



**Ontario Christian  
Gleaners**

MARCH 2022

# Gleaners

A QUARTERLY UPDATE WITH LATEST NEWS

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

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

**Elaine Merkus**  
OCG Manager

[manager@ontariogleaners.org](mailto:manager@ontariogleaners.org)

Charitable # 85923 0476 RR0001

## **Important Dates:**

### **Closures:**

Good Friday – April 15  
Easter Monday – April 18  
Victoria Day – May 23  
Summer Shutdown - July 4-8

### **Volunteering:**

No Drop Ins!  
Monday - Friday  
8:30am - 11:30am  
Register online or Call

(519) 624- 8245

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



“a **literal life-saver** for struggling families in Manila”

- *John Coffey, IT Tender*

“a **blessing** to Christian families that are currently living in IDP camps throughout Nigeria”

- *Alexandra, Voice of Martyrs Canada*

March 29-April 29

## **Taste of Spring**

Soup & Cookie Dough Fundraiser



### IN THIS ISSUE

**SPRING FUNDRAISER**  
SOUP & COOKIE DOUGH

**BOARD REPORT**  
GLEANERS' PROGRESS

**DISTRIBUTION STATS**  
FOOD SHIPPED PER YEAR

**PRAYER REQUESTS**  
FROM MISSION GROUPS

**MANAGER REPORT**  
RECENT UPDATES

**WISH LIST**  
DONATION OPPORTUNITIES



Follow Our Social Media

@ontariogleaners



See our website or call to place an order!

# Greetings from the OCG Directors

It is our privilege and joy to greet you through this newsletter. The Ontario Christian Gleaners has been incorporated provincially since it began in 2008. Currently, eight (8) men and women serve as directors. Each serve a three (3) year term and may serve two consecutive terms before stepping off the board. This rotation of terms has enabled us to bring new people onto the Board of Directors from time to time.

The last two years have been challenging with having to make adjustments due to the COVID pandemic. This includes staffing changes, putting health protocols in place and limiting the number of volunteers. Since we are classed as a food service operation, we have been able to continue dehydrating and packaging our dried vegetable mix throughout the pandemic.

We are grateful for our Manager, Elaine Merkus, who has done a great job overseeing the daily operations, establishing new protocols and working with our partners to get the packaged food out the door and into the hands of the needy in many countries. In fact, we have been able to process, package and send out more products during each of the last two years than we did before COVID.

We are thankful for our Assistant to the Manager, Tamara Terpstra, our Operations Manager, Fred Dykman and our Assistant to the Operations Manager, Art Sonnenburg. They serve with a joyful spirit and relate well with our volunteers.

With limited number, our volunteers have continued to work very hard and efficiently, which we thank the Lord for each one.

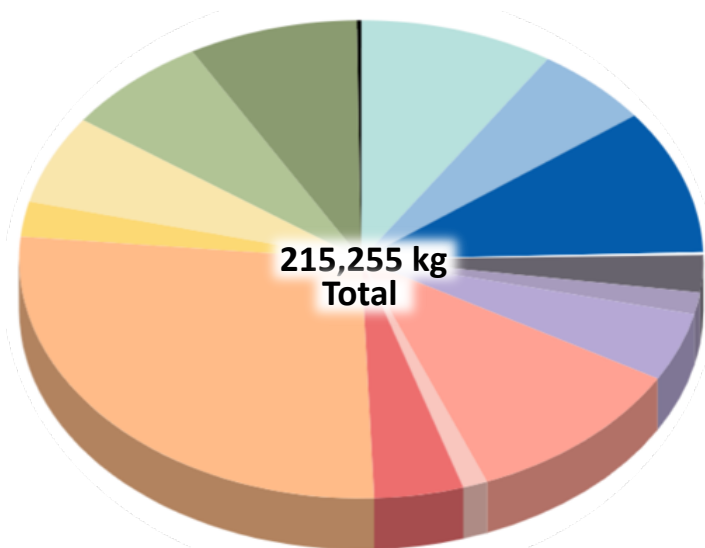
It is gratifying to be able to share our plenty with the needy throughout the world and we thank every contributor and donor for partnering with us as we seek to be a food bank to the world.

