



# Ontario Christian Gleaners

USING SURPLUS PRODUCE TO FEED A HUNGRY WORLD

Charitable #85923 0476 RR0001

## Gleaners Mix Aides Zimbabwe During Emergency Drought

Jeremy Thommy -  
Karanda Mission Hospital

As I write this, I want to bless you (the reader and faithful supporter of *Ontario Christian Gleaners*), just as I was blessed and encouraged by 1 Chronicles 29 verses 12 and 13, where it says: *“Both riches and honour come from you, and you rule overall. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand, it is to make great and to give strength to all. And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name”*.

2024 turned out to be a very tough year for the Zimbabwean people. A nation (of 16M people) already beset with economic woes (24.9% Inflation, volatility in exchange rate, a 9% unemployment rate), and added to this there was little or no rainfall, the country was declared a ‘drought emergency’. This was the worst drought Zimbabwe had experienced in 40 years. The drought impacted almost one half of the nation’s population, leading millions of people to seek emergency food support. Globally, Zimbabwe took the second place with Namibia for the countries worst affected by drought and famine (source: [www.statista.com](http://www.statista.com)). To quote a local village pastor on receiving the July 2024 shipment of vegetable soup mix (from the *Gleaners*): *“I have never seen people this happy today. They are grateful for the timely intervention. Things are not well. Hunger is real here. Please thank the generous donors for their timely help”*.

On a macro level, organizations like *UNICEF* responded with food aid to the most affected districts. This was far from enough to feed a starving nation!



On a local level, in and around the areas served by the *Karanda Mission Hospital* (where the *Gleaners* donations are being distributed), the response was to schedule all-night prayer meetings to cry out to the Lord for help. And the Lord answered!

Temporal relief came in through timely cash donations from generous Southern Ontario supporters. This allowed the Hospital Community development team to buy and stockpile large quantities of maize flour for distribution in the villages and schools in the area. Relief came in from the *Ontario Christian Gleaners*, who graciously supplied an extra container of vegetable soup mix, as they were blessed with an abundant supply in the summer.

This container was loaded and shipped in December 2024. It is expected to reach the village in March 2025. Praise the Lord! Then the Lord opened up the heavens! In the months of December and early January, the area was blessed with rainfall!

This allowed the people to plant sustenance crops – maize, cowpeas and ground nut (peanut). These would be harvested in March/April 2025.

We join the writer of 1 Chronicles and say: We thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name! Thank you *Ontario Christian Gleaners* for being used by our God to bless brothers and sisters in Zimbabwe!



