



A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN, INC.
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'Grain Train on the Move

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Hurricane Relief—Special Report

Orphan Grain Train has coordinated and shipped forty-three semi-loads and 16 small trailer-loads of supplies since Hurricane Katrina struck last August 29. Hurricane relief and work centers dot the width of Katrina's devastation from Louisiana all the way to Pascagoula, Miss. The destruction of so many counties along the Gulf Coast makes this disaster hard to grasp. Only aerial or satellite pictures begin to show the extent of

damage to the coastal plains. Referring to the response effort, one volunteer said, "This isn't a sprint—it's a marathon."

On September 8, before federal or state help arrived in Franklin Parish, La., volunteer driver Craig Hansen, of High Ridge, Mo., delivered chain saws, survival gear and food to the area. Parish (county) officials exclaimed, "How did you know what we needed? We have relatives living down these roads we haven't seen since Katrina hit!"

Thank you to LCMS World Relief

In addition to food, water, equipment, and cleaning supplies, fourteen 48-foot shipping containers including four freezer/refrigerator "refers" have been sent to store supplies and food. The refers and containers keep our shipments secure and protected from the elements. Storage is scarce because the devastation is so deep inland. We thank Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS) World Relief for their special grant to purchase the storage containers.

Orphan Grain Train is only sending what receiving partners request. When volunteers have what they need—as they need it—their work is more efficient. If you wish to have Orphan Grain Train assist your relief effort, please call (402) 371-9313 before you start filling trucks. Each Orphan Grain Train semi-load is "filled to order."



Secure storage is hard to find after Katrina. That is why Orphan Grain Train has set 14 of these containers on the Gulf Coast. After the relief supplies were unloaded the empty containers are set in place to store tools and supplies. Here volunteers use large beams to level the storage units as they are put into place.

Right: This home is near the neighborhood of Senator Trent Lott of Mississippi. Katrina's storm surge blasted through the first floor.



Trailer Campers, Quilts and Blankets are Needed

More trailer campers are needed for temporary housing. Six have been donated to Orphan Grain Train thus far! Many people who returned to the coast are living in tents three months after Katrina. That is why we thank everyone who agreed to "hold the clothes" until survivors ask for them. Quilts and blankets are needed everywhere. When survivors at Montegut, La., received quilts in October "it was as if they were getting a Stradivarius violin" to see the joy on their faces.

Steinman and Walter Manage Hurricane Relief Effort with Additional Help

Volunteers have stepped forward to help with the hurricane relief effort. Those in Norfolk include Mr. Vern Steinman and Dr. Aaron Walter. They manage Orphan Grain Train's hurricane relief effort. Both men served Orphan Grain Train during the Hay and Grain Lift three years ago. They coordinate requests, in-kind donations, and plan semi-load contents. They also assign volunteer semi-truck drivers and help arrange for semi-tractors and trailers. Working with the staff of LCMS World Relief in Saint Louis and various church organizations they have sent more than 40 customized semi-loads to eighteen hurricane relief centers. (Please see "shipments" page__.) Please email them at ogtr relief@cableone.net or call the Hurricane Response Hotline: (402) 371-9313.

We're Still in the Clean-up Phase

"There are four phases in a disaster," says Vern Steinman, Hurricane Relief Coordinator for Orphan Grain Train. "First is the immediate Survivor phase; second is the Clean-up phase; third is the Re-building phase; and fourth is the Normalization phase. We are still in the clean-up phase."

Dr. Walter, Hurricane Relief Coordinator for Orphan Grain Train, said, "A wonderful job has been done thus far, but now we need to finish the clean-up phase as long as it takes."

Mrs. Pam Handke of Norfolk leads another team of volunteers who help schools as part of the relief effort. Mrs. Handke, is a retired school administrator. Her team collects and prepares school supplies, uniforms, and other items requested by schools. Then they load them onto the semi-trucks at Norfolk. To help with this effort, please email Pam at ogtschool@cableone.net or phone (402) 649-2350. (Please see thank you letter on page 8.)

Dr. Leon Handke, retired medical doctor, from Norfolk, Neb. assisted with medical needs in the relief center at Slidell, La., in Sept. While Dr. Handke worked at the relief center, Mr. David Pobanz cleaned Lamb of God Lutheran Church in Slidell so they could hold church services. Dave has also driven several semi-loads of relief supplies to the Gulf.



