



Ontario Christian Gleaners

1550 Morrison Rd,
Cambridge, ON
N1R 5S2
(519) 624-8245

www.OntarioGleaners.org

Shelley Stone
OCG Manager

manager@ontariogleaners.org

Charitable # 85923 0476 RR0001



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Important Dates:

Open House Tours:

@ 10:30am on
December 7th & 15th
January 16th & 24th
February 6th & 23rd
(Join us for a 45 minute
guided tour)

Closures:

Family Day – Monday
February 19th

Christmas Shutdown:

Saturday December 23rd –
Sunday January 7th
We will reopen on
Monday January 8th

10th Anniversary

Fundraising Dinner
Friday April 20st @ the
Waterloo Region Police
Association. Reservation
info coming soon!

News from the Gleaners

OntarioGleaners.org

Winter – December 2017

Ukraine

Isn't that the 'Bread Basket of Europe'?
There are 1.5 million displaced people within
the country.

**So many different cultures in our world and
so much we can learn from each other.**

A burst of laughter comes from a group of
Ukrainian children who are used to eating red
'borscht' containing beets. They heard the
story of one of the African countries where
the people were not familiar with beets. The
prepared Gleaners' food that happened to
contain beets was permeated with a distinct red colour, an unusual sight for this group from Malawi. Many guesses came from onlookers as to why the food was that colour, and the Ukrainian children found the report amusing.

Hearing the story of being in Nicaragua and crossing paths with merchants selling a (live) iguana at the side of the road, the group of Ukrainian children listened intently. There were many surprised faces in the room when we explained that our mission contact told us that the locals would enjoy a tasty iguana in the soup!

War torn

Pastor Ivan and his wife serve 6 days a week in the lower level of their church. During the last 3 years of violence, the church has become a place of refuge for the community.

Upstairs, the windows are gone from the building, exposing the main auditorium to the elements of wind and rain. Directly across from the church, a home is in ruins and the metal gate is full of bullet holes. Two blocks away, the hospital maternity ward and neurology center has been bombed, closing all local health care for the surrounding residents. But a warm reception at the church awaits anyone who enters the downstairs of the building. Every day, a pot of warm and nutritious soup is on the stove, and available to whoever wishes to enter the building and share a meal with others. In the adjacent room, warmer clothing is available to give away to the transient people who have chosen to walk away from their homes in the war zone and migrate west to a safer community. Most of them are just passing through.

Many elderly people frequent this basement area, bringing their own containers for a hot meal. Mothers come by with small children. Sometimes a soldier from the reserves is making

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(continued from front page...)

his way back home. There is a little place for him to have a shower. All gather at a community table to share this meal together. Two little washing machines boast 426 loads of laundry a month. Down the hallway, clean water is accessed by a young couple to carry home, as the 'local water is green and it smells'. There are 3 flush toilets and one outhouse on the property. Although the church basement is bustling with people, there isn't a single car in the parking lot. All have arrived on foot or by bicycle.

The Master's Foundation, a Canadian Christian organization resourcing the churches of Ukraine, ships containers of goods to providing some of the aid needed for this church and many other ministries to continue to live out the mission that Christ has called us all to: "Love your neighbour." Ontario Christian Gleaners donates the dried vegetable mix and bags of dried apples to help with the daily meals.

Other groups such as *Sew On Fire* provide good quality warm clothing for distribution to those in need. Churches are able to distribute the goods to rehab centres, Day Care for special needs children, inner city soup kitchens and various other ministries.

The Ukrainian people love to read, so Christian literature in the local language is available, to point people to Christ as their hope.

We continue to seek to work together, sharing Christ's love, at home and abroad. At least 1/3 of the people in our world do not have enough food to be nourished. Thank you to all who have contributed to the food drying ministry of Ontario Christian Gleaners to provide for others out of our abundance.



Using Surplus Produce to Feed a Hungry World.

- With Joy,

Shelley Stone



*Clockwise from right:
Gleaners vegetable mix
made into veggie patties,
soup & bread, food served
in the park and rail yard,
'the kitchen'.*



Thank You

We simply say, 'Thank you'. To all the 'givers' thank you!

The Ontario Christian Gleaners has been blessed with many cheerful givers...

- The approximately 2000 different volunteers who join us each year as we help feed the hungry by trimming vegetables, packaging food and building relationships
- The generous produce donors – over 1.14 million pounds donated to date in 2017
- The many generous financial donors – individuals, churches, community groups, schools and business

Giving is a joy! Your financial, produce and time donations become remarkable gifts here at the Gleaners. Overseas, school children receive nutritious meals which helps them learn more effectively, patients in hospitals, medical centers and mobile clinics receive healthy food to aid in their recovery process and families receive love, hope and relief in times of natural disaster.

In 2017, an estimated 7.6 million servings of dried vegetable mix and 3600 bags of dried apples will have been given to mission groups for distribution to those in need around the world. The requests for food aid continue and our staff and volunteers work hard to fill these requests. Reports of the desperate need for nutritious food and the encouragement of seeing improvements in health conditions within a couple of weeks of adding the vegetables to their diets continually remind us of our purpose and mission – 'Using Surplus Produce to Feed a Hungry World'.

As 2017 comes to an end and we prepare to start another year, we ask that you continue to remember the Ontario Christian Gleaners in your prayers and giving. Donations can be made by mail, online or by phone (cheque, cash and credit card). If you are interested in setting up monthly donations by credit card, PayPal or monthly withdrawals from your bank account, please visit our website <http://ontariogleaners.org/1290> or contact our office @ gleanerspromo@gmail.com or 519-624-8245.

Our Wish List is also included on the back of this newsletter. This is an opportunity to donate to a specific item or project. Gift cards can be provided should you wish to make a donation towards these items as a birthday, Christmas or thank-you gift to a loved one.

Thank you all for your support, *Elaine Merkus*





Feeding Hungry Children
\$8/bag (production cost, feeds up to 100)



6 lbs Dried Onions
(2000lbs needed) \$20



Telling our Story in the Building
(inspirational picture boards to hang in our trimming room)
\$200 each



Non-slip Floor Mats (6 needed)
\$60 (for two volunteers to stand on)



Floor Squeegees
\$30 (5 needed)



Used Drums and Pails
Shipping Veggie Mix
\$45 - \$60/skid (60 pails or 4 drums)



Adjustable Stools \$115
(10 needed)

Gleaners Wish List

These items picture here will help us in our daily work of processing surplus vegetables and fruit to make nutritious vegetable mixes and fruit snacks for distribution to needy people in countries around the world.

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.**

Gift cards specifying your donated item are available upon request when making a donation on behalf of a loved one.

Donations may be made by cash, cheque or credit card. All donations of \$20 or more will receive a tax receipt.

We thank you for your support.

By Mail or at our building:
Ontario Christian Gleaners
1550 Morrison Rd.
Cambridge, ON N1R 5S2

By Credit Card:
Gleaners Office: 519.624.8245
Online: www.OntarioGleaners.org/1290

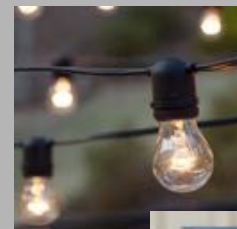


Peas by the metric ton \$425 (\$20/100 lbs)



Special
Coffee Break
Day for 60
volunteers
\$60

coffee break



Enhancement of the Solarium
Workspace – lighting/pictures
\$250



Large Knives \$33 (12 needed)
Small Knives \$10 (20 needed)
Knife Blocks \$15 (3 needed)
Cutting Boards \$15 (60 needed)