# Contact & connect



519.624.8245



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

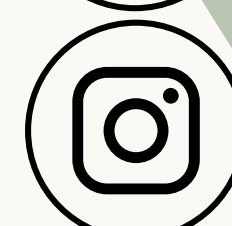


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OCG MANAGER

Elaine Merkus

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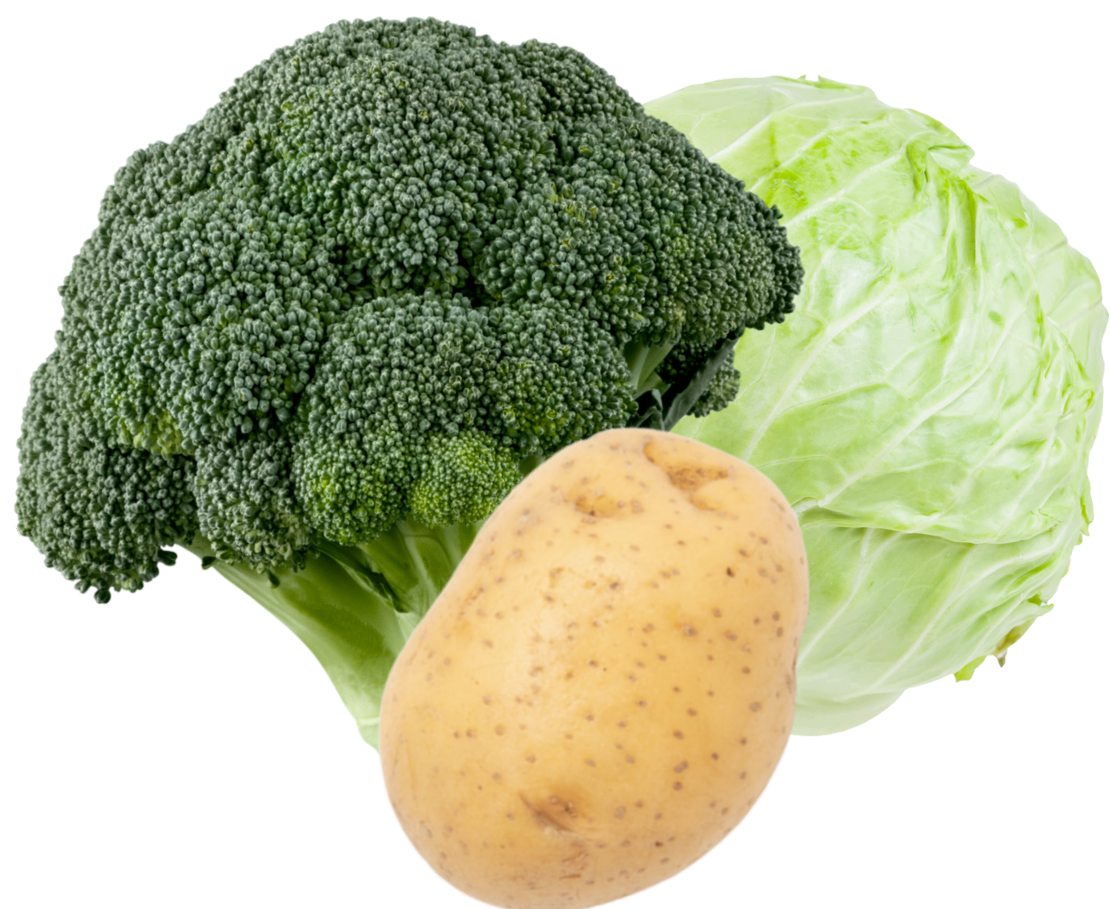




# A Word From The Manager

*'And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.' Philippians 4:19*

As a staff we are thankful to see the blessing our addition has been to us all at the Gleaners. As we gave away a record 18.7 million servings of food, we are thankful for the additional work and storage spaces. We are thankful for produce donors who provided us with an abundance of fresh produce. We are thankful for our volunteers who worked hard trimming the additional vegetables, the drying crews who worked first and second shift and those that served in the afternoons or on our evening shifts. We are most of all thankful to our heavenly Father who is the provider of all of these things and has blessed the work here, enabling us to dry an extra 6 million more meals than in 2023.



Our most recent shipments have left for Ukraine, Guatemala, Jamaica and Cuba and we are preparing shipments to leave for Dominican Republic, Cuba, Philippines and Haiti in the next number of weeks.

Our coolers have been full of beautiful donated produce - Potatoes, sweet potatoes, cabbages and broccoli are the latest items to fill the coolers and keep our dryer busy. We praise God for these donations and ask for blessings as we move towards spring and source out Ontario's fresh produce. If you have connections or are a grower, we would love to chat with you. 519.624.8245 or [manager@ontariogleaners.org](mailto:manager@ontariogleaners.org).

Tamara and her husband Ethan are eagerly awaiting the birth of their first child and our prayers were answered as we searched for a replacement for her maternity leave. Elsa Schoenmaker has joined the staff team here at the Gleaners and is busy getting all the day to day training from Tamara. We look forward to seeing how God will use her nutrition education and design skills here. We are thankful for Tamara's time here at the Gleaners and wish her God's blessings as she awaits their special blessing.

