



'Grain Train on the Move

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A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN, INC. • SPRING 2008, VOLUME 15, ISSUE 4

Orphan Grain Train Summary Notes for 2007

Last year, by God's grace and blessing Orphan Grain Train sent 153 semi-loads full of humanitarian relief supplies overseas and in response to disasters here in America.

In addition, 72 smaller trailer-loads and vanloads were sent where needed in response to floods, tornadoes and wildfires here in America. The smaller loads are not listed on this newsletter's poster, but are an integral part of Orphan Grain Train's ministry in the United States.

The main targets for these smaller shipments were eight flooded Ohio counties, including the cities of Caldwell, Findlay and Ottawa. The Indiana, Ohio, and Mid-Atlantic Regional Divisions of Orphan Grain Train sent two semi-loads and 45 small trailer-loads of relief supplies to Ohio.

Response to the Hurricane Katrina rebuilding effort included 14 semi-loads to the relief camps on the Gulf Coast. (Story on page two.) The camps host hundreds of clean up and rebuild volunteers each week. Recovery Assistance, Inc. of the Southern District Lutheran Church-Missouri District will manage the camps as long as there are volunteers. Orphan Grain Train has placed more than 130 major pieces of equipment in the Gulf Coast area for the hurricane response effort, including tow trailers, kitchen trailers, bedroom units, shower units, and storage units.

The Greensburg, Kansas, recovery effort began slowly in 2007, as the town made plans for its rebuilding effort. The planning is done, and the rebuilding

effort is gaining speed. Orphan Grain Train has brought several pieces of equipment to Greensburg throughout 2007 and 2008, including a modular chapel, which is used by three different denominations that lost their church buildings in the tornado.

Texas border mission ministries such as Ysleta Mission, Del Rio, and Cornerstone Children's Ranch continued to receive dozens of semi-loads of support from Orphan Grain Train. Seven semi-loads were sent to Native American ministries.

The republics of the former Soviet Union received most of Orphan Grain Train's foreign relief shipments during 2007. And 48 orphanages in five countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, and Russia) receive supplemental support through Orphan Grain Train's "Adopt an Orphanage"

program. (Story on page three)

Baby clothes, new underwear and socks, quilts, bedding, and Bibles are some of the most needed items overseas and here in America.

Kids Against Hunger became a new partner organization to Orphan Grain Train in 2007. This charity produces nutritionally balanced, pre-mixed food packages that can be used anywhere in the world to feed children and adults. These meals are boxed in sturdy cartons and given to Orphan Grain Train regional divisions to be shipped to where most needed to alleviate hunger.

"Thank you!" to those who give support with cash gifts, in-kind donations, and volunteer time--responding to the opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus to those they may never meet until Heaven--but can help today through Orphan Grain Train.

Our motto:

"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you." (John 14:18)



"Kids Against Hunger" meals brought to Nicaragua by Orphan Grain Train.

Orphan Grain Train's first shipment of medical supplies and hospital beds to Vietnam was received in early 2007.

We Will Not Forget You.

By Rev. Dave Buss, Director, Southern District LCMS Recovery Assistance, Inc.

“We will not forget you!” was the message that came to Camp Restore-New Orleans several months ago, on a box packed with items to help a survivor of Hurricane Katrina. The person who wrote it understood the latest challenge for the people of the Gulf Coast, many of whom are still reeling from the largest disaster in our nation’s history: The nation has moved on.

The tourism bureaus loudly proclaim, “We’re Back!” This is true; much-needed tourists and the convention business are on the rise.

Industry is back as well; imported goods such as oil, coffee, and fruit come through the Port of New Orleans daily, while large quantities of grain are shipped by barge down the Mississippi to the coast for export. Offshore rigs and coastal refineries provide much of the U.S. domestic oil supply.

Through improvements to the levee system and the addition of floodgates, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers says it is on track to have New Orleans protected against a Category 5 storm by 2011.

Despite all the good news, “We’re Back!” is not yet hurricane survivor Nola’s message. She has been living with her two children and mother in a tiny FEMA trailer in her mother’s front lawn for two

years and three months. She has taken a job stocking shelves at a store five miles from her trailer, she walks six blocks to ride the bus to get to work and makes about 60% of what she made before the storm. She hopes to get a job in her own neighborhood but the businesses there are coming back very slowly.

Nola’s mother’s house took on eight feet of filthy water after the levees failed. A volunteer group of college kids helped her muck out her home and even sprayed for mold abatement. The house sits behind her trailer with its bare studs and a blue tarp that was put on in 2005. She hired an electrician to rewire the house who wouldn’t begin work without a \$5,000 deposit. She gave him the money and hasn’t heard from him since.

Friends have recommended contractors who are honest; they tell her “We’ll put you on the list.” Now she has put her name on every list at every agency that she can find, including Camp Restore. The caseworkers there are very caring, but they can’t say when they will get to her - Camp Restore has over 600 people waiting for the same type of help that Nola needs.

At Camp Restore in New Orleans and Camp Biloxi in Mississippi we are working feverishly to help Nola and

thousands of our neighbors in similar situations. Through the efforts of thousands of volunteer groups from all over the country, nearly 2,000 families are back in their homes. Thousands more still need help.

