

# Orphan Grain Train †

Relief for Human Need Worldwide



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Being the Hands & Feet of Jesus

**Thrivent Match Will Bless Many!**

**'Thank you!'** to everyone that generously gave toward Thrivent's Match for OGT's hurricane relief efforts. We are humbled and beyond words with

\$385,200.00 being donated and Thrivent will add another \$192,600.00 for a **Grand Total of \$577,800.00!** Thank you!

This says more about how we feel & care for the families whose lives were devastated and have lost so much from the recent hurricanes. We will be able to help provide food, supplies and building materials for many families in need. We pray this gives hope & comfort to many during this very difficult time.

**We are blessed to be a blessing to others! Thank You!**



[New England Branch volunteers](#) took advantage of Thrivent's match and donated \$5,000.00 for OGT's hurricane relief efforts to receive an additional \$2,500.00 of impact! Thank you, New England Branch for your generous donation!

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***Serving Many In Need***



Ryan Tormentor with Christian Missionary Church in the Philippines is grateful to soon be receiving 624 OGT Christmas Gift boxes, school desks & supplies, hygiene supplies and other aid from the Norfolk warehouse in Nebraska. Ryan overseas several schools and churches that serve many living in severe poverty. What wonderful gifts for the children!



Norfolk warehouse volunteers loaded 35,640 Mercy Meals, mobility carts, medical equipment, 140 Christmas Gift boxes, bikes and other aid to give comfort to many in Ukraine. "International Charitable Foundation" Reformation will receive the food and aid to share with many enduring hardships near the front lines of the war. Please continue to pray for Ukraine.

### [Norfolk Warehouse](#)

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## *Construction Continues*

[Houston Branch](#) is seeing progress with construction of their new Servant Center and warehouse. This facility will be unique to OGT by including showers and a place for volunteers to sleep when dealing with hurricane disaster relief efforts in the region. They are excited for a January 2025 completion date.



## Many Meals Made

For the third year in a row the Cub Scout Pack 324 family has come out during the holiday season to work together to do amazing things! This evening, in record time for the pack and with a record number of participants, made *10,800 meals* with Mercy Meals of Lincoln to help fight global hunger. This project is hands down the greatest service to humanity that the unit takes part in each year and everybody that participated from Pack 324, Troop 430, Troop 282, and at Mercy Meals should be very proud of the results that these scouts achieved.

## Year End Giving

There is still time for making that special gift of highly appreciated stock, mutual funds or, qualified charitable distribution from your IRA



to Mercy Meals, Hurricane Helene Relief, shipping costs both Domestic and International or Adopt an Orphanage.

Remember, 98.05% of each dollar goes to direct mission. For assistance in stock transfers, or questions, please call or text Tom Watson 402-940-2007; [twatson@ogt.org](mailto:twatson@ogt.org)

Please have a most blessed Christmas celebrating the birth of the Christ Child.

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## Dental Donation

A crew from the Lincoln OGT Collection Center packed up an entire dental practice in Beatrice, Ne. The furnishings were donated by Dr. Bert Villifran and Dr. Rich Woodward which will be sent to Zambia.

[Lincoln Collection Center](#)



## Holiday Hours

OGT Office and Norfolk Warehouse in Nebraska will be closing at noon on Friday, Dec. 20 and will reopen on Monday, Jan. 6 at 9:00 am. Please do not drop off donated items during the days we are closed - Thank you.

## *Additional News*

[Michigan Branch volunteers in Sebewaing](#) loaded & delivered 5,400 pounds of various foods, 135 cases of bottled water, pet food, generators, cleaning buckets, 21 OGT Christmas Gift boxes and many other disaster relief items for Restoration Church in Willow Springs, NC. The goods will be shared with many families still recovering from the effects of Hurricane Helene.

[Steve Rice with OGT's California-Arizona-Nevada Collection Center](#) delivered clothing and hygiene kits to 1000 Building Generations near the California and Mexico border. Steve also delivered 1,800 pounds of various foods, several boxes of pillowcase dresses & Christmas gifts to Lutheran Border Concerns Ministry which serves many families in Mexico.

Norfolk warehouse volunteers shared many donated potatoes locally with food pantries & homeless shelters to share with families in need.

[Iowa West Branch volunteers in Ida Grove](#) delivered diapers, sleeping mats, quilts, hygiene supplies, medical equipment and bikes to Justice for All in Rock Valley, IA. They will share the goods with those in need in the name of Jesus. Praise be to God!

Native American Heritage Association (NAHA) in Black Hawk, SD received several pallets of various foods & 10,000 lbs. of potatoes to share with many in need of food on reservations in two states. Praise be to God!

## Weekly Devotion

*And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for He has been mindful of the humble state of His servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is His name. His mercy extends to those who fear Him, from generation to generation. He has performed mighty deeds with His arm; He has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. He has helped His servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, even as He swore to our fathers." (Luke 1:46-55)*

**The Magnificat:** This text found in the Gospel of Luke is called the "Magnificat." I looked up "Magnificat" online & found out that it's the Latin word for "magnify." To "magnify" means to "make great." [[dictionary.com](http://dictionary.com)] Synonyms include "exalt" and "glorify." [[thesaurus.com](http://thesaurus.com)] So, let me set the stage. Mary is not married. In fact, she is a virgin & probably quite young. By the power of the Holy Spirit, she has conceived the Savior. This is truly a miracle! She goes to visit her cousin Elizabeth, who is pregnant, although she is well past the age of child-bearing—another great miracle. When Mary greets her cousin, Elizabeth's baby, who will be John the Baptist, "*leaped in her womb.*" (Luke 1:41) Elizabeth responds with these words: "*Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished.*" (Luke 1:42b-45) And Mary responds with the "Magnificat." Christians have sung the "Magnificat" for countless generations. [You can find it in the Lutheran Service Book, Hymn #248.] Sometimes we call it the "Song of Mary." Even as Mary rejoiced in "*God (her) Savior, for He has been mindful of the humble*

*state of His servant,” we rejoice as we prepare to celebrate the miracle of Christmas: the coming of God’s Son, born of Mary, born the Savior of the world.*

**Prayer:** O Lord, we rejoice in Your mercy! Amen.

*By Paul Leckband OGT's Director of Spiritual Correspondence*



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