



Ontario Christian Gleaners

USING SURPLUS PRODUCE TO FEED A HUNGRY WORLD

Charitable #85923 0476 RR0001

Gleaners Mix Aides Malnourished Children in Madagascar

Meaghan Blackmore -
Samaritans Purse Canada

Samaritan's Purse Canada exists to “help meet the needs of people who are victims of war, poverty, natural disasters, disease, and famine to share God’s love through His Son, Jesus Christ.” The organization carries out this mission statement in several ways: *Operation Christmas Child* shares the good news of Jesus Christ through the gift of a shoebox, *International Disaster Relief* responds to disaster situations, whether natural or manmade, and *International Community Projects* focus on long- term development projects through our *Food, Protection, Health, and Water Programs*.

The *Food Program* aims to save lives by providing emergency food relief, sustain livelihoods through school nutrition programs and agricultural training, and share life with all who participate in the program by presenting the Gospel. It is through the partnership with the *Ontario Christian Gleaners* that the *Food Program* can respond to communities that God is compelling us to respond.

Madagascar is one such place. This island off the coast of southeastern Africa has a unique ecosystem of plants and animals. Yet, over two million people are unsure of where their next meal is coming from. How could an island surrounded by such abundance have so many hungry?

Madagascar is highly vulnerable to cyclones, floods, and droughts, significantly affecting farmers’



livelihoods. Unfortunately, as climates change, these extreme weather events become more frequent. Farmers also heavily rely on rain-fed agriculture and use traditional farming methods, which can produce lower crop yields. These factors have led to Madagascar as one of the worst-ranked countries on the Global Hunger Index, ranking 124 out of 125, and is labeled as being in an alarming state of hunger. Madagascar is also the world leader in child undernourishment and is one of the ten worst countries for child stunting. As the population prepares to enter the lean season, many agencies expect this hunger crisis to worsen. As families run out of food, they rely on locusts, cactus fruit, wild leaves, and cassava to push back hunger pains.

The child feeding program provides food to 50 churches, Christian children’s centres and orphanages, each caring

for 50 - 150 children weekly. Many of these children know what it is like to feel hungry. One child explained, “I feel hungry sometimes. When I do, my stomach hurts. It makes me feel sad. I’m sad when I don’t get to eat food.” The development of the child-feeding program is bringing hope to these communities for both children and their families.

The program uses the *Ontario Christian Gleaners* dried vegetable mix alongside rice purchased from local markets to prepare two hot weekly meals for these hungry children. Along with a meal, the children are taught about the Word of God and how deeply He loves each one of them - so much so that He has brought them a gift of a hot meal to help them have the strength to carry on to the next day. These simple meals also allow children to enjoy being children again.

Contact & connect



519.624.8245



www.OntarioGleaners.org

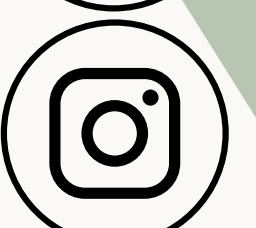


1550 Morrison Rd, Cambridge,
ON, N1R 5S2

OCG MANAGER

Elaine Merkus

manager@ontariogleaners.org



One child explained, “I’m excited to go have lunch. I’m happy. I have more energy to play soccer when I have food.”

However, the work has only just begun, and the need is large, as in Madagascar alone, 46% of children are still malnourished and in need of help. Even so, we move forward expectantly knowing that “... nothing is impossible with God” (Luke 1:37). The *Food Program* plans to expand the child-feeding program to additional communities in Madagascar, and to implement nutrition and agricultural training to provide long-lasting behaviour change. In doing this, the program hopes to create a future where the feeling of hunger is not known, and where all who participate know that there is a God who loves and cherishes them.

It is through the partnership of the *Ontario Christian Gleaners* and *Samaritan’s Purse Canada*, like this project in Madagascar, that hungry bellies and spirits are filled and that the hope of the Gospel can be brought into the far-flung corners of the earth.



A Word From The Manager

“Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!”

Every morning we experience, share and praise God for all of His blessings. Blessings that include all of the givers that contribute to our dried mixes, helping others receive much needed nutrition – time, produce and funds.

We are thankful to welcome our volunteers – the givers of time. Approximately 675 donated hours by our volunteers help us produce over 212,000 servings of food each week.

Our morning devotions include a time of praise and thankfulness for the record volumes of produce donations.

Over the past year we have said good-bye to produce donors that are retiring, but also hello and thank you to new produce donors. These donations of potatoes, sweet potatoes, carrots, cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, asparagus etc as well as donations of already dried products. These givers of produce provide much needed nutrition. So far this year **163,740lbs of produce have been rescued.**

Praise God for His abundant financial blessings. Our generous givers of funds help keep the lights on, our truck on the road, the packing supplies stocked and early this year we praise God that our building addition loan was paid off! These funds also pay for our much needed split peas. This import protein source is an important part of each bag of our vegetable mix. Last year, 87 metric tons (over \$61,000 worth) of split peas were purchased and added into our mixes. We are thankful that the Gleaners is so blessed financially, so that our vegetable mixes can be complete meals which then bless so many around the world. We ask that you prayerfully consider supporting our organization. <https://www.ontariogleaners.org/donate.html>

Our Promotions/Fundraising Team has been busy scheduling all of our major fundraisers for the year. First up is our 2nd Annual Golf Tournament. It is scheduled for Saturday June 15th at the Flamborough Hills Golf Club – and we have a Shotgun Start! Register now or sponsor a hole! <https://www.ontariogleaners.org/golf-tournament-fundraiser.html>

The Food Distribution Committee has also been busy reviewing many applications for our food. Recent shipments have left for Malawi, Cuba, Honduras and Ukraine. We are packaging our food and awaiting shipping dates for shipments destined for Nigeria, Ukraine, Cuba, Haiti and Niger. Pray for the mission organizations as they work to secure shipping and especially as they serve in these countries bringing the good news of the gospel and helping with nutrition, educational and other needs.

