



# News from the Gleaners

[OntarioGleaners.org](http://OntarioGleaners.org)

Spring – March 2018

## Ontario Christian Gleaners

1550 Morrison Rd,  
Cambridge, ON  
N1R 5S2  
(519) 624-8245

[www.OntarioGleaners.org](http://www.OntarioGleaners.org)

**Shelley Stone**  
OCG Manager

[manager@ontariogleaners.org](mailto:manager@ontariogleaners.org)

Charitable # 85923 0476 RR0001



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## Dominican Republic

We have just returned from a very exciting and emotion-filled work vacation. A group of twelve volunteers from the Gleaners travelled to the Dominican Republic to see first-hand how our dried vegetable mix is helping the poor in the northern part of this very poor country. We spent a total of seven days there in the Puerto Plata area, every day travelling in a small bus to the surrounding communities where the Gleaners food products are used.



Our first stop was at Asher school located in Sosua. This school began as a Bible school on Saturdays and through the help of the Samaritan Foundation a new, larger building was built to educate hundreds of children in this poverty stricken area. (<http://www.thesamaritanfoundationdr.com/videos/>)

Arriving just in time for the meal to be prepared, we all got involved. The vegetable mix had already been rehydrated and we cut up additional local vegetables, all of it going in a huge pot, constantly needing to be stirred. Beside it on the stove was another large pot filled with chicken chunks - including the feet! When everything was ready it was all mixed together for a very nutritious meal and the children were invited to come into the cafeteria in groups of about 20 to sit down and be served.



### Important Dates:

#### Open House Tours:

@ 10:30am on  
March 8<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>  
April 25<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>  
May 2<sup>nd</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>  
(Join us for a 45 minute guided tour)

#### Closures:

Good Friday March 30<sup>th</sup>  
Easter Monday April 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Victoria Day Monday May 21<sup>st</sup>

One of the other very memorable visits for me was our experience at the dump. An organization called "Cups of Cold Water" ([www.crossoverministriesinternational.com](http://www.crossoverministriesinternational.com)) has been providing vegetable mix, served as soup, as well as peanut butter sandwiches and cold water to the extreme poor who are working in the hot sun trying to scratch out a living by sorting through the trash and finding things like plastics, wire and wood for recycling. On average they will be able to earn the equivalent of \$ .50 a day. The only meal they may have each day is that which is provided through this organization. When we arrived at their building the soup was already made so we helped prepare sandwiches and proceeded to the dump.

Continued ➡



**10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fundraising Dinner**  
Friday April 20<sup>th</sup> @ the Waterloo Region Police Association. Reservation info and details inside!



(continued from front page...)

We were certainly expected by the 50 or so that were sorting through the garbage trying to find anything salvageable. As they lined up and were served the soup and sandwiches, we frequently heard "gracias" and "thank you". We tried to speak to some through our translator and even had the opportunity to pray with some of the people.

The whole week was such a mixture of emotions, as we walked among the poorest of the poor, we met individuals and couples who are giving of themselves without receiving much monetary reward, but are seeing the difference that education, health care and pregnancy care can make in the lives of the people they are serving. The Gleaners food is providing a great benefit, for so many are not able to provide a nutritious meal on a regular basis for their families.

We were also amazed by the work of the Samaritan Foundation.

(<http://www.thesamaritanfoundationdr.com/>) They have been building small homes in the DR for many years and these homes are given to those that live in leaking shacks in which we would not even keep our chickens. They provide jobs for locals in the building of these homes and they also guide International work teams as they build subdivisions complete with schools, medical facilities and churches all in the name of Jesus.



This space is not large enough to retell all our experiences but I can assure you that opportunities like this change your perspective of life as we know it here and confirms that the work we do at the Gleaners helps so many around the world.



