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Helping Families Recover

On April 26, residents of Elkhorn, Nebraska, a subdivision of Omaha, will never forget when the powerful EF3 tornado annihilated their neighborhood. Winds as strong as 160 MPH left many homes completely flattened, and other homes being shifted off their foundations. The tornado also left a path of destruction in Blair and rural Waterloo. Orphan Grain Train's headquarters & Norfolk warehouse is 100 miles NW of Elkhorn and staff immediately looked into ways to help.

OGT's Field Work Director Pete Gnan went to Elkhorn to meet with several people and organizations to see how we could best help. Pete immediately talked with Ken Huber with Omaha Rapid Response to offer storage containers with tools and supplies. (pictured above) Ken organized workers each day and assignments to help different families. Many schools and churches in the area sent volunteers over to the Rapid Response area daily. Ken was working an area of over 30 miles from Blair to Omaha and west to Waterloo as he provided help to each family. OGT also delivered several 27-gallon totes with lids, 5-gallon buckets, work gloves, cleaning supplies, tools, plywood and other donated items from the Norfolk warehouse. Disaster relief items requested that were not donated were purchased locally.

Helping Families Recover

Pete also met Matt Gulliver with tornado relief efforts through St Patrick's Catholic Church in Elkhorn. Matt connected us to the Pritzl family; whose home and garage were condemned and their outbuildings destroyed near Waterloo. One of the buildings was their family business, which was completely taken by the tornado. After speaking with the family of their needs, OGT delivered an office unit equipped with a bedroom for a temporary office setting. This family had endured the loss of their home but to add the loss of their livelihood places a much-larger burden on them.

Orphan Grain Train continues to

work closely with Omaha Rapid Response and other organizations as needs change weekly for these devastated families rebuilding their homes.



The Pritzl family lost their home, garage and home business to an EF3 tornado in April. OGT delivered an office unit with bedroom for their use during this very difficult time

The Waters Surged

The Midwest was engulfed by a catastrophic flood in June. Parts of lowa received more than 15 inches of rain, causing water levels to surge and levees to fail. In much of northwest lowa, rivers reached record breaking levels that swallowed up many towns. Orphan Grain Train immediately looked at ways to help families with the muck, stench and devastating damage that the waters left behind. Orphan Grain Train learned that Trinity Lutheran Church

in Hawarden, IA was flooded by water with the basement filled. Many of the residents' homes were submerged in water, some up to their roof line. There were many towns and rural homes engulfed by the overflowing rivers which included Spencer, Rock Valley, Lake Port and many others. We contacted Pastor Josh of Trinity Lutheran to offer a storage container filled with cleaning supplies, dehumidifiers, 34 sheets of drywall and the use of two power washers for cleanup; then return to OGT for future disasters.

OGT also purchased several gallons of Concrobium which is an efficient mold control fogger to eliminate mold and musty smells in large or

inaccessible spaces. The container and disaster relief items are being used by relief workers cleaning & repairing homes and the church. OGT also spoke to city officials in Spencer, IA and was able to deliver much of the same disaster relief items to Christ the King Lutheran Church for families in need.

OGT has had a partnership with Hope Haven in Rock Valley, IA receiving wheelchairs to ship to many in need worldwide. Hope Haven's main office, other lowa offices and community living facilities were all damaged by flood waters. OGT delivered a storage container filled with 34 sheets of drywall, working gloves, respirator masks, 27-gallon totes and several gallons of Concrobium mold control fogger to Hope Haven. Disaster relief workers are set up to use the container and supplies to help many families overwhelmed by the flood.

Orphan Grain Train is blessed to have supporters with big hearts to give monetary and relief supplies



Rock Valley, IA is one of many towns devastated by catastrophic flood waters. The overwhelming clean-up and destruction are massive in NW Iowa.

for the many, many families devastated by the recent disasters. Thank you! We could not do what we do if it wasn't for our faithful donors and volunteers.

Rock Valley, IA residents were grateful to receive the storage container with disaster relief supplies to use while cleaning and repairing their homes. OGT is also assisting residents in Spencer and Hawarden, IA. This is just the beginning of disaster relief supplies for the devastated families of lowa.



OGT Expansions

Houston, Texas is home to OGT's Houston Branch est. in 2020 and has ground being moved for a warehouse in 2024! Mike Rathje, branch manager, along with many other volunteers worked endlessly to



raise money and plan for the 12,000 sq ft. center which 7,000 sq ft will be warehouse and the remainder will include sorting and packing area, two classrooms, break room, restrooms, and showers. Besides being able to ship worldwide, they also plan to house relief workers when disasters, such as hurricanes hit their region. Completion of the warehouse is scheduled for December and it is located at 5040 E Sam Houston Parkway S. Pasadena, TX 77505.

Norfolk, Nebraska is home to Orphan Grain Train Headquarters and Norfolk warehouse, which is adding on the New Servant Center. The 20,000 sq. ft. addition is scheduled to be completed the beginning of September! We invite you to attend the Dedication Ceremony & Open House on Friday, September 13. OGT Convention is the following day at Midtown Event Center in Norfolk, NE. For more information about the Dedication & Convention, go to www.ogt.org or call 402-371-7393.



Children in Need

OGT has exciting news to report! We are in the process of establishing an Adopt-An-Orphanage ministry in Ukraine. Alla Vasylieva, our contact person in Western Ukraine, provides humanitarian aid and Gospel outreach in many orphanages, especially Doneshi Orphanage, Korostyshyv Orphanage, and Nova Borova Orphanage. Many of these orphans have special needs. Many have been made orphans because one or both parents have been killed in the war with Russia. Alla has developed positive relationships with the directors of these orphanages, which has enabled her to actively do Gospel outreach. OGT and our North Dakota branch have been sending containers of supplies to these institutions. We want to do even more! Besides the need for funds, there is a great need for food, especially vegetables, Mercy Meals, diapers, and winter clothing, such as boots and coats. What can you do to help? Pray for Alla and her ministry. Pray that these orphans receive the Good News about Jesus. Pray that they receive the humanitarian aid they require. Pray for an end to the hostilities between Ukraine and Russia. Consider adopting one of these orphanages, so that OGT can support Gospel outreach and provide more humanitarian aid. For more information, contact Paul Leckband, OGT'S Director of Spiritual Correspondence. His phone is 402-992-0578. His email is pleckband@ogt.org.



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Charity Navigator has given Orphan Grain Train "4 Stars", which is their highest rating.





The destruction left behind by an EF3 tornado devastated many families in Nebraska. Orphan Grain Train is helping with tornado & flood relief efforts in the Midwest. Read more on pages 1-3.