



Ontario Christian Gleaners

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News from the Gleaners

OntarioGleaners.org

Summer – June 2017

Philippines – Mindanao Island

Bodega sa Grasya - Storehouse of God's blessings: Our mission is to collect, send, and distribute resources in the Philippines to produce long-term sustainability. In 2003, connections were made with local pastors of Cagayan de Oro City in the Philippines.



We send all donations to the Philippines in a 40 foot shipping container. These donations are stored in 20 foot containers at a location affectionately called *The Farm* on the outskirts of Cagayan de Oro city.



The resources are distributed by Mission teams from Canada, local pastors and churches charged with distributing to the needy, and other associated Christian organizations located in the Philippines.

The need for nourishing food was very evident. This nutrition has been provided by Gleaners dried vegetable mix and apples. We want to ensure that it is given to those in dire need, and not sold or wasted.

Missionaries like Dale and Gwen French are able to provide street evangelism including a feeding program. This is carried out for young children on a street near Agora, a very poor area 4 hours from Cagayan de Oro. Markus Furrer also carries out children's evangelism and feeding programs in Iponan in an area prone to flooding. After singing Christian songs and receiving a Bible lesson, the kids pray and line up with their own clean dishes to receive 'lugaw'. Additional feeding programs are carried out by many local pastors in the relocation centres and the other poor areas in and around the city.



Philippine Island Kids International Foundation Inc. has a school in Canitoan. 330 children from the local landfill settlement are now bussed there. The Gleaners food is used to add nutrition to the lunch meals of 'lugaw' (vegetable/rice) and 'samplerado' (rice/chocolate). Many of the vegetables and grains in the soup mix are hard to source in the Philippines and the quality of the dried apples is much appreciated.

Our mission teams conducted conferences for 78 Pastors and 25 Pastors' wives. Each of the pastors was provided a container of vegetable mix for their local churches. Each of the wives was provided with a bag of vegetable mix and dried apples for their local programs.

Through home church ministries we distributed blankets and vegetable mix for



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Important Dates:

Open House Tours:

@ 10:30am on
June 13th & 22nd
July 26th & August 22nd
(Join us for a 45 minute
guided tour)

Closures:

Civic Holiday
Monday August 7th
Labour Day
Monday September 4th

Summer

Maintenance:

The Gleaners will be
closed Friday June 30th –
Friday July 7th for summer
maintenance and will
reopen on Monday July 10th

(continued from front page)
the poor areas surrounding these churches.

Some of our team members travelled 2 hours from Cagayan de Oro to a tribe in Tablon. Many of these people are Christians, living with no electricity. They were also provided with vegetable mix and dried apples.

The vegetable mix is very useful to all of the recipients as they cook over open wood fires with steel pots. It is easy to prepare and provides much needed nutrition.

We would like to thank you for your work in preparing these wonderful, hygienic, and nutritious bags of food, and for helping hundreds of children and some adults in Cagayan de Oro.



- Gail Mote

Bodega sa Grasya – Storehouse of God's Blessings
www.bodegasagrasya.ca

Distribution Stats to date in 2017...

- Sent out
 - 3.3 million servings of vegetable mix (44,891kg)
 - 684kg of dried apples
 - 1066kg of other dried products
- Sent to
 - 14 different countries around the world
- Sent by
 - 21 mission groups/organizations



Fundraising Dinner

Ecuador, Philippines, Burkina Faso & Kenya...

Our guests enjoyed powerful & informative presentations by guest speakers that have served in each of these countries.

A delicious dinner and dessert buffet as well as beautiful & inspirational music by the Wiebes

completed this God glorifying evening. Over \$59,000 was raised to support the work of the Gleaners. We are truly thankful.



It is a privilege and a joy to serve with the Ontario Christian Gleaners and have been involved since 2009 as a volunteer. Volunteering is a great opportunity to meet and rub shoulders with people from all walks of life. We share a common desire to use surplus produce to provide nutritious food to those who have little or no access to what we take for granted in our country. The amount of produce that is either surplus or not marketable is amazing. I like to think that we are in the business of "rescuing veggies." It is very satisfying to use these veggies to provide a bowl of soup to 100 people from a three-pound bag of dried vegetables.

I also have had the opportunity to make presentations about our work to churches and community groups throughout southwestern Ontario. It is a pleasure to meet people who support us and affirm what we are doing.

