Orphan Grain Train is a Christian volunteer network that shares personal and material resources with needy people in America and around the world. Grain Train volunteers gather donations of clothing, medical supplies, food, Christian literature, and other aid to meet real needs. The Orphan Grain Train movement is a loving response to Jesus Christ’s example as a servant and His love for us. Orphan Grain Train is a non-profit organization, created in 1992, to provide assistance to those in need and in natural disasters in both the United States and foreign countries.

Thanks for quick and generous response

The call for new and like new toys as Christmas gifts for the children served by the Quemado Mission was a rousing success. “Thank you” to all those who participated. We especially want to mention the efforts of the Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Houston, who under the leadership of Phil and Kathleen Roth collected enough toys to fill our small trailer. We are so pleased that they continue to think of and respond to OGT-HLTX efforts.

Thanks to Dianne and Gary Cooper who made the trip to Houston with our small trailer to collect the donations. We would be remiss in not mentioning the sizeable donations collected by First Lutheran Church of Burnet, Acts Church of Leander, First Baptist Church of Llano, and Genesis Lutheran of Buchanan Dam. Thank you all.

Our larger delivery trailer was full when making the December trip. Boxes of quilts and blankets, children’s underwear and socks and the Christmas gifts completed the load.

Thanks to Gary Cooper, who provided the vehicle and drove, and to the Rev Tim Johnson of First Lutheran Burnet (making his first trip to Quemado to see the operation), Ernie Stoops and Sherm Quinlan, who again traveled with Gary and helped to unload the trailer.
Sending Christmas cheer to those in need
Winter coat collection added to local aid effort

OGT-HLTX has been working with the Llano Junior Women’s Culture Club to collect and distribute coats to persons in need of warm clothing in our community. OGT has been able to supply nearly one hundred coats since September 2019 to the Junior Culture Club, which has taken on the job of preparing (washing if necessary) the donations. Coats were made available through the Llano Chamber of Commerce free of charge early in November and distribution will continue during the cold season at the Chamber offices during their open hours. In the event of a cold period during a time that the Chamber office is not open and for those wishing to receive coats anonymously, coats are available on a rack outside the Llano Chamber offices.

Fortunately, the Culture Club is able to store coats not distributed this winter for distribution in the 2020-21 cold weather season. This means that warm coat donations will be welcomed even when Spring arrives in the Hill Country, and in fact throughout the year.

Thanks to members of Genesis Lutheran, who has transported coats from our collection facility to the Culture Club.

OGT-HLTX cooperation with the Helping Hands Center in Marble Falls to provide clothing to those in need right in our own communities continues. Requested items, ie... clothing for job interviews and other specifics needs are delivered to the food shelf coordinator and then distributed in answered to special requests. The project has been picking up speed and it is anticipated that once Helping Hands is in its new facility even more local help will be made.

Other local help efforts are being considered. If you have knowledge of someone or some group in need, please contact Ginny Jensen 512-756-9332.

American Legion donates clothing to OGT

The American Legion of Kingsland has closed down its thrift store in Kingsland effective at the beginning of the new year. They elected to donate to OGT-HLTX their remaining clothing items. Thank you. The sizeable amount of soft goods has been added to our storage trailer and will be packed for shipment in the near future.

As more of the Charity owned/operated thrift stores are closing down, we remind everyone that we are open to receive donations Tuesday mornings 9 a.m. to noon and that special arrangements can be made for delivery of pick up of larger donations by call in Myrna Choitz 830-798-0610 or Betty Dove 281-744-4376. Also, boxes for the drop off of donations are available at the First Lutheran Church in Burnet (info@flcburnet.org), Acts Church in Leander (sandy@actschurchleander.com), Genesis Lutheran Church in Buchanan Dam (glcoffice@genesislutheranchurch.org), and the Kingsland Senior Citizens Center. Donations are also accepted by the First Baptist Church in Kingsland and First Baptist Church in Llano. For more information about the times that these places are open for donations, please contact them before heading out.

Donations at any of these places are tax deductible and receipts are available on request from OGT.
Second container - a game changer

The second shipping container acquired by OGT-HLTX this past summer is proving a huge benefit to packers, giving short term storage prior to the actual boxing of donations. The availability of storage keeps volunteers able to work at an even rate, rather than dealing with the glut and shortage of items to pack of past years. It also, enables the packing volunteers able to work without tripping over bags and boxes of unsorted donations. We anticipates that this will continue to increase effectiveness and so trips to the Mission and well as to local outlets.

The storage container also enables us to accept larger items, ie medical equipment, bicycles, etc. prior to a shipping date. These bulky items are always the last loaded. This storage space also frees up the smaller trailer for it intended use; parking it at collection sites so that churches or organizations can have a collection day or week without having to house donations in their facility, and making pickup of larger donations following events such as community/ church garage sales.

Because the storage container does not have heat or air conditioning it is not viable as a second packing space just now. This leaves the current packing facility still more than a bit cramped, but we can always squeeze in one or more packing volunteers. Give it a try one Tuesday morning, 9 a.m. to noon. The sense of helping those in need is worth any effort given.

Grain Train operates with Volunteers not because they are worth less, but rather because they are priceless.

Packing volunteers working Tuesday morning 9 a.m. to noon.
It is rewarding, even fun work, come join in...

We would love to share our message with even more people in the Highland Lakes area. Consider who on your email contact list might enjoy hearing about us and ask them to join our mailing list.

Send request for newsletter to Jiminny@me.com

Happy New Year

May 2020 bring you all the good things that your heart desires
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Orphan Grain Train
Highland Lakes of Texas
Donation Center is located at
15946 Hwy 29 in Buchanan Dam

The Highland Lakes of Texas Orphan Grain Train container is open to accept donations of serviceable, gentle used clothing (clean without tears or holes) and medical aids such as walkers, wheel chairs, canes and crutches.

Tuesday morning 9 a.m. to noon.

New school supplies, children’s shoes, socks, and underwear would also be appreciated. To arrange pickup or alternative drop-off time call Betty Dove at 281-744-4376 or leave a message for a return call at Genesis Lutheran Church 512-793-6800 or at OGT-HLTX@Outlook.com. Monetary donations can be sent to OGT-HLTX at P.O. Box 937 Buchanan Dam, Texas 78509. Donations are tax-deductible.

OGT containers located at
15946 Hwy 29

11.5 miles west of Burnet
or 1 mile east of 1431
on south side of State Hwy 29