



## MAB Reopens in New Warehouse

*MAB relocates operations base to Pennsylvania.*

We are overjoyed to announce a wonderful new workplace at **8 Federal Road in West Grove, PA**. Located in bucolic Jennersville just off Route 1 south, there are nearby coffee shops, restaurants, and a Giant food store (apple boxes!) The warehouse is clean, well-lit and heated (with roof vents for warm summer days), has two nice bathrooms, a conference room, full kitchen, and a security system. In addition to ample parking, loading docks and drive-in capabilities, we have office space for breaks and devotions. God is good!

The property is the original headquarters for Dansko Shoes. Altruistic owner Peter Kjellerup, (center in photo above, black jacket) leases to non-profit organizations as part of a philanthropic mind-set to “give back” to the community.



All set up to begin work in our new warehouse!

Our journey began in August when we left Wilmington. Weeks passed without news of a viable future home. Then branch manager, Cliff Kraft, announced at our September board meeting that a potential warehouse existed “quite a distance” from our volunteer base – *not* very encouraging!

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Shipments Outlook

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

Our final container from Wilmington’s warehouse left last July to Pampali Evangelical Lutheran Church in Latvia. It was filled with bikes, toys, clothing, sewing fabric, and medical items from the New England and Mid-Atlantic branches.



When the shipment arrived at the end of August Pastor Eisaks wrote: “Thanks for the shipment! Everything has been received and already a large part is distributed to churches and people... May God bless you and your work also here in Latvia.” We look forward to serving Pastor Eisaks again in the near future.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Florida Grant Match A Success

*MAB humbled by outpouring of financial gifts.*

Last November we asked our supporters to match a \$5,000 anonymous grant for Hurricane Michael victims. To our complete amazement not only was the goal surpassed, **raising \$8,200 for Florida**, but an additional \$12,500 was given to us for the general support of our branch. In total, we credit \$25,700 to your selfless generosity! Thanks to you, over \$13,000 was used to help the desperately hungry and homeless people of Florida’s Panhandle. ■

Orphan Grain Train Mid-Atlantic Branch

## Boscov FHF Smashes Record!

*Stunning results amaze MAB.*

In our Fall 2018 newsletter we were thrilled to announce that an anonymous pledge of \$2,000 was made to our Boscov's "Friends Helping Friends Day" campaign. Could we match

the pledge selling \$5 discount shopping passes? – that's 400 passes, a number not even approached in the two years we've participated!



Cliff & Marilyn Kraft in Exton Square Mall

Trusting the Lord to guide us, we maximized this wonderful offer by doubling efforts to pre-sell the passes and by sending out 9 teams to 7 Boscov locations on sale day, October 16<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers in all the stores had wonderful stories of generous and kind patrons, of selling unusually high numbers of passes, and of running out of Orphan Grain Train literature telling shoppers about our mission.



Ruth Hewlett in Christiana Mall

In the end, we were *stunned* by the results – 409 passes were sold for a total of \$2,428, including almost \$400 in donations! With the matching grant, our **final tally came to \$4,428**, that far exceeded last year's \$790 total!! We are humbled and awed by the Lord's great goodness. ■



Sandy O'Hedy presents anonymous \$2,000 grant check to Jim Bell.

## MAB Reopens in New Warehouse

*(Continued from page 1)*

But the Lord gave Cliff an open mind and heart and we soon discovered the property to be a vast improvement over any MAB had leased in its history. We toured the warehouse in early November and on December 19<sup>th</sup> the lease was signed. The same day our storage POD was delivered, volunteers unloaded supplies and equipment, and all materials were set up and readied for work.



Sandy O'Hedy and Susan Bell unload pallets

**We opened officially January 16<sup>th</sup>!** A new work system for efficiently and ergonomically processing donations will include wheeled sorting carts with spring inserts, barrels on casters, and fatigue mats for standing on concrete. Given the longer driving distance, hours for volunteering and receiving donations are **now once a week on Wednesdays from 10am to 2:30 pm.** Bring a lunch or try one of the nearby restaurants. With easy highway access, good parking and a comfortable work environment we hope to see *you* at 8 Federal Road in West Grove (below)!



Tom Fuesler and Roger Hazzard set up donations bins



"Thank You!" to all our supporters for your steadfast prayers. The Lord has blessed us with a warehouse far beyond our imagination. The possibilities are limitless!