Some interesting news about the Ontario Christian Gleaners:

- This year (2018) we have been in existence for 10 years and see how God has richly blessed our venture.
- Last year (2017) we shipped 7.85 million servings of dried vegetable mix and 3421 bags of dried apples as well as 4138 kg of other products such as beans, granola and dates, all to feed a hungry world.
- None of this could have happened without the many volunteers who show up each day.
- We could not have done it without the generous financial support of our many private donors, churches and organizations and our corporate donors. We urge you to consider us in your giving and we can assure you that we will be good stewards with all that you entrust to us.

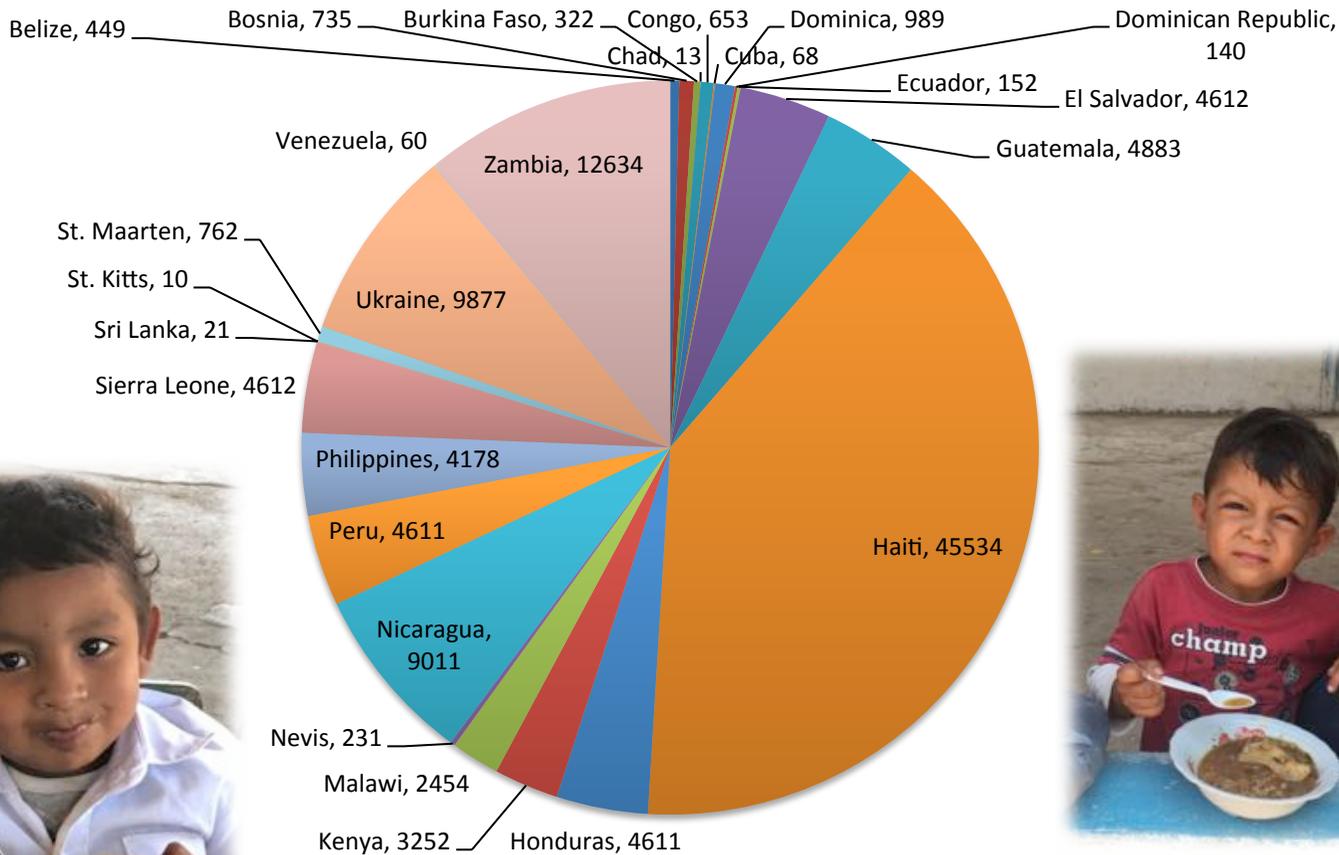


- Gene Veening  
Member of the Gleaners  
Board of Directors



# OCG Food Distribution by Country

(114,874 kg)