With Thankfulness,

Elaine Merkus



2024 ONTARIO CHRISTIAN GLEANERS Golf Tournament Fundraiser

SATURDAY, JUNE 15TH



\$175 PER GOLFER
INCLUDES
18 HOLES W CART, PACKAGED
SNACK, SAUSAGE LUNCH &
TUSCAN BUFFET DINNER

REGISTRATION FORM

____ SATURDAY JUNE 15, 2024 ____

NAME

PHONE

FULL ADDRESS

EMAIL ADDRESS

MY PREFERRED GROUP OF PLAYERS ARE:

3.

4.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MAY 24, 2024

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

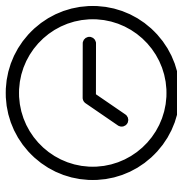
Note: your spot is not guaranteed until we have received payment.

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

**YOUR COMPANY COULD BE
ADVERTISED ON THE DIGITAL GOLF CARTS!**



**HELP US HELP YOU
BY SPONSORING A HOLE**



Registration & lunch start at 11:30am
Golf (shotgun) starts at 1pm
& Dinner to follow



Flamborough Hills Golf Course
71 Highway 52 N, Copetown



FOR ANY QUESTIONS

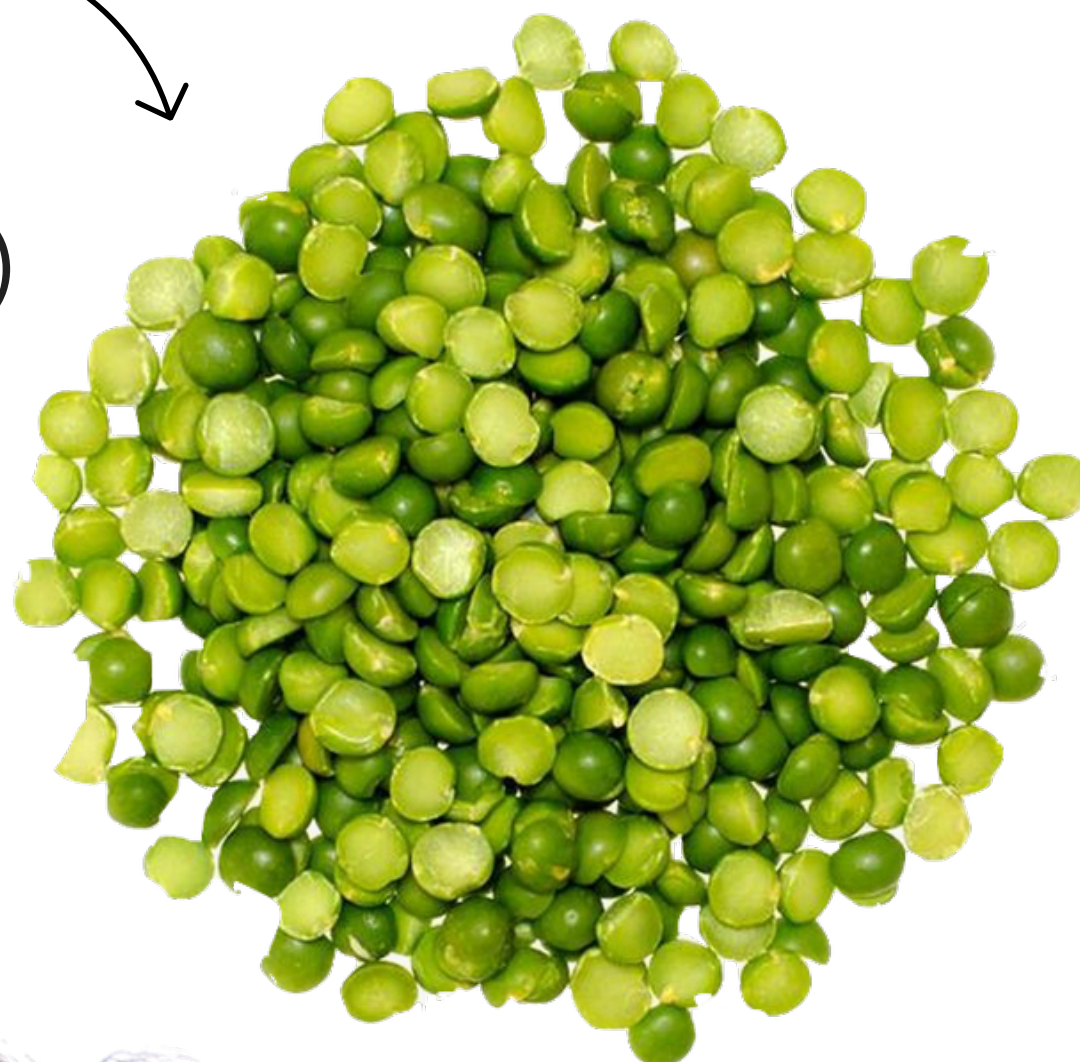
Sue VanWynGaarden: ocg.fundraising@gmail.com Tamara Froese: 519.624.8245

Donate.

YOUR GENEROSITY MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Split Peas.

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



Feeding Hungry Children.

\$8 - 100 meals

\$40 - 500 meals

\$80 - 1000 meals



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>

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



OPEN HOUSE

March 12, April 9 & May 14



FUNDRAISERS

Golf Tournament - June 15
Fundraising Banquet -
October 25



CLOSED

Good Friday - March 29

Easter Monday - April 1

May Long Weekend - May 20