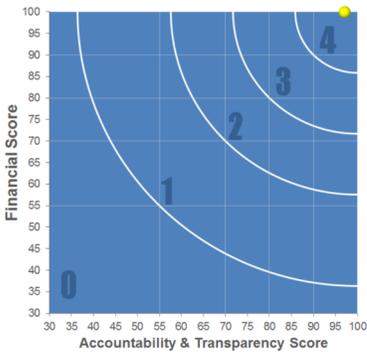




Charity Navigator Rates OGT 4-Stars, Again!

Supporters can trust our charity to use donations wisely.

For the 7th consecutive time a 4-star rating has been awarded to Orphan Grain Train by Charity Navigator, America’s largest and most utilized charity evaluator. OGT’s strong financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency have earned this top distinction. With only 1.7% of all donations used for fundraising and administrative purposes, Orphan Grain Train continues to help the needy worldwide with 98.3% of donations.



“Orphan Grain Train’s exceptional 4-star rating sets it apart from its peers,” said Michael Thatcher, President & CEO of Charity Navigator. “Only a quarter of charities rated by Charity Navigator receive the distinction of our 4-star rating. This adds Orphan Grain Train to a preeminent group of charities working to overcome

Charity Navigator®

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Shipments Outlook

Shipments are determined by specific requests from our destination partners. Here are the latest updates.



Our second shipment to Puerto Rico occurred March 16th. A spring snow storm and a broken down rental truck didn’t stop our joint New England/Mid-Atlantic team from loading blankets, clothes, shoes, sewing supplies, hygiene kits, diapers, and 19,000 KAH meals. After the Maryland branch loaded their boxes the container suffered a week-long delay at the Port of Baltimore before finally sailing on March

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St. James Lutheran Packs KAH Meals

Long Island church takes on the “KAH Challenge” one more time.

Last year we offered financial help to any organization willing to host a 10,000 meal Kids Against Hunger event. Lois Rudin and Liz Wagner of Women’s Outreach at St. James Lutheran, NY, jumped at this “KAH Challenge” by hosting their first event in March 2017. The congregation had so much fun they wanted to do it again. With a new goal of packing 20,000 meals in 2018 the church held several funding-raising events that garnered *more than* the necessary \$5,000. On Sunday, April 15th,

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Teens enjoy meal-packing at St. James.

Bounty of Blessings Creates...

We are overflowing with donations ... a good problem.

Donations continue to pour in. This spring we received \$10,000 in LWML grants; \$5,000 each from the Chesapeake and Eastern Districts. Also, the LWML Delmarva Zone was inspired to pack 50 Hygiene Kits and supply us with materials for over 150 more!



Edi Collis (Chesapeake District) presents Sandy O'Hedy with grant check for Haiti

Friends at Redeemer Lutheran in Englewood, FL, shipped boxes of hand-made quilts (below) and pillow case dresses, while local crafters knitted beautiful afghans and colorful caps. A new resource,



Susan Bell (Eastern District) presents Rob Hall with grant check for Latvia



Good Samaritan Aid of Laurel, DE, made four trips with truck-loads of clothing. Dave and Mary Bierlein, long-time MAB supporters, (below) drove four hours from western Pennsylv-

nia to deliver a trailer-load of donations. Lastly, local area churches and resale shops continue to donate goods regularly. Our apple box supply never runs out and financial gifts keep coming in. The outpouring of love is overwhelming. Thank you, dear supporters! Without your generosity there would be no Mid-Atlantic Branch. ■



...Need for More Volunteers

As donations grow more sorters and packers are needed.

The Corporation for National and Community Service reports that only 25% of US residents, 63 million Americans, volunteer. More people might if they understood the benefits of helping others: making a difference in someone else's life and gaining meaning and joy beyond self-satisfaction.

Our urgent purpose is to "use our God-given talents to be a blessing to others," but fulfilling this mission currently is a challenge as we lack enough volunteers to sort and pack the donations we receive. Funding and donations are at record highs, but manpower is scarce. We urgently need:

- ◆ **People to sort and pack** donations.
- ◆ **A seamstress for light mending**, easily accomplished on site or at home.

If you or your group are looking for community service work please consider volunteering with us. Our hours of operation are Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m. to noon. If your organization regularly donates materials consider becoming a Collection Site to presort and prepack items before delivering them to our warehouse. In either case, training and instruction are easy and readily available; simply bring your open heart. Please contact Cliff Kraft at 610-420-0380. ■

Charity Navigator

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our world's most pressing challenges. Based on its 4-star rating, people can trust that their donations are going to a financially responsible and ethical charity when they decide to support Orphan Grain Train." Grant Schmidt, OGT vice president in Norfolk added, "It's important our donors trust that we're using their donations wisely to accomplish our missions to assist with natural disasters and also ship food and humanitarian aid to needy people in America and around the world. Our 4-Star Charity Navigator rating demonstrates to our supporters our good governance and financial accountability." ■

"If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace, be

Shipments Outlook

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23rd. We give thanks that the shipment arrived in Puerto Rico without further ado on April 14th.

