



Delivering Hope

Lithuania and Georgia receive aid and send thanks.

Living in the United States, we easily forget that most of the world struggles daily to survive. Our rich blessings of food and clothing, when shared with others in desperate need, enrich the lives of both receivers and givers. Such is the case in countries to whom we send aid. As soon as our June **Lithuania** shipment arrived, Rev. Valdas Miliauskas responded with pictures (see Header) of the container quickly off-loaded, a local truck readied with aid for a distant village, a happy little boy toting a stuffed toy, and a proud wheel chair recipient.

In **Republic of Georgia**, gratitude flowed freely. Nato Sopromadze, Associate Director of 'Women for Justice' in Tbilisi, traveled to many villages distributing aid. She visited one boarding house for disabled people and another for the elderly; she saw families so impoverished they sold everything to stay in empty houses, mothers with hungry children, and families of people with disabilities.



Despite pervasive hardship, she was always greeted with joy. Nato wrote, "Our visit was joyful and pleasant for them... one could feel the warmth and care... the old people told us their stories, blessed us and saw us off... everyone helped each other to choose clothes and shoes, everyone was very satisfied and happy." She concluded,

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Shipments Outlook

Shipments are determined by specific requests from our international and domestic destination partners.

On a very hot Saturday in late June, 28 volunteers loaded a truck for Lithuania, many for the first time. Their large number was a blessing, enabling us to rotate crews in and out of the container and quickly load 1,100 boxes



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"Food that Endures"

Norfolk Convention attendees celebrate the joy of service.

Over 300 volunteers gathered in Norfolk, NE, on September 13th and 14th to celebrate how Orphan Grain Train is flourishing under the Lord's care, growing from a single container of aid for Latvia in 1993 to over 4,780 containers sent to 71 countries and 38 states today. MAB representatives Bob Larson and Rob Hall (right) enjoyed sharing ideas with other branches, building relationships with Norfolk staff, and hearing inspiring testimonials from recipients in Republic of Georgia, Ukraine, and Russia. What a joy to come together in fellowship with other Christians all working toward the same goal!



Bob and Rob with Intl. Shipping Assistant, Chris Carstens

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Mid-Atlantic Branch

“Sufficient Grace”

Donations are the answer to prayer.

The Lord often answers prayer by means we least expect. Such was the case at the end of August when we ran low on donations, and turned to Him for help. It soon arrived in the form of **Irma Castaneda** and a 20' truck from local *charity Misiñ Santa Maria/Madre de Dios*, filled with their excess donations. Lee Fulton, of Caring Transitions, made the connection: “When I heard that OGT needed clothing ... and when I knew that Irma was challenged with overflow ... it seemed a match made in Heaven.” Irma’s goods filled 25 bins!



Bob Larson helps Irma unload donations at the MAB warehouse



New donations continued to come in the following week. **Mary Lou McKee**, a resident of **Jenner’s Pond Retirement Community**, found us through her Christian Life Center. Enthusiated by a tour of our warehouse, she set up a collection tub and sign at Jenner’s Pond and quickly began gathering items. She wrote a wonderful article for their newsletter that

spurred friends to donate – like **Sharon Fox** (left), who brought us her beautiful handmade quilts.

Others have come to our aid, as well. **St. Timothy’s Lutheran Church** in Aston jammed Rob Hall’s pickup truck with donations collected in direct response to our appeal. **Deaconess Helen DeMario** from New Jersey filled her own boxes with clothes and wrote, “I just saw your need and I wanted to help.” Thank you all for being the hands and feet of Christ!

Could your group, church, or neighborhood hold a clothing drive during the critically low-donations months of Jan-Feb-Mar or July-Aug-Sept? Please contact Rob Hall if you can help: rob.hall.OGT@gmail.com . ■

Delivering Hope

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“Thank you, thank you to all those people who participate in the joy of our beneficiaries.” More pictures can be seen in the Fall Photo Supplement at ogt.org/branches/mid-atlantic/. ■



Would You Give Five Dollars?

Boscov’s fundraiser returns for ninth year.

This fall, MAB volunteers are again asking for your support during our Friends Helping Friends campaign. Your \$5.00 donation will directly aid individuals in desperate need — and as a thank you, you’ll receive a 25% discount shopping pass to Boscov’s annual store-wide sale event, happening **Tuesday, October 22nd (in-store and online), from 8am to 11pm.**



Whether you decide to shop or not, your \$5.00 gift is a simple yet powerful way to make a difference. Last year, your generosity raised an impressive \$4,808.00. With the help of an \$1,800 grant-match, we have the chance to raise even more. Passes are available now from any volunteer, or on the day of the event at Boscov’s stores in Neshaminy, Exton, and Granite Run PA Malls, and also Christiana and Dover DE Malls. For more information, contact Sandy O’Hedy at s.ohedy116@comcast.net . ■

New Volunteers!

MAB welcomes Delaware church groups.



Faith Lutheran in Bear (left) and Concordia Lutheran in Wilmington each volunteered their time on a Saturday this past summer. Pastors

David Kummer and Michael Thress enjoyed the work along with their church members, learning the basics and filling 62 apple boxes! Result: more people experienced firsthand the joy of supporting our neighbors in need. ■

Shipments Outlook

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of clothing, linens, diapers, children's items, bicycles and medical equipment. Only five weeks later, recipient Rev. Valdas Miliuskas confirmed the container's arrival. He soon began distributing to the Psichotery Rehabilitation Center Gabrielius, which, through the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lithuania, offers long-term spiritual and practical help for individuals struggling with substance abuse addiction. Aid will also go to his six parishes, many of which serve Ukrainian refugees. (See header photos and article on page 1). Although OGT has sent several containers since first supporting him in 2019, this was our first shipment to Lithuania. Many will be blessed through your donations. ■



Loading team poses with a new sign!

