



# Ontario Christian Gleaners

USING SURPLUS PRODUCE TO FEED A HUNGRY WORLD

Charitable #85923 0476 RR0001

## Couple's Vacation, Turns Into Mission Help in Honduras

John Genereaux -  
Sandy Bay Lighthouse Ministries

In 2011, my wife and I were on a cruise with a stop in Roatan, Honduras. We made arrangements to visit Sandy Bay Lighthouse Ministries, a children's home (orphanage) with 12 children. From the cruise port to the home, we took in the lush greenery and beautiful sea views. We also noticed the poverty and poor infrastructure. We could see through the wooden slats of homes, many with just one lightbulb and no running water. Hand washed laundry was hung on random ropes. Barefoot children played in the dirt.

At the children's home, they had a failed septic system. We have our own small wastewater service business, and by the end of our visit that day, I had offered to have their system fixed. When back on ship, surrounded by 24-hour food and entertainment in glitz and glory, we were quietly reflective. Suddenly, our surroundings lost their shine and appeal as we thought of the 3300 km, language barriers and differences in culture that would separate us from these dear people. However, God opened many doors and the work was completed. This was just the beginning of many visits to the home.

It was not long before others joined in the trips and I was taking groups of 3-20 down to volunteer. We stay onsite at the ministry and over the years have helped with the building of an onsite



bilingual Christian school where 140 community children attend. A mission centre was built to house increasing teams and a non-profit dental clinic. A tilapia fish farm was built to provide low-cost protein to the home and community. Another septic system had to be added.

In nearby communities, each team may help repair a roof, build a small home, build bunk beds decorated with Bible verses, educate them about clean water, or provide food staples. We always pray with them. When providing food to a family, they often share with other neighbours. As the years go by, these one-off visits sometimes develop into friendships.

In January 2023, Ontario Christian Gleaners provided 80 bags of dehydrated veggies/beans for our group to take to those in need. This maxed out our suitcase limits. We had been warned that there may be delays at customs, but again God provided. A local unpaid pastor works at the airport as a porter. He was able to bridge the gap in communication of how this food would be used by those families most in need.



On the Island, there is a drug and alcohol rehab centre called "Jesus is the Solution". It is associated with Teen Challenge. We were able to share some of the Gleaners' mix with them as well, and quickly received a voice message that they were very appreciative. At the childrens' home that now houses 25 children, they too received bags of the dehydrated mix. The full-time cook initially was not interested in receiving suggestions of new foods, but after the home father asked her to give it a try, she reluctantly did. It was added to rice and ...it was delicious! She was pleasantly surprised, and the children enjoyed something new. Now, they are asking for more!

Paul, in Ephesians, directed the people to make wise use of their time and opportunities. Many people are involved with these packages of gleaned food – the visionaries, the doers, the prayer warriors – all needed to work hand-in-hand. It was exciting to be on a cruise, but it's much more exciting to be participating in God's plan through obedience and trust. Thankfully, the gaps that we cannot fill, God does!

# A Word From The Manager

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.  
Ephesians 3:20 and 21

These verses are abundantly true and a great summary of 2024 at the Gleaners.

At the end of October almost 300 people gathered together in thankfulness at our Fundraising Banquet. In addition to raising approx. \$63,000, we were encouraged to hear how God uses many people in so many different ways as our speakers shared about the work they do in Roatan, Chad, Madagascar and the Philippines, sharing the good news of salvation and using Gleaners food to fill empty tummies.



We are thankful for the provision of an abundance of donated produce at this time of the year. There are many food aid requests before us and this abundance is increasing our production.

Second drying shifts and afternoon and evening volunteer opportunities are ways that we are able to use our new building addition to its potential and meet the ever increasing requests for food aid.

