



## Ontario Christian Gleaners

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# News from the Gleaners

January 2021

## Venezuela

### FAIR – Fellowship International

Imagine waking up in the morning and your first thoughts are about how you are going to find something to eat, not only for yourself but for the children and elderly parents who share your home. You have no money and there is not even one bite of food in your house. Imagine the difference if there is a bag of Gleaners Soup Mix in the cupboard - food for several days, food that can be paired with a bit of rice or pasta to stretch even further.



Last year, a total of 3.4 TONS of food was shipped to Caracas, and another 1.3 TONS are in the warehouse awaiting shipment. After the food passes through customs, it is delivered to the Christian NGO.

From there, bags of dehydrated fruits and vegetables are distributed in:

- Prisons (with Covid, families can no longer supply food to inmates)
- Nursing Homes
- Schools
- Communities with high levels of food insecurity.

The words of the leader of the NGO continue to ring in our ears:

“WHAT YOU ARE DOING FOR US . . . IS WHAT ENABLES PEOPLE TO EAT!”

May these words convey our deepest gratitude, and fill your hearts with joy as you know that YOU ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE in these challenging times.



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[/OntarioGleaners](https://www.facebook.com/OntarioGleaners)



### Important Dates:

#### Closures:

Family Day  
Monday February 15<sup>th</sup>  
Good Friday April 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Easter Monday April 5<sup>th</sup>  
Victoria Day  
Monday May 24<sup>th</sup>

#### Volunteering:

Currently no online signups  
Please watch our website and Facebook for future signup opportunities

<https://www.ontariogleaners.org/volunteer.html>

Blessings,  
Bevin and Janie Wray

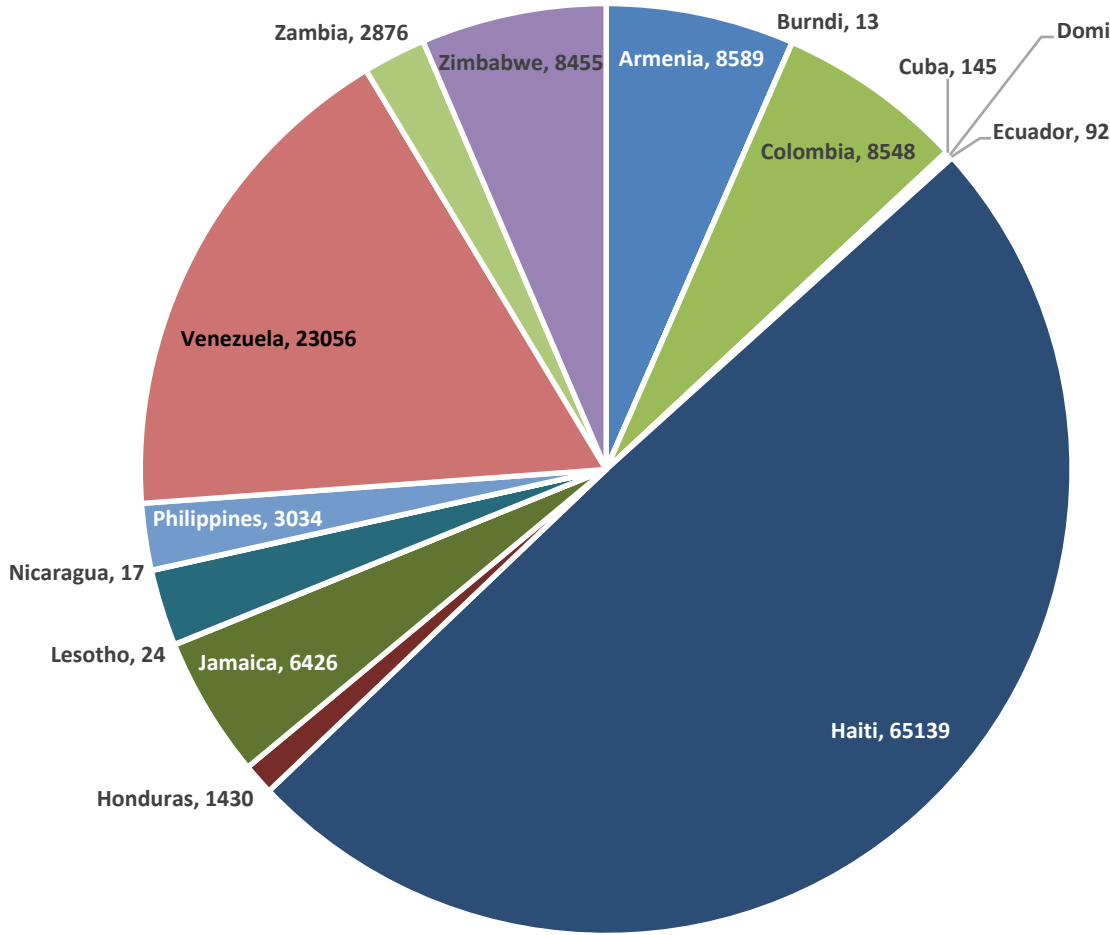


# Ontario Christian Gleaners

## 2020 Food Distribution

### by Country (in kg)

(Total 131,448 kg)