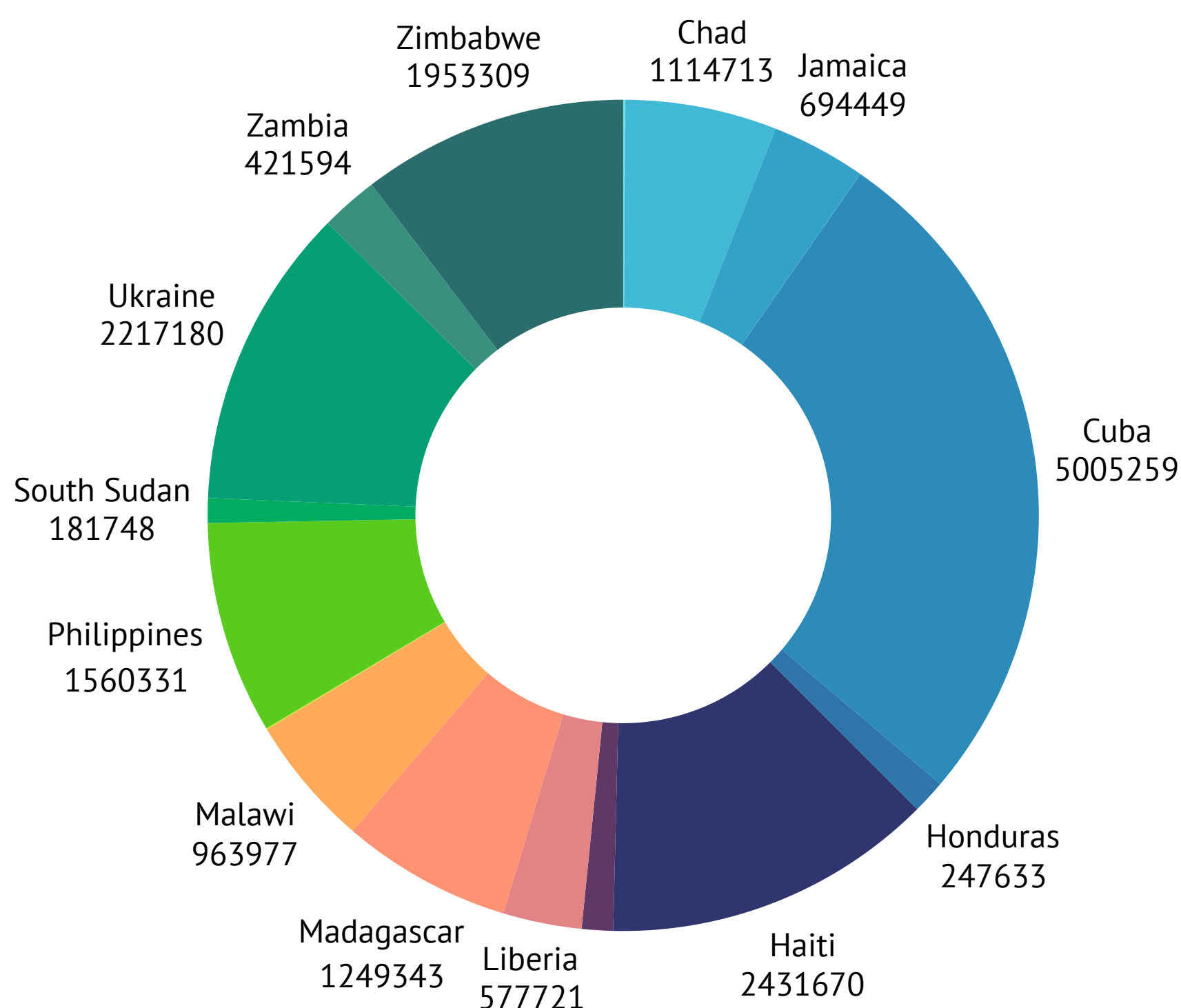
Our evening shifts have been well received with churches and Bible study groups signing up. We have also had fifteen family members sign up one evening representing three generations! If you would like to come join us on your own or sign up a group we would love to serve with you.

<https://ontariogleaners.org/volunteer/#evening-shift>. If you have any questions, feel free to call our office 519.624.8245. If you would like to join us on a weekday morning, please sign up here <https://ontariogleaners.org/volunteer/#volunteer-information-2>

With Thankfulness,

*Elaine Merkus*

## SERVINGS DISTRIBUTED IN 2024





# ONTARIO CHRISTIAN GLEANERS

## Golf Tournament Fundraiser

FRIDAY, JUNE 20TH



### REGISTRATION FORM

FRIDAY JUNE 20, 2025

NAME

PHONE

FULL ADDRESS

EMAIL ADDRESS

MY PREFERRED GROUP OF PLAYERS ARE:

1.

3.

2.

4.

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MAY 30, 2024**

Registration Limited. Register today to avoid disappointment.

Must be a minimum of 16 years old to play.

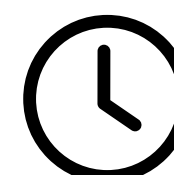
Note: your spot is not guaranteed until we have received payment.