“Food That Endures”

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Of special interest was the dedication of Norfolk's new 20,000 square foot Servant Center that will bless many with more space to process donations, streamline shipping activity, and assemble Mercy Meals.



Rob Hall and wife, Jane, tour the new Mercy Meal assembly line

Under the theme “Food that Endures,” staff member Ralph Schmidt closed the ceremony with these words, “*May this building serve to enhance the ministry of the organization and enable it to expand its reach to more and more people in carrying out the ministry of mercy that our Lord entrusts to us.*” We pray OGT's work continues for many years to come. To watch convention video highlights click [HERE](#), or search Orphan Grain Train 2024 on the YouTube channel. ■

Revived Bicycles Renew Lives

A special ministry brings joy to others.

Bicycles from our warehouse bless people all over the world. Since 2018, when they became a special part of our purpose to help those in need, 480 have been shipped overseas or donated to local organizations. Whether given to a refugee for transportation, a pastor for reaching his parish community, a child as a gift, or a church as a give-away, bicycles are prized possessions. Our donors are always pleased and thankful that their bikes receive new life in the hands of new owners. In mid-September, bike repairman, Tom Fuesler, brought in his 500th refurbished bike ready for shipping – what a milestone! We pray this special ministry continues to grow. Please visit our webpage ogt.org/branches/mid-atlantic/ to see a unique world map in the article, “Bicycles Around the World.” ■

A Clean Start

Hygiene Kits give hope to those in need.

In poor countries, personal hygiene is difficult to maintain, especially in natural disasters, homelessness, poverty, and war. In such situations, hygiene kits provide both physical cleanliness and a reduced risk of disease.



For these reasons, Orphan Grain Train Hygiene Kits are welcomed all over the world.

MAB received over 50 bath towels from the VBS children of Christ Memorial Lutheran Church in Malvern, PA. At left, Benji and Jonathan Fuddy pose proudly with the collection.

LWML volunteers (right) came from Calvary Lutheran in Mechanicsburg, PA, to bring us 58 completed kits, as well as 48 pillowcase dresses and \$200.00! If you would like to help by making Hygiene Kits for us to ship, see the [instructions](#) posted on OGT's website under What We Do—Special Projects. ■





Relief for Human Need Worldwide



Mid-Atlantic Branch Office
89 Line Road
Malvern, PA 19355
610-644-4508
Email: mid-atlantic@ogt.org
Website: www.ogt.org

Warehouse:
8 Federal Road
West Grove, PA 19390

Hours of Operation:
Wednesday, 10:00—2:30
Saturday, 9:00—1:30

Our Mission Statement

In loving response to Christ the Servant, the Orphan Grain Train movement encourages and enables God's people to share personal and material resources in bringing Christ's name and character to needy people, both far and near.

Mid-Atlantic Branch Purpose

To build a Christ-centered team who can use their God-given talents to be a blessing to others through their service in the Mid-Atlantic Branch of Orphan Grain Train, fulfilling the Mission Statement of the OGT movement.

Genesis 12:3 - "I will bless those who bless you ... and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

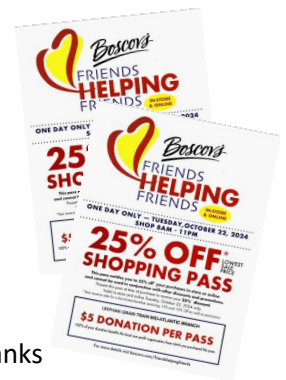
"I will not leave you as orphans, I will come to you." John 14:18

did YOU KNOW?

- ◆ **You Can Drop Donations Off Monday to Friday** from 8am to 5pm. Walk in the main entrance at 8 Federal Rd, and through the door with our logo. Look for a large bin by the glassed-in office—easy!
- ◆ **We Need Additional Seamstresses** — Are you handy with a needle and thread? We can put your skills to good use by doing light repairs on-site or at home. Email rob.hall.OGT@gmail.com .
- ◆ **Great News!** – Delegates gave the most votes to our Mission Grant request for Kids Against Hunger meals at the LWML Chesapeake District Convention. The \$6,000 grant will be the first to be funded! Thanks to attendee Sandy O'Hedy for sending in the results for the newsletter.
- ◆ **Choose "email only" so more of your donation dollars can be put to better use helping people in need. Contact carlaniesen@verizon.net .**
- ◆ **Always Check for Warehouse Closures** before you visit by looking under "Hours of Operation" at www.ogt.org/branches/mid-atlantic/ .

what's AHEAD ...

- ◆ **Remember to Save October 22nd** for Boscov's Friends Helping Friends Day. Make a donation, get a pass, and shop in-store or online. Contact Sandy O'Hedy s.ohedy116@comcast.net if you need passes mailed.
- ◆ **Annual Fall Grant-Match** — Thanks to generous donors, we will again offer you the opportunity to double your gift. Watch for your campaign letter, and prayerfully consider helping us raise necessary funds for people in need.
- ◆ **Do You Have a Heart for Serving Others?** Join us to sort and pack donations at the warehouse. Come individually or with friends. Bring some donations with you and stay for lunch! Contact Branch Manager, Rob Hall, if you need group arrangements. rob.hall.OGT@gmail.com .



To God alone be the Glory!