessings as we prepare for a **Fundraising Dinner** on **October 27**. This banquet will be a celebration of **15 years of Feeding those in Need Around the World**
- For financial donations that support us in times of ever increasing costs of packaging supplies, fuel, split peas and the building project

PRAISE

- For the generosity of the growers and distribution centres that donate fresh or dried products to us
- For the volunteers that come and serve each morning so faithfully
- For financial donations that arrive in our mailbox or electronically each week
- For the Missions reports we receive from around the world



Join us as we spend our mornings in thankfulness and praise to God serving at the Gleaners.

“Praise the Lord O my soul; all my inmost being praise His holy name.” Psalm 103:1

ONTARIO CHRISTIAN GLEANERS Golf Tournament Fundraiser

FRIDAY, JUNE 9TH



\$150 PER GOLFER
INCLUDES
18 HOLES W CART,
PACKAGED SNACK &
CHICKEN BUFFET DINNER

Registration at 12am - Golf Starts at 1pm - Dinner to Follow
Location: Brookfield Golf Club, 3700 Beaverdale Rd, Cambridge

REGISTRATION FORM

FRIDAY JUNE 9, 2023

NAME PHONE

FULL ADDRESS

EMAIL ADDRESS

MY PREFERRED GROUP OF PLAYERS ARE:

3.

4.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MAY 19, 2023

Registration Limited. Register today to avoid disappointment.
Must be a minimum of 16 years old to play.

Note: your spot is not guaranteed until we have received payment.

Register online at <https://www.ontariogleaners.org/golf-tournament-fundraiser.html>



-  Building Expansion Began - April 24
-  Open House - May 16
-  Gleaners Closed - May 22
-  Gleaners Golf Tournament - June 9
(signup deadline May 19)
-  Summer Closure - June 30-July 7
-  Gleaners Closed - August 7
-  Banquet Dinner - October 27

FOR ANY QUESTIONS:

Tamara Terpstra:
gleanersoffice@gmail.com
519.624.8245



Donate.

YOUR GENEROSITY MAKES A DIFFERENCE



Basket Washer.

Cost: \$9,700
Raised: \$7,200

Double Cooler.

Cost: \$150,000



Forklift.

Cost: \$25,000
Raised: \$12,000



Split Peas.

Cost \$704 per metric ton (\$50/70kg)

WHAT

Please consider making a donation that will go directly towards purchasing one of these items. ** Donations may cover a portion of the value of the item ** All donations of \$20 or more will receive a tax receipt

WHY

These items will help us in our daily work of processing surplus vegetables to make nutritious vegetable mixes for distribution to needy people in countries around the world. With the large demand of our food, we are working hard and creatively to meet these requests and your financial support for this is greatly appreciated!

HOW

Gift cards specifying your donated item are available upon request when making a donation on behalf of a loved one. Donations can be made by:

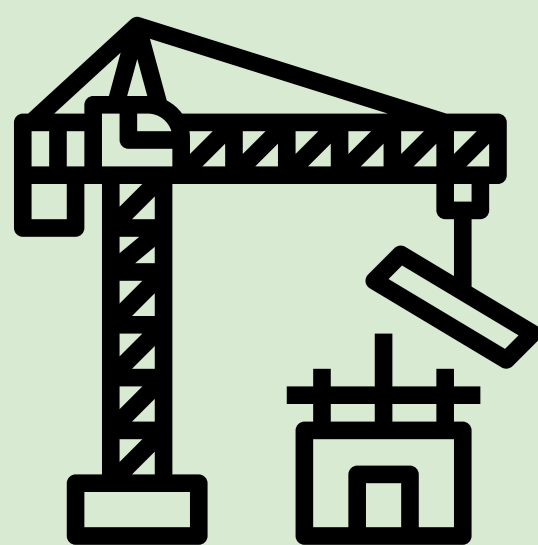
- Cash
- Cheque
- e-transfer -

etransfers@OntarioGleaners.org (please note your name, address and item donating towards in the message section)

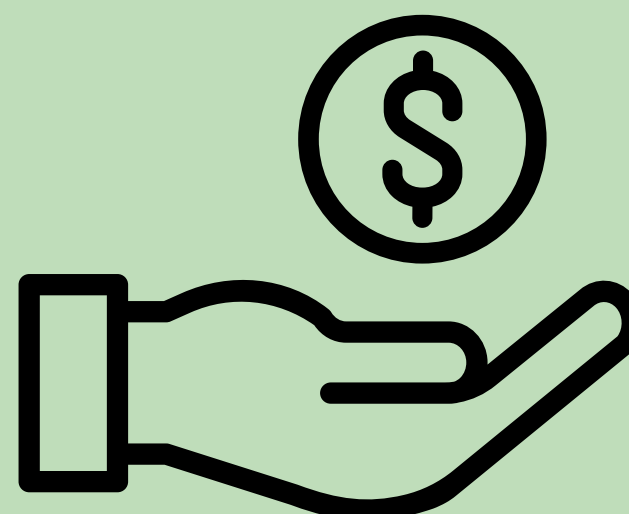
- Credit card -

<https://www.ontariogleaners.org/credit-card-donation.html>

CONSIDER CONTRIBUTING TOWARDS THE NEW BUILDING



Cost to Build
\$900,000



\$ Raised to Date -
Donations & Pledges
\$492,300



\$ Left to Raise
\$407,700