Currently, I have the privilege of serving as a director and a board member of the Gleaners. We are an Ontario Corporation and operate by bylaws that guide us as well as require us to operate in a legal and honest way.

I am grateful for the other seven board members who all share a common passion and commitment to what the Gleaners is all about. We meet bi-monthly as a board and hold an annual general meeting as directors. There are also several working committees that are chaired by members of the board and we appreciate the volunteers that serve on these committees with them.

We, as a board, are thankful for all the volunteers that show up daily to clean vegetables, work in the warehouse, run the dryer and serve everyone at coffee break.

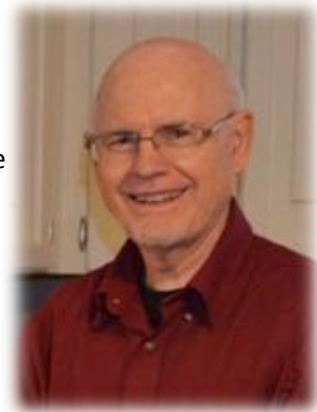
We are grateful for many producers that supply us with fresh produce and for community groups and organizations that provide us with a variety of supplies for our daily operation.


We depend on and are thankful for the churches, organizations and individuals who donate financially and in kind. Our current operating budget is \$413,000 and every dollar donated is put to good use.

We value and appreciate the many organizations that pick up our packaged products and ship them to those in need outside of North America. They are our delivery partners that make it possible to feed people in many countries.

And of course, we are so grateful for our staff who faithfully and gladly provide leadership and serve the Gleaners in countless and essential ways.

- Serving together, Wayne Foster





Bike or Walk For Refuge Join the Gleaners Team!

When: Saturday September 30, 2017

What: 5km walk
10km, 25km or 50km ride
Raise funds for organizations supporting the displaced, vulnerable & exploited

Where: Hamilton, Kitchener, Elmira, Niagara, London...
All across the country!!

Who: You! And anyone else from 1 - 101

How: Come Ride or Walk with us!
Create a team or join one of our existing teams

*Help us create awareness and raise funds
for the Gleaners in 2017!!*

For more information visit OntarioGleaners.org
(What's Happening/Events), email gleanerspromo@gmail.com
or call 519-624-8245

Workplace Groups and Student Groups!

(Does your workplace have a program to support volunteering?)

Manulife, Loblaws, Starbucks, PA Day Teachers, Church Staff Teams, and Telus have all brought employees to volunteer for a morning of team-building at the Gleaners. What a productive way to give back to the community and bless children overseas! Other employers provide a matching program for their employees donations to charities. A way to double the value of a financial gift to a charitable organization. If you are not already, please consider getting involved in some way.

The new Groups video is now uploaded onto our website! <http://ontariogleaners.org/1313>

Dried Food

Donations of lentils, split peas, dried vegetables and fruits, nuts and cereals are all eagerly received at our facility in order to provide additional food sources for our recipients. We are grateful to be cooperating with *Gleanings For The Hungry* in California as well as *Reapers of Hope* in Ontario to bring a large quantity of already dried potatoes to our facility. What a blessing to receive food all ready for shipping to provide more variety and added nourishment to the children we feed!

Recipient groups such as *Joy & Hope of Haiti*, *Canadian Food For Children*, *Food For The Poor*, and the *Niagara Warehouse of Hope* (notice a couple of themes here?) are using our dried Vegetable Mix to nourish people. We also hear that the children appreciate a little change in their meals from time to time (as we can all appreciate).

God has asked us to respond in our love for Him by 'loving our neighbour'. We are glad to be showing love to our neighbours around the world.

Using Surplus Produce to Feed a Hungry World

With Joy, *Shelley Stone*

The Great Canadian GIVING CHALLENGE

June 1ST - 30TH

Every \$1 donated to the Gleaners in June through CanadaHelps (our online credit card processor) qualifies us to win \$10,000. (minimum \$3 donation)

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/ontario-christian-gleaners/>



Unloading 30 skids of dried potatoes



Saturday Tour!!

See the Gleaners in Action
September 16th - 10am - 5pm

The Gleaners is part of
Doors Open Waterloo Region
and will be Open for Guided Tours!

Invite your friends, neighbours and family!