



SEPTEMBER 2023

# Ontario Christian Gleaners

USING SURPLUS PRODUCE TO FEED A HUNGRY WORLD

Charitable #85923 0476 RR0001



# 15 YEARS

## Contact & connect



519.624.8245



[www.OntarioGleaners.org](http://www.OntarioGleaners.org)



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OCG MANAGER

Elaine Merkus

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# A Word From The Manager

“Giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Ephesians 5:20

15 Years!!

The Ontario Christian Gleaners has been helping feed those in need around the world for 15 years. What a blessing it has been to be part of this work with volunteers trimming produce, the staff serving together each day, the board of directors making decisions and with committees planning events and raising funds. God has greatly blessed the work here at the Gleaners.

If you’ve driven by or even just down highway 8, you will have been able to see the progress on our building project! It didn’t take long to build walls on the concrete foundations and cover it all with insulation and steel. We’ve even heard comments from people that used to wonder where the Gleaners is and then they recognize our construction pictures. We encourage you to come for a visit. Open House Tours will be held September 21.

This building addition will be a real blessing at the Gleaners. Organized and efficient storage as well as room to accept donations of already dried food. Recent donations of a truckload of raisins and another of dried beans provide great nutritional additions to our shipments but do require storage space before being distributed. We hope and pray that more of these donations of already dried foods will become available to us so that we can share with those around the world.

“From 2019 to 2022, the number of undernourished people grew by as many as 150 million, a crisis driven largely by conflict, climate change, and the COVID-19 pandemic.” <https://www.actionagainsthunger.org/the-hunger-crisis/world-hunger-facts/> We have seen food aid requests for Gleaners food to help those in Ukraine as well as Ukrainian and Sudanese refugees. These requests are in addition to regular requests for food to help those in need in Zimbabwe, Dominican Republic and the Philippines, just to list a few of our recent shipments.

Would you prayerfully consider support the Ontario Christian Gleaners for our regular operating budget or for the building fund? <https://www.ontariogleaners.org/donate.html> The increased demand for food requires us to increase our split pea budget. A truckload of split peas delivered earlier this summer provides the much needed protein source for our vegetable mixes but comes with a price tag of \$17,772 for 26 metric tonnes. These split peas are delivered several times a year. Despite the cost, we are thankful to be giving a complete meal to those in need all around the world.

We encourage you to come out and join us for a morning preparing and packing vegetables. The coffee will be on! <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.) Groups are encouraged to book for a one day or monthly serve opportunity. Call the office to schedule your group!

Over 8 million servings of food have left the building this year to date with recent shipments providing nutrition for those in Zimbabwe, the Philippines, Malawi, Jamaica and Sudanese refugees in Chad. Other food aid requests are before us and we await shipping date confirmations.

Praising Him,

*Elaine Merkus*



## PRAYER & PRAISE

### PRAYER

- 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 as we prepare for a **Fundraising Dinner on October 27 th** . 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
- God’s continued blessings and safety on our 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



**AFTER**

**WE ARE CELEBRATING**

**15 YEARS**

**AT THE GLEANERS**

**JOIN US FOR A FUNDRAISER DINNER**

**FRIDAY  
OCTOBER 27**

*Doors open at 6  
Dinner at 6:30 pm  
Dessert to follow*

**MAIN  
BUILDING**

*Waterloo Region Police  
Association, 1128 Rife Rd.  
Cambridge*

**RSVP BY  
OCT.13**

*www.ontariogleaners.org  
order tickets by  
phone, email or online*



**INVITE YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS**

*Book a table!  
8 for \$320  
10 for \$400*

*519-624-8245 or  
OntarioGleaners.org  
(click on What's Happening)*



Faith has 4,231 orphans living in the very rural area of North Western Province in Zambia. We are so happy to report that all of these children are attending the rural schools. Their diet is very limited.

They walk to their rural schools. The distance is up to 10 kilometers. The schools do not feed their students any food. So the students may take a mango (in the season) for their breakfast as they walk the many kilometers to school. They return back to their villages around noon. At this time they look for pumpkins or some other food which they can cook.

As you can imagine, the Gleaners dried food comes in to handy for the children. Grandma will cook a big pot for the children and around 3:00 pm they will sit on the ground and eat.

This Gleaners product (porridge) has certainly played a big part in keeping these children well.

We do want to say a very big "thank you". We want you to know how much we appreciate this food product in maintaining healthy children. May God continue to bless "THE GLEANERS".

With thanks,

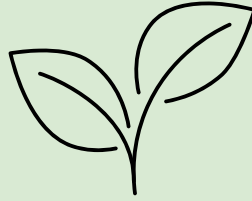
*Doraine Ross*

**Faith's Orphans Fund**



# Donate.

YOUR GENEROSITY MAKES A DIFFERENCE



**GROW**



**GLEAN**



**GIVE**



## Building Cost.

Cost: \$900,000

Raised: \$544,898

Left To Raise: \$355,000



## Double Cooler.

Cost: \$61,750



## Forklift.

Cost: \$25,000

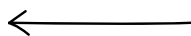
Raised: \$12,000

Left to Raise: \$13,000



## 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>

- Labour Day - September 4 - CLOSED
- Open House - September 21, October 10 & November 13
- Thanksgiving - October 9 - CLOSED
- Fundraiser Dinner - October 27 RSVP by Oct. 13
- Online Auction open/close - October 28 - November 4
- Christmas Shutdown- December 25 - January 5 - CLOSED