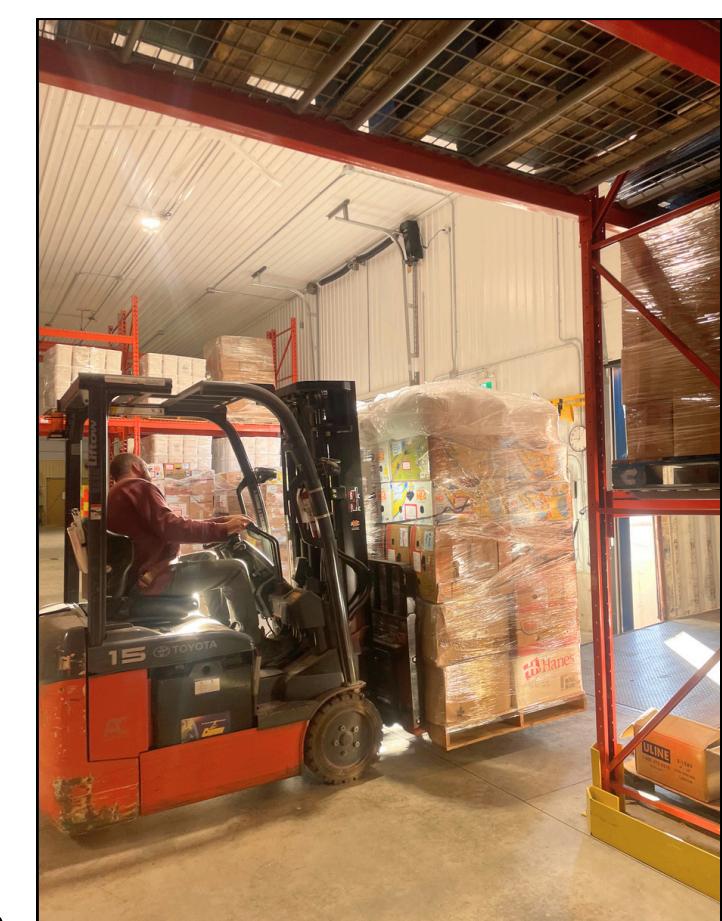
Are you interested in volunteering?

- Weekday Mornings 8:30 - 11:30am <https://ontariogleaners.org/volunteer/>
- Afternoons 11:30am - 1:30pm  
Contact [gleanersoffice@gmail.com](mailto:gleanersoffice@gmail.com) to schedule this group opportunity
- Evenings 7-9pm <https://ontariogleaners.org/volunteer/#evening-shift>
- Second Dryer shifts - call 519.624.8245 or email [manager@ontariogleaners.org](mailto:manager@ontariogleaners.org).  
We would love to talk to you about this!



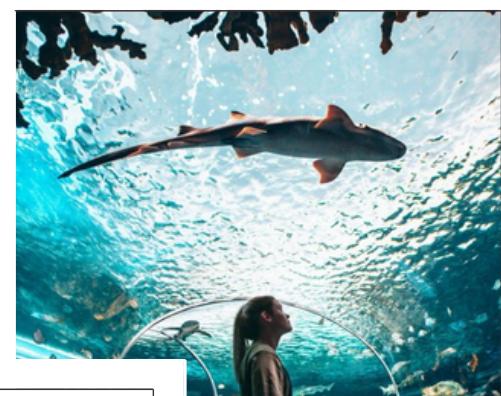
12.8 million servings of Gleaners food have left our building so far this year with our most recent shipments going to the Philippines, Malawi and South Sudan. Haiti and Jamaica will go out next week, while several other food aid requests are awaiting shipping confirmations. We pray for these mission groups as they work towards obtaining shipping spaces and documentation as well as the work they do around the world.

As Christmas is coming and 2024 will draw to an end, we ask you to prayerfully consider supporting the work of the Ontario Christian Gleaners. Check out our Wishlist for ways you can help support in addition to our operating costs. Honour cards are available when you donate as a gift to a friend or loved one.  
<https://ontariogleaners.org/donate/>



We love touring visitors! Join us at one of our next Open House Tours. All tours start at 10:30am and are 45 min. to 1 hour in length.

With Thankfulness,  
*Elaine Mergens*



## ONLINE AUCTION FUNDRAISER

Bidding Begins  
**NOVEMBER 18-22**



**Take A Peak!**

<https://fundraiser.bid/ocgauction>

Christmas shopping is around the corner- & we've got you covered! Our auction has something for everyone. With items ranging from grills & pizza ovens, to giftcards & experiences. You don't want to miss out!



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR



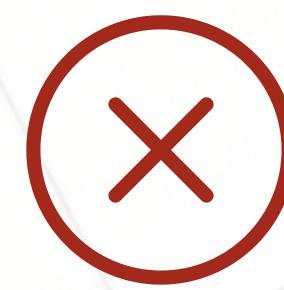
### OPEN HOUSE

Dec.10 & Jan.14  
@10:30am



### EVENING SHIFTS

Nov.20, Dec.10, Jan.14 & Feb.11  
@7-9pm



**CLOSED**

Remembrance Day -  
November 11

Christmas Shutdown-  
December 23-January 3

# Wish List.

YOUR GENEROSITY MAKES A DIFFERENCE



## Feeding Hungry Children.

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

## WHAT

Please consider making a donation this holiday season, 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



## Barrels

\$20 per barrel  
\$80 per skid

## 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](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>



## Split Peas.

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

## Contact & Connect



519.624.8245



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



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## OCG MANAGER

Elaine Merkus

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