



News from the Gleaners

Spring 2009

Contact us:

Ontario Christian
Gleaners
c/o John Verbinnen
1456 Brock Rd RR4
Dundas, ON
L9H 5E4
ph # (905) 659-7366

Board Members:

John Verbinnen
Harry VanDyke
Derrick VanderKlippe
Ross Drummond
John Wubs
Jerry Bulthuis
Peter Vanderklippe

Shelley Stone

OCG Manager
1550 Morrison Rd,
Cambridge, ON
N1R 5S2
(519) 624-8245
gleanersmanager@sympatico.ca



Angela Gillespie

Report from the President

There has been much activity and many developments to report on since our last newsletter, including the great news of our first shipment.

We give thanks to our God and Father for the year-end donations. Included is a chart that shows the income side of the financials of last year. (Contact Jerry Bulthuis jerrybul@nas.net or Tel 905 389-2012 for a full financial report.) It shows a healthy, broad spectrum of support. We are grateful for all the donations and it is our prayer that you may continue to support the OCG this year. We thank our heavenly Father for providing the OCG with many wonderful volunteers, donations of produce, countless hours and efforts of the board members, committee members and Shelley, our manager.

Several board members have resigned for personal reasons in the past year. That now leaves us with a board of only 5 members. We pray that the Lord will bless us with new members who would like to use their gifts in this unique organization. There is much work still ahead and we need to spread the load.

The cooler should be working by the time you receive this newsletter and the warehouse has been equipped with a racking system making better use of the space available.

As I mentioned in the beginning of my report, we were excited about our first shipment of soup mix that went to Haiti via Crossroads Ministries. We look forward to getting our first pictures and report from the field. (Watch our website for updates.)

Regarding our website: We have not had a new replacement to look after regular updates to our web site. We hope to find some one who may be gifted in that area to join the board. We are in the process of developing a new website as well.

May the grace of our God and Father be with you and I look forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming fundraising dinner.

In His service – John Verbinnen

A Day in the Life of a Gleaner

I was first introduced to the Gleaners from an article in the local newspaper. From this article, I went to the open house and was very impressed with the facility and what they do.

My parents own a small farm market. At the end of the season we had some left over tomatoes and peppers. We did not want to waste them so we thought the Gleaners could likely use them. Though our donation was small, it was appreciated. When dropping them off, Shelly asked if we would like to stay and chop up our vegetables. This is how I first started going. I now go once or twice a week with my dad.

Since I first started going I have been able to do many of the jobs available. The main jobs are at work stations where we chop up the vegetables. So far carrots have been pretty easy; no one is looking forward to onions! While chopping, someone has to pick up the vegetables and then dice them. When the smaller drier was being used someone scooped up the diced produce and evened them out onto trays. Now that the bigger dryer is being used, the product is diced right into a big crate. If chopping vegetables is not your thing there are many other jobs including shoveling the diced product onto a conveyer belt, replenishing the vegetables for the work tables, using the washer to wash the veggies/fruit, collecting the dried product from the dryer and bagging it. At the end of our workday everyone helps clean up. Oh and the best part of the day, the coffee break! ☺

If you are looking for a meaningful way to spend a couple of hours then I would suggest the Gleaners. The people are very friendly and enthusiastic about what they are doing. I feel like I am doing a small part to help feed people who really need it.

Hope to see you soon! - Angela Gillespie -

Gleaners Bulletin Board

- A word from the manager, Shelley Stone -

350,000 servings of soup from our facility are now colourfully packaged and ready for shipping. We began the month of February with the 'bucket brigade'. The ingredients are within the concept of the popular '100 mile diet'. We are very appreciative for donations of black beans and barley that have added necessary protein to our soup mix.

People often ask: "What do you do in the winter?" From now and through the spring, we are hoping to access some imported produce to keep our volunteers working at the building 5 days a week. **We are still looking for sources**, although we have been bringing some produce from Toronto out of the Ontario Food Terminal with our recently purchased truck. Squash, cabbage, and apples are still hiding on the farms of some growers and we've been processing carrots and parsnips out of the Holland Marsh. Our new dryer has a big appetite and can handle 4,000 lbs to 6,000 lbs a day. **Please contact us if you know of produce we can pick up.**

Volunteers Needed

We are in need of some people who enjoy working with machines to run our dryer on a once-a-week schedule for both the morning and afternoon. Additional regular weekly kitchen help is also needed.

What about Groups???

PA days, March Break, class trips, and summer break are ideal for students, age 15 and up to volunteer. We work Monday – Friday from 8am until noon. One high school student helped us significantly improve our method of dealing with our composting.

Groups are asked to phone ahead. Tours are also available upon request.

These are exciting times within our organization with the addition of more processing tables, the start up of the big dryer, and diligently trusting God to provide for our needs on a day by day basis.



The newest member of the Gleaners team!

Need a Speaker ? - If you would like to learn more about OCG please contact Elaine Merkus at es.merkus@gmail.com or (519) 740-9179. Facility tours are also available by contacting the OCG at (519) 624-8245. Since we are now up and operational and making product, take time to come and visit us and see the process first hand.



A drum of soup mix ready for shipment

E-Mail Addresses: Please forward e-mail addresses to us at Ontariogleaners@gmail.com so that we will be able to update our mailing list and keep you posted on upcoming events and let you know about items of praise at the OCG.

Mission Fest 2009: Come visit the Gleaners booth at Mission Fest on April 16th - 18th at the Toronto International Centre!

Christmas Wish List a Big Success:

Thank you to all those who supported our Christmas Gift Fundraiser. We received more than \$8200 in donations.

See Us In Action! - The Gleaners has scheduled Tour Dates for you to come out and tour the Gleaners in action. All tours start at 10:30am and are approx. 1 hour long. Our first dates are: Thursday March 12th, Friday April 3rd, Monday April 20th, Tuesday May 12th, and Wednesday May 27th.

- A Time to Give Thanks -

Fundraising Dinner: Keep May 2,2009 open for OCG's annual Fundraising dinner at Rehoboth Christian School in Copetown. The theme for the evening is "a Time To Give Thanks". It promises to be a great evening of fellowship and celebration of God's faithfulness to the OCG over the last year. Our main speaker will be Carl Goosen who is the manager at the Fraser Valley Gleaners in BC. Our musical guests will be Covenant Sons male chorus. RSVP to gleanersrsvp@gmail.com or 519-740-9179

- 2008 Financial Picture -

Total Income 2008 (\$362 694)