We are forever grateful for those who have not forgotten the people of the Gulf Coast, who continue to come down, help clean up and rebuild; who give of their time, talents, and treasures, and who share their love for Christ - and continue to give the people of New Orleans and the Gulf coast hope!

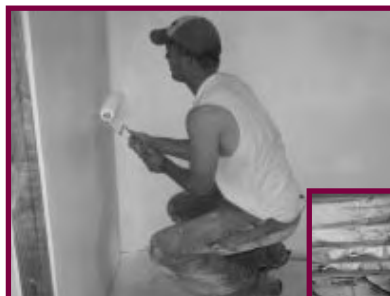
Please don’t forget the people of New Orleans and the Gulf coast!

(Editor’s note: Readers will note several Orphan Grain Train shipments to the Gulf coast listed in this year’s poster. If you would like to help continue this mighty volunteer effort, please make your donation payable to “Orphan Grain Train Katrina Relief.”

To volunteer on the Gulf coast, please call Camp Biloxi 1-228-594-0008 (www.campbiloxi.org), or Camp Restore 1-888-248-2636 (www.camprestore.com)



New Orleans in May 2008: Families live in FEMA trailers and other temporary housing as the rebuilding process continues, house by house.



Hundreds of New Orleans homes still wait for rebuilding.

Volunteers continue to flock to the Gulf coast at their own expense. Some have made more than ten trips to help clean up and restore homes and churches.

Adopt An Orphanage Report

By Rev. John Reehl

Our orphanage program continues to grow, as does our prison and hospital ministry. We are currently working in 48 orphanages in five countries. Nikolai and Alla tell us we are helping over 3,000 children in Russia alone. Our ministry also includes three hospitals and five prisons.

We are frequently asked questions such as: “Are you doing any good?” “Is your program working?” Let me share the following story with you that Nikolai shared with me: Recently the Lopukhinka orphanage head nurse said that the local administration boss monitoring the situation in the orphanage has noticed that the last several years Lopukhinka had less and less sick children. When the nurse was asked, “Why?” she answered, “Orphan Grain Train sends us regular supplies of vitamins which tell very positively on the children’s health.” Tikhvin Orphanage confirmed the same thing.

A few years ago we added four orphanages in Kyrgyzstan. Last winter, Sue Pfeil, our co-worker in Kyrgyzstan wrote: “New Year blessings to both of you from all the kids and workers at the orphanages here in Kyrgyzstan. They send their love and prayers of thanksgiving to you and the sponsors of the Orphan Grain Train orphanage program. The three directors that work with the four orphanages and their medical personnel say that the children have been healthier this past year with the help of the vitamins and other medicines we have been able to provide for them. The lab results are great and better than what we see in kids we treat on the medical van.”

And we are not only helping physically, but spiritually, too, with the Bible and the witness to Christ’s love that we share. May the Lord bless you richly for your caring and for sharing in this ministry of love and compassion.



Christmas gifts for the children thanks to Orphan Grain Train orphanage sponsors.



Special donations for “Warm Boots for Russia” provided many orphans with winter boots and shoes again this past winter.

Kirsten Kohlwey found a new friend at the orphanage for abandoned babies outside Saint Petersburg, Russia, while there with Rev. Reehl’s mission vision tour of the orphanages and prisons.



The Children of Uganda, Part Two

By Joan Zanders

My husband Dee and I are volunteer team leaders for Orphan Grain Train.

About one year ago, the first ocean-cargo shipping container sent by Orphan Grain Train to the Aids Orphans Education Trust (AOET) arrived in Uganda. It was filled with hospital beds, an operating table and miscellaneous office equipment. The shipment allowed AOET to change its entire administrative building into a health clinic with a focus on HIV/AIDs and preventing mother-to-child transmission.

The next 40-foot cargo container should arrive in Uganda this August. It will bring a library for AOET’s Rehaboth Integrated Elementary School, more medical equipment, crisis kits for children in northern Uganda, birthing kits for women in rural areas and office furniture.

Many individuals, groups, schools, and churches contributed or volunteered for this massive project, including children from Norfolk, Nebraska’s Bel Air Elementary. A group of retired Norfolk educators sorted and packed the books. Colorado West, an incredible Orphan Grain Train Regional Division under the leadership of Lou and Anita Boette, contributed crisis kits, birthing kits, purchased the 40-foot shipping container and paid the shipping costs totaling \$9,000. The shipping container will stay in Uganda to serve as secure storage for AOET. It is amazing what people can do when they work together!

Orphan Grain Train

P.O. Box 1466
Norfolk, NE 68702-1466

402-371-7393
www.ogt.org

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Please plan to
join us for

Orphan Grain Train's Tenth Annual Convention

September 19 & 20
2008

at Norfolk, Nebraska.



Northeast Community College (Norfolk) Professional Truck Driving class and instructors took a caravan of three semis to Greensburg, Kansas, to deliver a bedroom unit, a shower-restroom unit and a semi-load of food and water.