Volunteer drivers, Bernie Wrede, Pierce, Neb., and Lloyd Dennert, Columbia, S.D., confer before their convoy of semi-trucks left Norfolk, November 7.



Pallets pile up as boxes are unloaded from an Orphan Grain Train trailer at Ocean Springs on Nov. 2, 2005.



Dave Pobanz (at left) leads a "box-brigade" of volunteers unloading a semi-load of supplies at Lamb of God Lutheran Church in Slidell, La.



Above: Tents still provide housing for people three months after the hurricane.

Right: In November LWML President Linda Reiser visited the Norfolk warehouse to check on LWML's donation of survivor kits and how they were being used for hurricane relief.

Forty-three Orphan Grain Train Hurricane Relief Shipments* sent or coordinated as of Nov. 30, 2005:

Destination	semi-loads
Baton Rouge, La.	2.5
Biloxi, Miss.	7
Canton, Miss.	2
Covington, La.	3.5
Franklinton, La.	.5
Gonzales, La.	3.5
Grand Isle, La.	.5
Hattiesburg, Miss.	1
Houma, La.	5.5
La Place, La.	1
Marrero, La.	2
Metairie, La.	4
Montegut, La.	.5
New, Orleans, La.	1
Ocean Springs, Miss.	4.5
Pascagoula, Miss.	1
Pensacola, Fla.	1
Slidell, La.	2

To learn more please see www.graintrain.org and click on Hurricane Relief." Then, click "Hurricane Relief Shipments List" to read details.



Orphan Grain Train Plans Hay-Lift for the Gulf

Of the 170,000 cattle in south Louisiana, 50,000 have perished in hurricanes Katrina and Rita. One hundred and twenty thousand cattle are short of hay. Salt-water ruined hay supplies that would have been used this winter. Mr. Bernie Wrede, a hay producer from Pierce, Neb., is working with the Louisiana Cattlemen's Association and University of Mississippi Extension Service to coordinate a hay-lift for the farmers and ranchers affected by these huge losses. To donate hay, please call (402) 371-9313. As of December 1, eight semi-loads have been pledged to the effort. Three dozen more and trucks to haul them are needed.

Working with Aaron, Bernie, Dave, Leon, Pam, and Vern are Clayton Andrews, Orphan Grain Train transportation director and Rev. Ray Wilke, Orphan Grain Train President. Several other volunteer semi-truck drivers have worked on this project, including Lloyd Dennert of Columbia, S.D., Orphan Grain Train's lead driver.

Ways You Can Help

1. Pray for the relief workers and survivors.
2. Donate money to help pay for items that must be purchased and for the costs of shipping. The fuel for one semi-

load costs about \$1,200 per roundtrip. Checks should be mailed payable to: "Orphan Grain Train" P. O. Box 1466, Norfolk, NE 68702-1466. Please note on the memo line "Hurricane Relief."

3. Volunteers: "Sturdy" people are needed who are in good health. You must have had a physical exam within the past two years, and be a licensed driver. Current immunizations are a must! The usual childhood immunizations are necessary, and immunizations for Hepatitis A and B are *strongly* suggested. Rabies vaccination is not necessary.
 - a. Volunteer truck drivers with a current CDL license and who have their own tractor/trailer. Fuel and meal costs will be reimbursed if coordinated with the Norfolk office.
 - b. People to do general tasks, such as loading and unloading trucks. Must be able to lift 50 pounds.
 - c. Pick-up truck drivers who with their own pickup are able to drive daily and refuel at their own expense.
 - d. Volunteer teams of six to ten who have individual skills such as carpentry or plumbing should call ahead to provide a roster of names and skills and name of their team leader.



Three residents waited in the attic of this home in Pascagoula as it was destroyed before swimming to safety.

Thrivent's "GivingPlus" gift matching available for Orphan Grain Train!

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will now match Orphan Grain Train donations when members submit the Giving Plus application with their gifts to Orphan Grain Train. (Please see application on opposite page.) Donations up to a total of \$600 per year per Thrivent member can be matched \$0.50 for every \$1.00 given.



Volunteer trucker Lloyd Dennert and his wife Doris left Oct. 6 with another shipment for the hurricane response. Lloyd and Doris log 40,000 or more miles a year for Orphan Grain Train—even when there are no hurricanes.