Our upcoming shipping schedule has been revised. May 18th plans to load a container for Haiti were cancelled



Loading goods for Puerto Rico.

because the June 2nd container of KAH meals (announced in the last newsletter as a shipment from Harrisburg to the Philippines) was redirected to Haiti. With the \$5,000 grant from the LWML Chesapeake District we purchased additional food to

help our friends in the ELCA Southeastern District fill the Haiti container. Later in June we will partner again with the New England branch to ship to Latvia using funds from the Eastern District LWML grant.

We praise God for his guiding hand in all our activity and rejoice that he has blessed us with funds and donations to send three shipments already this year— and it's only May! ■

Reminders for Donors

Please look before you give!

At OGT Mid-Atlantic Branch we strive to help our recipients feel joyful about the materials we send by ensuring that all items are of good quality—**no stains, rips, or other damage!** Donating unusable items makes sorting difficult for volunteers and slows our ability to get shipments to those in need quickly. **Please examine your donations first** to see that all items are freshly laundered, zippers function properly, buttons and other closures are securely sewn. Also, because of personal hygiene regulations **we cannot accept used swimwear, underwear, bras, or socks.** Help our volunteers by reading the enclosed "Considerations for Donors" insert for a detailed list of what we can, *and cannot*, accept. Our goal always is to convey Christ's perfect love in each and every box that leaves our warehouse. Thank you for your understanding. ■

St. James

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Generous members of St. James KAH team.

over 150 people came out to show their love for others in need. Children, teens, and seniors packed over 23,000 meals! In addition to the food, St. James sent us medical equipment, bicycles, diapers and new underwear. Their generosity didn't stop there; the congregation included a check to help support OGT's Russian Orphanage 'Warm Boots' program. Thank you, St. James, for hosting such a wonderful event to help those in need—twice! ■

3rd Boscov Fundraiser Planned

Volunteers sign up to take on a challenge.



Boscov's Friends Helping Friends one-day sale event has proven an effective way for OGT MAB to raise funds while telling others about our mission. This fall an anonymous donor has pledged to match all monies raised up to

\$2,000! To take full advantage of this generous offer MAB volunteers will be selling shopping passes in seven (7!) area stores. On October 16th look for our table in the Neshaminy, Coventry, Exton, and Granite Run Malls in PA; and the Concord, Christiana and Dover Malls in DE. Want to participate? You can buy a pass, sell passes to your family and friends before October 16th, and even sign up to represent OGT MAB in the Boscov store nearest you. For more details on the event call program coordinator, Sandy O'Hedy, at (302) 270-0362. Let's meet the 2018 fund-raising challenge! ■



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Mid-Atlantic Branch

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Prefer to receive this newsletter electronically? Please email Carla at carlaniesen@verizon.net.

Our Mission Statement

In loving response to Christ, the Servant, the Orphan Grain Train movement encourages and enables God's people to share personal and material resources in bringing Christ's name and character to needy people, both far and near.

Mid-Atlantic Branch Purpose

To build a Christ centered team who can use their God-given talents to be a blessing to others through their service in the Mid Atlantic Branch of Orphan Grain Train fulfilling the Mission Statement of the OGT movement.

Genesis 12:3 - "I will bless those who bless you ... and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

"I will not leave you as orphans, I will come to you." John 14:18

what's AHEAD

- **OGT MAB to Attend LWML Convention** — On June 1–3 volunteer Sandy O'Hedy will represent our branch at the LWML biennial Eastern District Convention in Niagara Falls, NY. Visit Sandy at our display table and look for a new OGT presentation.
- **Latvia Container** — With help from a grant given by the LWML Eastern District we will be shipping a container to Latvia in late June. Details will be sent when a date is set.
- **Warehouse Update** — Our landlord has begun building out bathrooms within our temporary work area. When finished, restroom accessibility will be much improved! While our permanent home awaits occupancy improvements, our current space is open, airy, clean and dry. Watch for warehouse details in the monthly News Flash.

did YOU KNOW?

- **Lost and Found** — We now have two jewelry items and a large amount of cash found at the warehouse. If any of these items could be yours email carlaniesen@verizon.net and describe your item. We are anxious to find their owners, but after September 1st they will be processed as donations.
- **Staples Rewards Card Savings** — We learned something new! Every time you use your Staples OGT MAB rewards card you could receive a discount of 5% to 70% at the register on your purchase. 45,000 store items are eligible. So get your savings, support our branch, and remember to keep Staple-ing!



To God alone be the Glory!