



Ontario Christian Gleaners

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News from the Gleaners

November 2021

Haiti



This past December, a small window opened up in the travel world and I was able to get a negative Covid test, book an Air Canada flight to Miami and then jump on a connecting flight - the first American Airlines flight into Cap Haitien Haiti in over a year. I work for the *Joy and Hope of Haiti*. I had not been able to get to Haiti for almost 2 years, owing to the one- two punch of Civil unrest in Haiti and then Covid-19 shutting down borders almost everywhere including Haiti.

Despite the greatest of challenges, *Joy and Hope of Haiti* continued to support its core program: The Christian education of 3700 kids in 10 schools in and around Cap Haitien. The 2nd largest city in Haiti. Our feeding program to over 8000 people also continued as we serve *Gleaners* food to the Haitian kids in these schools and other places.

We believe educating children is a significant part of what Haiti needs to achieve generational change. Where other organizations have child sponsorship programs, we are unique in that we support the teachers in each school. We match the parents efforts to pay tuition which supplies funds among other things for teachers' salaries. We add our contribution and this means teachers get paid. Thus they don't quit in frustration and students keep getting an education. For just \$3.33 a day we can keep 30 students in class with our unique approach.



As good a story as this is, the reality is that the hungry minds of these kids are often distracted by their hungry tummies. Haitian children especially now face their days with so little nutrition. Today food is increasingly unavailable and unaffordable. We pride ourselves on an approach for these kids that tries to address the needs of body, mind and spirit.

Important Dates:

Closures:

Remembrance Day
Thursday November 11
Christmas Shutdown
December 20-31

Volunteering:

Online singup opportunities
<https://www.ontariogleaners.org/volunteer.html>

Or call in on weekdays
between 9am-noon
(519) 624- 8245

No Drop Ins!



Joy and Hope of Haiti partners with *Ontario Christian Gleaners* and *Food for the Poor Canada* to load two shipping containers a year with as many as 39 skids of dried vegetable mix in each container. Every skid has 240 bags packed in pails, boxes or drums. The math that these Haitian kids could do for us would tell us that each container brings 936,000 servings of vegetable mix to these hungry mouths.

Continued

(continued from front page...) *Food for the Poor* is the other piece of the puzzle. They are able to get a container into Haiti and then swiftly through the otherwise much delayed and costly Haitian Port system. *Food for the Poor* gets these badly needed servings into the hands of our distribution network within days of arrival in Haiti. A major miracle actually. In turn, we share 252,000 servings with *Food for the Poor* in Port au Prince. The rest travels north on mountainous roads to arrive at our safe and secure storage area just west of Cap Haitien.

On Thursday evening (Oct. 7) the shipping container that left the *Gleaners* loading dock on August 11th arrived safely at our unload area at the *Empower Global Inc* secure compound. Our schools had been without food to serve the children since the end of June. On September 6th they started their new school year. They waited for the food to arrive. We were so happy it did.

When I arrived in December, one of my first school visits was to a school in the Duty area, south of the Plaine du Nord area. I have a wonderful video of the charismatic founder and director of the school proclaiming in a booming voice. As we drove through the noise of a Haitian roadway, he proclaimed "soup soup, we love the soup Mister Cal" thank you, thank you, thank you".



Yesterday (Oct. 13) I sent a distribution plan to our Haiti team- the planned distribution over the next 5 months includes 16 Schools, 4 small feeding programs for widows and orphans and actual orphanages. It also distributes with compassion to one Prison in Cap Haitien where 80 percent of the "detainees" are suffering from malnutrition in horrible circumstance, many of whom are falsely accused.

In one of our schools, a huge population of students now numbering 1400 are fed twice a week. They add rice and fresh vegetables as they can. They report that the student grades improve by 30% when they are fed weekly.

Never doubt that what you do, as workers, volunteers and supporters makes a difference. It does. The *Joy and Hope of Haiti* receives a major portion of your Labour of Love. We are so deeply appreciative. We thank you on behalf of those who can't thank you. God bless you all.

- Cal Schultz

<https://www.joyandhopeofhaiti.com/>

**Looking for
a delicious
Christmas
treat?**



**Try a Dutch classic..
BOTERKOEK
(butter cake)
\$20**

Order while quantities last!