Matching Funds Help Effort

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod World Relief/Human Care provided \$367,000 in matching funds toward Katrina Relief, which spurred several special efforts from groups and individuals. Examples include Concordia University, Seward, Neb., students who raised money through several special events and Concordia University, Mequon, Wis., volunteers who unloaded and distributed an Orphan Grain Train semi-load of food Labor Day Weekend at Covington, La. Christ Lutheran School, Norfolk, Neb., sponsored "Stuff the Truck" in their parking lot and at Lou's Thrifty Way Market. Children at more than 20 public and parochial schools raised money

Businesses got involved early: Country radio station "US-92 FM" of Norfolk, Neb., ran a "Pay to Play" benefit fund-raiser Tuesday, Sept. 6. The event raised \$33,437.56 for Katrina Relief! Affiliated Midwest Food stores and KEXL-FM/WJAG-AM Radio at Norfolk, partnered with Orphan Grain Train to collect gifts of food and supplies. This effort yielded more than \$10,000 worth of food and cleaning supplies!

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) sent thousands of survivor kits to Orphan Grain Train. More than seven and one-half semi-trailer loads of survivor kits have been sent to the Gulf Coast as of November 30.



Concordia Mequon, Wis., volunteers unloading a truckload of non-perishable food at Covington, La., on Labor Day weekend. (Phillip photo)

Mark Your Calendars!

**Orphan Grain Train
Convention 2006:
September 29-30 in
Norfolk, Nebraska.**



In October the first two mobile storage units were sent to Biloxi, Miss., to hold supplies of perishable food. One unit is refrigerated to protect food supplies from the heat and humidity of the coast. Volunteer Bernie Wrede (left) and John Coyle (with hat) check contents of this shipment.



Missouri-Illinois Division Katrina relief update, from Dorothy Schaser.

"... Lots of help from lots of volunteers at Faith Lutheran, Oakville, and Messiah, St. Charles, Mo.; buying pallets full of goods at Sam's to add to the trailer, and just doing whatever came up that needed doing. Thanks to everyone! The semi-load arrived at St. John Lutheran Church in Hattiesburg, Miss., at 7:30 a.m., September 8. One of the members of St. John provided a front-loader. With youth and other church volunteers, they unloaded the container and organized rural congregations to come and pick up goods. It is already in the hands of the folks who were isolated in the rural areas—many with no gas to reach relief centers. Everyone is using their God-given skills and talents from providing money, to providing the hands-on work of coordinating, shopping, packing, and praying. God's Love is being spread through the hands of His servants!"

Left: The large white tent (left) serves as the community center at the "tent city" for volunteers at Ocean Springs.

Orphan Grain Train

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Hurricane Relief Report!

Volunteer husband and wife semi-drivers, Gwyn and Kathy Johnson of Hampton, Neb., brought a relief shipment to Montegut, La., in October. The town was struck by *both* Katrina and Rita.

Principal LaFont's thank you letter to Gwyn and Kathy is reprinted with permission plus her comment that she has now witnessed a "widow's mite"—kind of generosity in the townspeople—"probably because you gave." Now they know they are not alone.

10-31-05

"Dear Gwyn and Kathy,

I could never have predicted how Thursday would unfold. When you arrived Wednesday evening and helped unload your semi—I had no idea how God was going to use your blessing for His glory the next day. From 8:00 to 4:30 the elderly, single moms—and young couples just starting-out—poured in and out of our building. The faculty carried boxes during their planning periods. Everyone had a



Base camp at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Biloxi, Miss., is doing excellent work in handing out provisions and foodstuffs to those whose homes and families have been devastated by the hurricanes.

precious story to tell of something perfect that was needed, something lost that was replaced, something shared with someone who needed it more. . . wonderful stories of grace during the most stressful of times. The fellowship and stories of flooded homes, family members in need—sharing thoughtfully—touched everyone.

Many of the women including myself teared-up throughout the day. . . I wish you could have seen the fruit of

your labor. This was my first experience of anything like this. . . know that you blessed an entire community—your service provided a way for God to reach out to the people of Pointe Aux Chenes and the Isle de Jean Charles. Thank you for being His hands and feet—blessing His people. I shall never forget what you have done.

May God bless you and keep you,
Dawn LaFont, Principal, Pointe Aux
Chenes Elementary School