### 2020 Gleaners Stats

- 131,448 kg of Gleaners food products
- Sent To
  - 16 different countries around the world
- Sent by
  - 29 different mission groups/organizations in 55 shipments



# 2020 in Review

This past year has been a defining year for the Gleaners.

The COVID-19 pandemic has required us to define new health and safety protocols and to streamline and limit our volunteer workforce for physical spacing. That has been a disappointment to many of our supporters, but it is the reality of our times.

The good news is that the Gleaners is an essential service in the food chain for the hungry. That has allowed us to stay open and continue to do what we do.

We did miss out on our annual fundraising dinner that generates a significant amount of donations, but that has not hindered us from continuing to operate.

The Board of Directors is very grateful for the faithful and generous financial and gifts-in-kind support of our Gleaners community. We are glad to report that we ended the year with a healthy financial picture, thanks to our donors. We have also benefitted from some government funding made available because of the pandemic.

Donated product continues to come in and be processed and packaged and prepared for shipping. This newsletter shows the shipments and destinations where the product has gone this past year.



Our staff personnel were re-defined at the end of the year. Elaine Merkus was hired as General Manager, following the resignation of Shelley Stone. Fred Dykman was re-hired as Warehouse Manager. Art Sonnenburg has been hired for one day a week to assist in the warehouse.

We continue to do what we have been called to do, a food bank to the world. The Gleaners is needed more than ever with the pandemic impact on thousands of people and shipments are being prepared to go out to needy places in the world.

We welcome and count on your continued support in every way going forward. The budget for 2021 has been set at \$388,000 and ask that you continue to prayerfully consider supporting the work of – *Using Surplus Produce to Feed a Hungry World.*

Thank you for your ongoing partnership,

Wayne Foster, Board of Directors Chair

## How you can support the work of the Gleaners...

1. e-transfers  
[etransfers@OntarioGleaners.org](mailto:etransfers@OntarioGleaners.org)
2. Credit Card  
<https://www.ontariogleaners.org/credit-card-donation.html>
3. Cash
4. Cheque payable to  
Ontario Christian Gleaners



# Using surplus produce to feed a hungry world.

*"We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers" 1 Thessalonians 1:2*

Rejoicing, prayer and thankfulness, these were the themes of our daily readings with our volunteers at our building during the final week of January.

We are so very thankful for all of our volunteers, donors and supporters.

Thankful to be essential and still help provide food for those in need. We have opted to work with limited numbers to ensure an added measure of safety for our volunteers and those volunteers are working hard to keep the dryer running each day. We will continue to monitor daily and weekly the numbers and government recommendations in order to accommodate more volunteers. Volunteers have continued to help us out by labelling bags at home and more recently washing pails to pack our food in.

Wednesdays are Zoom Virtual Coffee Break Days! Rejoicing this past week as 25 people gathered to hear updates and 'visit'. If you are interested in joining our weekly Zoom visit (Wednesdays at 10am), please email [manager@ontariogleaners.org](mailto:manager@ontariogleaners.org) for the link.

Thankful for donations of produce coming to our building. Recent donations of sweet potatoes and carrots have kept our cooler filled.

Rejoicing that the Cuba shipment has been loaded and sent. Our donation of 8 skids of Gleaners food (192,000 servings) was added to other donations of rice, beans and cooking oil.



Thankful also for our 'bubbles' of volunteers that have continued to package our dried food mixes. Our next shipment of 40 skids (1 million servings of food), destined for Malawi is almost all packaged up and then we will begin the next requests for food aid to Zimbabwe, the Philippines and Venezuela.

We ask that you continue to pray for the work of the Gleaners – the needs around the world are so great and we are thankful to serve alongside our wonderful volunteers and with the prayerful and financial help of our supporters.

- With Joy & Thanksgiving,

*Elaine Merkus*

## Volunteer from Home!

- We are in search of volunteers to help clean the pails we package our food in.
- Porch pickup and drop off at the Gleaners
- 60 pails ships 24,000 servings of Gleaners food
- Call 519-624-8245 or email [manager@ontariogleaners.org](mailto:manager@ontariogleaners.org)