**Ontario Christian Gleaners  
Fundraising Dinner**

**Join us in Celebrating  
10 Years of Blessings!**

**Friday April 20<sup>th</sup>**

Waterloo Region Police Association  
1128 Rife Rd. Cambridge  
Doors open 6:00pm  
Dinner 6:30pm

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**Tickets \$30**  
(\$240/table of 8, \$300/table of 10)

Order your tickets by April 5<sup>th</sup>  
519.624.8245 or [OntarioGleaners.org](http://OntarioGleaners.org)  
(click on What's Happening)

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As ticket prices cover the cost of the dinner, an opportunity will be given to donate financially to the Gleaners.



Give thanks to the Lord for He is good.  
His lovingkindness endures forever. Psalm 118

It's been 10 years.

We began in September 2008 with 12 volunteers needed every day to chop and fill our small tray style dryer. Imagine we used to haul the vegetables to our building in someone's pick up truck! We were grateful for a local farmer who donated some cooler space to us until we could build our own cold storage. We received used insulated panels in need of a paint job to form a cooler. A teenage farmer helped us solve our compost problem by setting us up with a trailer to capture all our trimmings and truck them off site for animal feed. In the meantime, millions of meals were being prepared in our facility to feed the hungry all around the world. Farmers and food distributors were delighted to be donating good, healthy food to be used for its original purpose- to feed people. This set up has been win-win-win, with many blessings all around the world.



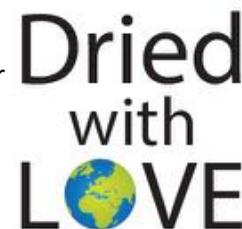
When we first opened our operation, the board expected we would be shut down for several weeks of the winter and spring. Frequent trips in to the Ontario Food Terminal in Toronto with a few faithful and persistent volunteers sourcing food, helped us limp through the first few winters. Since then, we have been a year round operation and in 10 years we have never missed a day! Oh, we've had our 'George Mueller moments' (missionary caring for orphans in the 1800's) where we were praying for food, and God provided in surprising and timely ways. This has been a faith-building journey for all involved. We have always had enough food and enough volunteers to do the work God has called us to do--- feeding the hungry around the world.

We now log 60-65 volunteers daily to total over 1,000 volunteer hours per week. People are working together with such joy! Over the decade, with the donations of some generous groups and faithful donors, we have remarkably increased the capacity of our dryer, truck, and work space in significant ways.

**In 2017**  
**Over 7.8 million meals left our building**  
**for 26 countries and**  
**with 46 different organizations.**

**What's ahead?**

Working forward with determination to fine tune what we do – we are always looking for ways to improve. Out of our Strategic Plan, we've been working to encourage other food drying groups to launch in different geographical regions, in order to work independently and cooperatively. The *Dried With Love* Network has been created connecting 8 different groups across Canada that are drying food for aid. [www.DriedWithLove.org](http://www.DriedWithLove.org)



We are exploring surplus "already dried foods" that might be useful for shipping overseas. Recently we obtained some walnuts and toasted coconut.



**Blessings of 2017 we are grateful for:**

- Our new truck is serving us well with its increased capacity
- Expanded the roster of our dryer operating volunteers
- Visitors from afar who made us part of their itinerary to report first hand about using our food
- Steady flow of volunteers between the ages of 15-98

**Using Surplus Produce to Feed a Hungry World.**



- With Joy,  
*Shelley Stone*

