



Domestic Aid

for Hurricane Helene Victims .



Southeast District of LCMS runs from Delaware to South Carolina including the hard-hit Asheville, NC area. SED Disaster services called for 18,000 hygiene kits to be delivered by October 31. Mid-Atlantic swung in to action with an appeal that raised \$15,800 of the \$30,400 used to build 5,512 of the kits. They were loaded on a semi-trailer along with supplies from Maryland Branch and other church groups and delivered to Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Asheville on October 31. ■



International Aid - Lithuania

Lithuania Update.

Receipt of our June shipment to Lithuania was reported in the Fall newsletter but did not include photos from Valdas Miliauskas, the missionary who received and distributed the contents of the container to Lithuanian needy. The second photo in the banner above shows appreciative recipients holding cards with letters that spell “Thank you,” in Lithuanian. More photos are on our webpage. ■

Shipments Outlook

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

As we go to press, arrangements are being made for our second shipment to the people of Ukraine. The shipment will include clothing, food, bicycles, and even the container, which will be kept in Ukraine for housing. We anticipate the shipment will be loaded on Wednesday February 26 and so should be in transit when you receive this edition! ■



International Aid - Malawi

Malawi Container Sent.

On November 4, a group of 28 volunteers assembled at the warehouse and, after prayers, loaded 860 boxes of clothing and linens, 51,600 meals, and 150 pieces of medical equipment, bikes, and chairs. These supplies will be received by Bishop Harvey Chabinga in Malawi and distributed to parishes. ■



Mid-Atlantic Branch

New and Returning Groups

Volunteers are always welcome!

In addition to the volunteers who come from far-flung congregations to load containers, several church-related organizations, such as an LWML group from Macungie, are scheduled to come to the warehouse this quarter to assist with the mission. We continue to actively recruit groups from churches and our community to participate with us at the warehouse.

In 2024, 145 volunteers logged 7,039 hours. True to the 80:20 rule-of-thumb, the top 29 volunteers (20%) gave 6,195 of the hours (88%). Sixty-five of the volunteers came multiple times. Also important, many of the new volunteers initially came to us as clothing donors. Keep telling your friends and neighbors about us.

We have plenty of opportunities for more volunteers! ■



Material Donations Are Up

Lutheran church resumes packing meals for the needy.

In past years, about half of our donation bins have been empty around New Year's Day and nearly all were projected to be empty by March. This year most of our bins are full by the generosity and efforts of several organizations and individuals:

- Irma Casteneda of Mision Santa Maria made several trips to our warehouse – enough to fill all our bins.
- Arnold and Gloria Zaccardis brought a trailer from Lutheran Church of Our Savior in Rehoboth Beach.
- Dave and Barbara Bierlein head up a satellite collection center in Springs Mills that brought 4 pallets of boxed donations.
- Avondale Presbyterian, Grove Methodist, and Episcopal Church of the Advent each contributed 4 bins or more from their sales and drives.
- Jeff Melendez (photo) delivered hundreds of stuffed animals collected by the students of Avon Grove Charter School. ■



Handcrafted Gifts

Quilts and Jump Ropes.

Beautiful handmade items continue to pour in from skilled hands. A group of quilters from Maris Grove continue to send quilts on a regular basis. Our regular volunteer, John Hollinger (photo), makes jump ropes from donated tee shirts that we cannot ship. We fear one group may have given up as their last donation included the knitting needles! ■



Fund Raising Reaps Results

LWML Chesapeake District.



OGT Mid-Atlantic Branch received the first mission grant of \$6,000 from the LWML Chesapeake District in their 2024-26 biennium to purchase Kids Against Hunger meals. In the photo above (Left to right) are Nancy Malkin, Ruth Hewlett, and Mason Jewell (OGT volunteers), Christine Maconachy (Chesapeake District President), Rob Hall (OGT Branch Manager), Mike Thress and Jeremy Loesch (LWML Pastoral Counselors), and Sandy O'Hedy (LWML DELMAR-VA Zone Chair and OGT MAB Board Member). These funds will purchase over 33,000 meals! ■

Volunteers Are Valuable

Transition Learning Programs .

For the second year now, a group of Chester County Intermediate Unit's transitional learning program students. While they gain job skills, they are helping ready sorted and packed clothing to meet the needs of others here in the U.S. and overseas. Some of them are in pictures throughout this edition.

We also welcome a new student from Avon Grove High School's EMPOWER program accompanied by job coaches Christy Pickar and Christa Schoen wanting to develop vocational skills.! ■

Boscov's Friends Helping Friends

Boscov's fundraiser.

Many of our volunteers, including Carla Niesen pictured below at her station in Boscov's at Granite Run Promenade during the one-day promotion, "sold" shopping passes and even collected some donations from shoppers. Including a generous match from an individual supporter of the Mid-Atlantic Branch, the event raised \$4,009.



In a follow-up, the management of Boscov's in Exton Mall invited Susan Bell to bring a group to the store to wrap Christmas gifts to receive donations from customers benefitting OGT. Seven ladies from Christ Memorial Lutheran Church, Malvern, raised \$191 wrapping presents on Monday, Dec. 9th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. The group included: Susan Bell, Leanne Corba, Carol Sonnenberg, Dori Juskalian, Joanne Bear, Chris Gasslein, Lynda Siedlecki, and Susanne Ferro. Thank you, ladies! ■

Matching Miracle

Fall Grant Match.

With our appeal in October for cash donations to aid victims of Hurricane Helene, our Fall Matching Grant Program began slowly. We were therefore thrilled when online donations not reported until January pushed us to a new record high this year of \$19,865. Together with the Matching Grant commitment of \$17,500, the program received a total of \$36,465. Thank you for supporting our largest fund raiser of the year! ■



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?

- ◆ **Always Check for Warehouse Closures** – before you visit by looking under “Hours of Operation” at <https://www.ogt.org/branches/mid-atlantic/>
- ◆ **New Record** - This year we set an all-time record for volunteer hours in a month: in October 58 volunteers logged 1,019 hours!
- ◆ **Easier to Find** - We will be easier to find as new directional signs inside 8 Federal Rd point to our space.
- ◆ **Packing** - Your hands are needed to sort and pack donations. We appreciate groups contacting us in advance.
- ◆ **California Wildfire Response** - for every \$2 donated through Thrivent's online giving platform Thrivent will match \$1, up to \$500,000 (until the sooner of the match cap being met or 3/10/2025). You do not have to be a Thrivent Member to donate.

what's AHEAD...

- **Our next shipment** is being planned for Ukraine. Date TBD.
- **New Servant Center** - OGT Norfolk will be making a video of the new Servant Center, highlighted in the fall issue. Video is coming out in late February.
- **Thrivent choice dollars cutoff** is March 31st. If you are a Thrivent member, please log on and designate your choice dollars before then. It costs you nothing. Log on to www.thrivent.com, search for “choice dollars”, click the “Direct” button. We are “Orphan Grain Train – Mid Atlantic Branch”.

Direct your
Thrivent Choice
Dollars
Today!



To God alone be the Glory!