Phone: 519-624-8245

Online:

<https://www.ontariogleaners.org/fall-fundraiser.html>

It's that time of the year!

Gleaners Christmas Fundraiser

Great Gifts for
**Family, Friends, Teachers,
Neighbours, Employees & Clients!**
Only a limited supply available**



\$35

Warm & Cozy



\$35

Soup's On



\$30

Snack Attack



\$20

Quiet Time

Place an order online

<https://www.ontariogleaners.org/christmas-fundraiser.html>

Contact us @ 519.624.8245 or
gleanerspromo@gmail.com

Payment: Cash, Cheque, or Etransfer
(etransfers@ontariogleaners.org)

Order Deadline: November 26
Pickup: December 7-10

GOING... GOING... GONE!
Gleaners Online Auction

Get the chance to bid
on some beautiful pieces

Closes: November 26, 2021

<https://www.32auctions.com/Gleaners2021>

BID

BID



Using surplus produce to feed a hungry world.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.” Galatians 5:22-23

In a recent devotional we shared one morning at announcements, we read, “We can ask the Holy Spirit to give us love to replace our indifference, joy to counter sadness, peace to replace our anxiety, patience to push out our impulsiveness, kindness to care about others, goodness to see to their needs, faithfulness to keep our promises, gentleness instead of harshness and self-control to lift us beyond self-centeredness”. (*Our Daily Bread*) What a challenge for each of us as we go about our day to day tasks and what a joy to see some of these qualities in action at the Gleaners.



Despite some of shipping delays, *Gleaners* food is on its way or has recently been delivered to Zambia, Guatemala, Honduras, the Philippines and Sierra Leone. Mission groups have been quick to report on the response to the food deliveries. One response was that the people could not believe the abundant blessings they received. We are so thankful to be a part of helping. Our current distribution numbers sit at 165,000 kg of food having left our building.

Our building is filling up with skids of prepared food ready for shipment in containers to Venezuela, Cuba and Haiti. Please pray with us that the permits required for these six food aid requests can be secured quickly so this much needed food can get to the intended destinations.



Ontario Christian Gleaners needs a steady supply of volunteers, donated funds, and donated food in order to keep going. We are thankful for our faithful volunteers that come and process thousands of pounds of produce each day. With gratefulness we express our thanks to our financial donors that support the work of this organization. Our annual fundraising banquet has been cancelled twice and the consistent support from our financial supporters have blessed us abundantly. We have recently received donations of dried beans and trail mix in addition to new potatoes, cauliflower and broccoli. The fresh produce is a wonderful addition to our vegetable mixes and the trail mix is a great source of protein that is ready to eat. Thanks to all of our produce and product donors.

As a staff, we are excited to welcome Tamara Terpstra to the *Gleaners* team! She is serving as the assistant to the manager and brings with her an education in Nutrition and experience in missions having served with *YWAM* in Australia and Uganda and *Food for Life*. We are thankful for the blessing that she is to us here at the *Gleaners* and trust that as staff and volunteers we will be a blessing to her as well.



Please continue to pray for the work of the *Gleaners* and give thanks that each day we can see the expression of the fruits of the Spirit.

With Joy, *Elaine Merkus*

2021 Gleaners Stats to date...

165,610 kg of food prepared, sent to **15** different countries around the world,
sent by **17** different mission organizations in **29** shipments!

Gleaners Wish List



Donate to these projects...

These items 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

e-transfer - etransfers@OntarioGleaners.org

(please note your name, address and item donating towards in the message section)

or credit card

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

All donations of \$20 or more will receive a tax receipt



Peas by the metric ton **\$633**
(**\$50/80 kg**)



Second Hand Drums & Pails
for Shipping Veggie Mix
\$60 - \$80/skid
(60 pails or 4 drums)

We thank you for your support!

Why this washer?

- Holds produce in a clean container until ready to be trimmed.
- Provides thorough sanitizing, which reduces risk of cross contamination.
- Speeds up washing process, so the volunteers can prioritize other necessary duties.



Basket/Pail Washer
\$20,000



Pallet Weigh Scale
\$2500



Adjustable Height
Processing Table
\$2000