Register online at <https://www.ontariogleaners.org/golf-tournament-fundraiser.html>

**YOUR COMPANY COULD BE  
ADVERTISED ON THE DIGITAL GOLF CARTS!**



**HELP US HELP YOU  
BY SPONSORING A HOLE**



Registration & lunch at 11:30am  
Golf (shotgun) starts at 1pm  
& dinner to follow



Flamborough Hills Golf Course  
71 Highway 52 N, Copetown



**FOR ANY QUESTIONS**

**Sue VanWynGaarden:**

ocg.fundraising@gmail.com

**Gleaners Office:**

519.624.8245

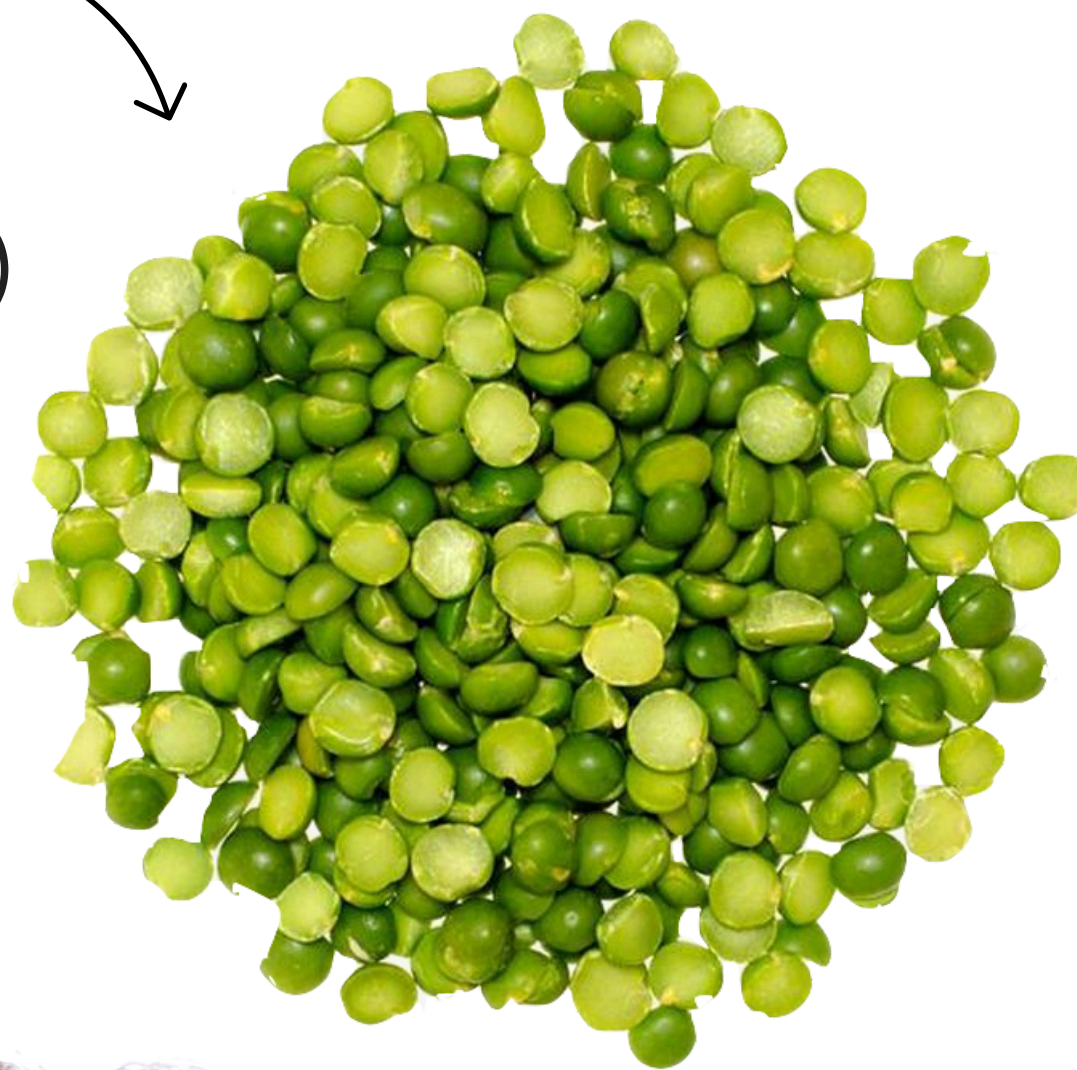


# Donate.

YOUR GENEROSITY MAKES A DIFFERENCE

## Split Peas.

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



## Feeding Hungry Children.

\$8 - 100 meals

\$40 - 500 meals

\$80 - 1000 meals



## 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

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!

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

- Credit card -

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

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR



### OPEN HOUSE

10:30am

March 17, April 22, May 12



### EVENING SHIFTS

7-9pm

March 18, April 8 & May 20



### CLOSED

Good Friday - April 18

Easter Monday - April 21

Victoria Day - May 19