For more photos, please visit our MAB web page at <http://www.ogt.org/ogt-locations/northeast-region/> ■

## Shipments Outlook

(Continued from page 1)

In October we learned about Hurricane Florence damage in the Carolinas. Without a warehouse what could we do? – change *how* we give, not abandon our ability to do so! We used \$5,500 to buy clean-up supplies from Home Depot and made over 100 Scrub Bucket Kits. Later that month, Christ Memorial Lutheran Church in Malvern, PA, used Thrivent Action Team funds to assemble 120 Hygiene Kits from towels, washcloths, and personal items. The Maryland branch shipped all the kits on our behalf for distribution through LCMS churches.

Then, on October 31<sup>st</sup>, we heard of overwhelming devastation created by Michael in the Florida Panhandle. Reports spoke of the desperate needs of hungry people. Our board unanimously agreed to raise \$10,000

for food through an anonymous \$5,000 grant-matching fundraiser. Our supporters quickly responded and at the end of November Richard Klepps and Jim Northup from New England branch delivered critical supplies from their own branch, Mid-Atlantic, and Maryland, to Trinity Lutheran Church in Panama City, FL. “Thank you,” everyone! ■



Food pantry at Trinity Lutheran Church

## An Appeal to Our Donors

*Please check your items before you give!*

Looking at the front-page warehouse photo you may have noticed that our new space is smaller than others we have occupied, so we must operate more efficiently. For this reason, we ask that you **carefully examine your donations, for acceptability as well as for quality and cleanliness.** Donating unusable items not only makes sorting difficult for volunteers, slowing our ability to get shipments sent quickly, but it also poses a very real storage problem! Help our volunteers by reading the enclosed (blue) “Considerations for Donors” insert and note particularly what we *cannot accept*: used underwear and swimsuits, breakable and battery-powered items, and products with questionable themes. Our goal always is to convey Christ’s perfect love in each and every box that leaves our warehouse. Thank you for your understanding! ■

## A Firsthand Disaster Account

*A volunteer describes his Florida experience.*

When disaster strikes so far away it’s hard to imagine the hardships victims suffer. For Richard Klepps and Jim Northup, volunteers



Lutheran Disaster Response workers begin clean-up

from New England who drove our food donations to Florida, seeing Hurricane Michael’s October 10th destruction was so compelling they stayed one week to help. The following is from an interview with Rich one month after he returned home:



Jim Northup and Rich Klepps with Trinity Lutheran volunteers

‘Uprooted trees and shredded foliage appeared *90 miles* before reaching Panama City and once arrived on November 30<sup>th</sup>, we were stunned by the *total* destruction — worst ever to strike the Panhandle. The

Red Cross, always first on the scene, stayed only 1-2 weeks. No National Guard were visible. We worked stocking donated goods at the Trinity Lutheran Church food pantry, and cleaning up damage both in Panama City and Mexico Beach. Food was consumed so quickly (MAB donations lasted only five days!) we spent \$5,700 more of donated funds at local stores. By December 30th, 6,055 families and 28,542 individuals had been fed from the pantry. After eight days we reluctantly had to stop work and go back home to Connecticut. There is so much that still needs to be done!’



Redeemer Lutheran Church in ruins

While OGT continues to assess how best to continue giving aid, please remember to include the families and volunteers in your prayers. ■



Orphan Grain Train  
Mid-Atlantic Branch

89 Line Road  
Malvern, PA 19355

Phone: 610-644-4508  
E-mail: [mid-atlantic@ogt.org](mailto:mid-atlantic@ogt.org)  
Website: [www.ogt.org](http://www.ogt.org)

*Prefer to receive this newsletter electronically? Please email Carla at [carlaniesen@verizon.net](mailto: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*

## did YOU KNOW?

- **OGT to Launch Updated Website** — Our corporate office is changing the OGT website. Try the new navigation capabilities and find our revamped web page by visiting [www.ogt.org](http://www.ogt.org) after February 1st to see the new look.
- **More KAH Meals are Coming!** — Heather Griesser of Kids Against Hunger Philadelphia will have 60,000 meals ready for international shipping in mid-February. We look forward to receiving them at our new warehouse.
- **Thrivent Choice Dollars Benefit our Branch** — If you are a member of Thrivent Financial please consider donating your "Choice Dollars" to OGT MAB. Your support helps ship future containers. Remember: the cutoff date is **March 31, 2019**.

## what's AHEAD...

### **Our Future is *Still* in God's Hands**

The Lord has shown us that He supplies all our needs and wants—beyond our greatest expectations—when we fully trust in Him. God generously gave us a marvelous place in which to serve Him by serving others at Orphan Grain Train.



We are excited to see what lies ahead in this new chapter for our branch. Please come and join us on Wednesday mornings from 10:00am to 2:30pm at 8 Federal Rd, West Grove, PA, 19390.

*To God alone be the Glory!*