

NORTH DAKOTA ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN & MERCY MEALS

NEWSLETTER

To encourage & enable God's people to share personal & material resources in bringing Christ's name & character to needy people both far & near.



SUPPLIES NEEDED

Items requested for upcoming shipments and also those in need locally.

- school supplies*
- bath towels*
- washcloths*
- cloth diapers*
- large safety pins
- baby sleeper (newborn - 12 mo)
- toothbrushes
- combs
- rubber or swimmer pants*
- soap boxes*
- travel size Kleenex
- nail clippers*

*Items in greatest need at this time.

We often get questions about what we can and cannot accept. Here are some of the most common:

Can Accept

- furniture
- bed pillows
- pots & pans
- dishes
- beds (new or used)*

Cannot Accept

- knick knacks
- holiday decorations
- decorative pillows

ANNUAL REPORT FROM ND ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN

Greetings to everyone from Orphan Grain Train North Dakota Branch!

Fiscal year 2023 was busy for our branch. We have many blessings to be thankful for as we continue to serve our local community and beyond. The North Dakota branch is open two mornings a week for general receiving/sorting/packing and we have various hours for other ongoing projects. Our branch has a consistent group of approximately 25 individual volunteers, which have become like a family. An additional four groups volunteer on a weekly or monthly basis, and various community groups volunteer with us periodically, either at our warehouse or with our mobile Mercy Meals program.

Below is a brief summary of our activities this year:

- Capital fund campaign raised enough money in three months to purchase a replacement box truck.
- We packed 244,782 Mercy Meals in 15 events across the state.
- Four international shipments were sent to Liberia, Ukraine and Romania.
- Nine domestic shipments were sent: Ysletta, Ministerios Unidos Fuerte Espiritual, Oyate Teca Project, HERO, Valley Baptist Retreat Center, Trinity Navajo Bible Church and The People Mission.
- 329 local recipients in need were provided with furniture, household items and clothing.
- Representatives presented at 20 speaking engagements to talk about Orphan Grain Train and Mercy Meals services.
- We were open for 101 days and logged 6,726 volunteer hours at our warehouse.
- We celebrated our volunteers by providing new T-shirts this spring and hosting a fish-fry.

We continue to cultivate relationships with community partners and we've found a couple of new ones this year. We have a local grain inspection business that approached us about providing donations of dried beans to ship. We have already received over 6,000 lbs. of beans in fiscal year 2023 from the Grain Inspectors, Inc. Through a "friend of a friend" we were able to make contact with a social service agency on the Pineridge Reservation in South Dakota. We plan to continue our relationship with our new friend, who will hopefully help us with making contacts in North Dakota's Native American communities in the near future.

The North Dakota Branch is blessed to have many supporters in our local community and throughout the state. Although we have only been in Jamestown for eight years, Orphan Grain Train has had a presence in North Dakota for 32 years now, making our network of benefactors strong. We are thankful for the hard work of those founding members, many of whom still serve Orphan Grain Train in an advisory capacity.

God has blessed us to be a blessing to others. We pray that God continues to bless all the efforts of the Orphan Grain Train organization as we work together to bring Christ's love and mercy to the world.

SHIPMENT TO UKRAINE - HEARING THE IMPACT, FIRST-HAND

Ukraine. It's a country that we hear about in the news on a regular basis nowadays. But did you know that our organization is providing a helping hand to countless individuals impacted by the crisis in the war-torn country? We recently had the opportunity to hear first-hand the difference we're making at Orphan Grain Train ND.

In September, Alla Vasylieva travelled all the way from Ukraine to share a presentation with OGT ND, expressing her deep gratitude for our organization. Alla is the head of the Bible Orphan Ministry in Zhytomyr, Ukraine and a recipient of two recent shipments from OGT ND.



Bottom left, Alla Vasylieva, Leader of Bible Orphan Ministry in Ukraine, presented to a crowd of 40 people at OGT ND on her work with orphanages and other people impacted by the crisis in Ukraine.

"It's a great privilege, honor and a wonderful blessing to share with you what the Lord is doing in Ukraine. From bottom of my heart, thank you. Thank you for your open hearts, warmth and Christ's love on behalf of my team and my country. We greatly appreciate every donation." - Alla Vasylieva.

Alla spent her childhood growing up in an orphanage. In 2002 she started serving in Ukrainian orphanages, conducting Bible studies and camps for children's institutions. Today she is the head of a charitable Christian organization, Bible Orphan Ministry. They visit orphanages, nursing homes, assist elderly, the down trodden, and those people living on the front lines and areas ravaged by the war. They share the Gospel and the love of Christ along with humanitarian aid. Alla is the mother of five adopted children and also supervises the House of Joy, a home for orphans.