Wayne Foster, Board Chair



## Gleaners Distribution

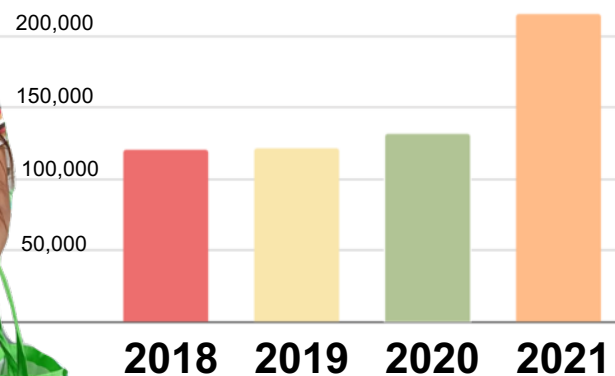
### 2021 FOOD SHIPPED



Since 2018, our production has increased by

# 78%

### Gleaners Food Shipped (kg)



# Prayer Requests

From Our Partnering Organizations

Hope to add 50 more children to the child sponsorship program. – **John Coffey, IT Tender, Philippines**

Hope to collaborate with Haitian schools and add Christian curriculum assistance - **Cal Schulz, Joy & Hope of Haiti, Haiti**

Pray for successful implementation of 2022 projects through our international partners who serve our persecuted sisters and brothers.  
– **Alexandra, Voice of the Martyrs Canada, Nigeria**

Pray that air quality is safe to deliver the almonds to the families in the mountains of Guatemala.  
– **Grant & Carol, Power at Work, Guatemala**



## Using Surplus Produce to Feed A Hungry World

*"20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen." Ephesians 3:20,21*

Friday March 4th was World Day of Prayer. Here at the Gleaners, our staff gathered together to spend the morning in discussions and prayer. Our prayer time focused on our mission groups and the difficulties they face with high shipping costs, shortages of shipping containers and finding shipping space. Many of the mission groups provided us with specific prayer requests and we lifted those up to our heavenly Father. We also spent time praying for the Gleaners' ministry – our daily activities, food donors, volunteers, supporters, staff and for our specific ministry needs. What a blessing to be part of Christian organization that acknowledges our dependence on the Lord. *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplications with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God"* Philippians 4:6



After completing the trimming, packing and loading of containers for a record year in 2021, our staff and volunteers began 2022 preparing produce to replenish our shelves with dried vegetables. Our warehouse is now full of food ready to be shipped – food that has been requested and designated to help those in Cuba, Zimbabwe, Honduras and Ukraine. Please join us in praying for these organizations as they finalize the logistics of shipping.

As we watch the devastation in Ukraine, we realize the current and future needs of those still living there and those that are now refugees in surrounding countries. There are many working behind the scenes to secure safe passage for humanitarian aid. This constantly shifting information has resulted in changes to shipping plans for our exciting food aid request. Other mission groups have also expressed interest in shipping our dried vegetable mixes.

We have been blessed with many donations of produce at the Gleaners. A tractor trailer load of 60,000 pounds of PEI potatoes arrived at our building filling all the empty spaces. As I write this, the last of those potatoes are being loaded into the dryer ready to be incorporated into our vegetable mixes. Cored cabbages, carrots from the Holland Marsh and sweet potatoes the size of guinea pigs now occupy the space in the cooler and warehouse ready to be trimmed and dried adding to the nutrition and colour of our mixes.

We are thankful for the opportunities to join together in fellowship across the table trimming vegetables and over our coffee breaks. As the springtime approaches, we look with eager anticipation for what God has planned for us here at the Gleaners.

We humbly ask for your support and especially for your prayers as we continue on our task of using surplus produce to feed a hungry world.



With Joy, Elaine Merkus



Give a little. Help a lot.

# DONATE TODAY

## 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 and fruit to make nutritious vegetable mixes and fruit snacks for distribution to needy people in countries around the world. In recent news, we have two shipments confirmed for the Ukraine and more to come. 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](mailto: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>

### Feed Hungry Children

\$8	100 servings
\$40	500 servings
\$80	1000 servings

Peas

Split peas by the metric ton **\$704**  
**(\$50/70 kg)**



**THANK YOU**  
**FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**