During Alla's presentation, she gave detailed information about visiting war-torn areas to bring humanitarian aid, and in each place they shared Christ. In her videos, she and many others shared their thanks and gratitude to God and the love He's shown through Orphan Grain Train. The presentation was taped and has been posted on YouTube. It can be found by searching: Orphan Grain Train 2024 - Bible Orphan Ministry in Ukraine with Alla Vasylieva

Alla recalled when the Russians first bombed her city in February of 2022. Her family hid in a tiny corridor of a bedroom to keep safe. During the presentation, she shared photos of her city after the bombings, showing great devastation. They were forced to flee to another city where they joined with hundreds of other refugees. It was at that point when Alla met OGT ND volunteers, Kirk and Brian Rosin. That was the beginning of the partnership with OGT. She gave thanks to God and to our organization for supporting their mission.

Alla shared, "When we received the first container, I thought I couldn't believe the Lord had blessed us so generously that we could help thousands of affected Ukrainians. And most importantly, tell them about God's love."

OGT ND sent two shipments totalling nearly 3,000 items including: clothing, bedding, food, household items, medical equipment, toys, tents, infant formula, hygiene items, flashlights, bikes and generators. Alla's presentation included videos from grateful recipients who stated...

"We thank God that you help us; giving hope for our future."

"May God bless you for this noble work. That you serve the Lord. Thank you!"

"May God give you strength for doing good deeds, for supporting us. May God give you strength and health for everything!"

THANK YOU TO OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS!



Trinity church in Tolley ND school kits



United Women in Faith packed 37 hygiene kits and several boxes of scrubs



UJ basketball team packed 11,880 meals

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: DARRELL & EMMY ROORDA



“It doesn’t make any cents, but volunteering is rewarding.” That’s a quote displayed at the OGT Jamestown warehouse that resonates well with two volunteers in particular. We’re excited to kick off a new series where we’ll feature loyal volunteers from our OGT warehouse. Who better to start with than Emmy and Darrell Roorda? They have been working with OGT for the past five years. This hard-working couple managed their family farm for more than 40 years; additionally, they raised their four children and fostered countless other children for 13 years.

Being Christians with a strong faith, they live out their love of Christ through service to others and Orphan Grain Train benefits greatly from their work. The Roordas are very faithful in coming anytime our warehouse is open, coming every Saturday and Monday, unless they’re visiting grandkids or helping out on the family farm during planting and harvest time. Darrell often spends extra time at the warehouse working on special projects.



Emmy and Darrell Roorda celebrated their wedding anniversary surrounded by other OGT volunteers this summer.

Being a semi-retired farmer, Darrell is very handy to have around. Any time we have something special we need done, Darrell is interested in helping. Several projects he’s taken on were his own idea and they were executed beautifully. Darrell is the primary “go-to guy” whenever we need a bicycle fixed, furniture repaired, or maintenance on our Mercy Meal equipment. Together, Emmy and Darrell have been responsible for taking over the sorting, recording and packing of school book donations. Considering that we ship 300 to 400 boxes of books every year to Liberia, that’s quite an undertaking!

Other activities that the couple have been involved in include:

- Drove to Texas twice to deliver shipments to Ysleta and Ministerios Unidos Fuerte Espiritual.
- Helped locate and orchestrate the purchase and delivery of our new truck.
- Built custom-made crates to ship cargo in, like a pulpit and baptismal font that were shipped to Liberian churches.
- Make schematic plans of our shipments to make loading more efficient.
- Make signage for our warehouse to improve organization.
- Recruit family members to help with shipments on loading days.
- Taking on the job of “rodent control” with the mice and pocket gophers that love to make an appearance on our property.



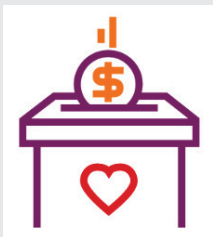
Emmy and Darrell have shown their support in encouraging words, acts of service, and financial gifts and we are grateful for their many contributions to the North Dakota Branch of Orphan Grain Train.



Relief for Human Need Worldwide

North Dakota Branch
PO Box 1546
Jamestown, ND 58402-1546

FUNDS NEEDED!



We're busy preparing for future shipments. We can use your support to continue our mission.

To donate to the North Dakota Branch, send checks to:

North Dakota Orphan Grain Train
PO Box 1546
Jamestown, ND 58402-1546

To contribute by credit card, visit www.ogt.org/nd and click "Donate to North Dakota Branch."

**A sincere thank you for your support.
Your donation will help us change lives!**




ND Branch Warehouse

103 4th Ave SE
Jamestown, ND 58401

ndakota@ogt.org

www.ogt.org/nd

 Like us on Facebook!
Orphan Grain Train, Inc.

Branch Hours & Volunteer Opportunities

We continue to be open
Mondays and Saturdays
from 9am to noon.

For additional drop-off
and volunteer times, call
Sue at 701-320-3259 or
Andrea at 701-658-9057.