Open House Welcomes Community

Fall event encourages community involvement.

Our Open House was blessed with a beautiful Saturday afternoon on October 19th, a perfect day to tell visitors about OGT's work and encourage potential volunteers. Guests were guided to the warehouse by special signs, greeted with tours, and offered giveaways, refreshments, and even a chance to win door prizes. Two new floor display posters, on loan from the Norfolk office, helped visitors better understand OGT's scope and purpose. Bike restoration expert and MAB volunteer, Tom Fuesler, was on hand to explain his personal mission of repairing bicycles for overseas shipment.

Pastor Kummer of Concordia Lutheran church in Wilmington, DE, blessed the gathering with a special dedication homily and prayer based on Luke 3:7-14.

First-time visitors expressed amazement at our facility and the new streamlined method for efficiently processing donations. Many were interested in the entire operation, asking how they could help. Special exhibits

Shipments Outlook

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

Our last shipment of the year loaded on Wednesday morning, December 11th. Although OGT, Inc, has sent many containers to Ukraine, this was the first from our branch. Sixteen volunteers worked quickly to fill the 40’ container with 986 boxes of mostly clothing, blankets and food. Even our truck driver, Carlos, joined the enthusiasm and proved to be a great asset! Thanks to Heather Griesser of KAH Philadelphia, the over 20,000 meals loaded were due

Warehouse Opens Saturdays

Additional hours expand operation.

The Lord has blessed MAB so abundantly we have ‘outgrown’ our Wednesday-only work schedule! Many supporters, who work weekdays, have asked to volunteer on weekends. In response, we are expanding the hours of operation to include two Saturday mornings a month, 9:30-noon. We will be open Jan 25th, Feb 8th and 22nd, Mar 14th and 28th, and April 25th to sort clothing and receive donations. In addition to our 10-2:30 shift on Wednesdays, these new hours will help us fill shipping containers more quickly. The Jennersville warehouse welcomes you – come and join our mission!

“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works…” Hebrews 10:24
Donations Bolster MAB Mission

Volunteers give from the heart.

Leadership Skills Kayelee Ryan, a high school senior in Malvern, PA, read about Orphan Grain Train in her church bulletin. Inspired to demonstrate her faith, Kayelee looked for ideas on the OGT website to help children. The result? 103 School Kits that she completed with help from family and friends. She personally delivered them to our warehouse on November 26th for the shipment to Ukraine. Says Kayelee, “This experience has made me grow even closer to God and has made me realize the importance of helping others.” Thank you, Kayelee, for your volunteer leadership!

A Heart for Service
Nearby Lincoln University students began working with MAB last October. Accompanied by LU Community Service Director, Natasha Faison, they toured the warehouse, then helped assemble Hygiene Kits and pack clothes. The young people are a joy to be with; they work hard and have fun doing it! The students have returned several times; we hope this continues as an on-going relationship.

Product-Passion
Dansko’s 30-year mission “to improve the quality of people’s lives through great products...” shined on November 13th. We welcomed 27 donated cases of beautiful Dansko shoes brought by a 3-man delivery team. We are so grateful and hope there are more to come.

Grant Funds Ensure Future Activity

Supporters continue to increase giving.

New MAB Record at Boscov’s — Our 4th annual fundraiser with Boscov’s Friends Helping Friends Day was held October 16th. Challenged with besting last year’s miraculous high of $4,428, branch members initially expressed doubt. Imagine how elated we were when we learned the final tally was $4,892! Success came again this year with the help of an anonymous matching pledge that doubled all donations up to $2,000. Despite mixed results in some stores on sale day, many volunteers reported excellent pre-event activity, receiving unsolicited donations from kindly supporters. Shoppers eagerly took OGT literature and more than one volunteer reported interest in attending our Open House event. We even received an added bonus—a MAB pass-holder won the gift-card drawing in the Exton, PA store, securing a $100 dollar donation from Boscov’s to our branch! Each year we wonder if we will match previous results, and every time the Lord amazes us. We are again humbled by His generosity. (For more photos see SPECIAL INSERT page 4.)

Fall Grant-Match Raises the Bar — We are awed by our supporters who again unselfishly gave beyond expectations. Thanks to you we raised $17,786. Combined with the $10,000 grant the total reached $27,786! We could not survive without your dedication; each year we are blessed with more funds than the year before. (2018 had no Fall Grant-Match.) Because of your gifts we can continue our mission with confidence in 2020, sending aid to help those in desperate need and enabling us to show the love of Jesus through the life-giving supplies and spiritual message of Orphan Grain Train.
SPECIAL INSERT – Open House!

Carla Niesen, Gigi Mueller, Sandy O’Hedy, Ruth Hewlett

Gigi Mueller welcomes guests

Tom Fuesler shows repaired bicycles

Above: Scott Weaver leads a tour
Right: Door Prize winners Carole Peterson (top) and Karen Markey

Rob Hall and Jim Bell at Special Projects table

Pastor Kummer (upper right) gives the dedication

434 supporters 1768 boxes shipped 4265 volunteer hours ... untold thousands experience the love of Christ!
Mid-Atlantic Branch

SPECIAL INSERT – Boscov’s Friends Helping Friends

Carla Niesen, Granite Run Mall, PA

Caroline Goetz and Bob Guy, Concord Mall, DE

Rob Hall, Exton Square Mall, PA

Marilyn Kraft, Exton Square Mall, PA

Susanne Ferro
Exton Square Mall door prize winner

Arnold and Gloria Ziccardi, Coventry Mall, PA

Ruth Hewlett, Christiana Mall, DE

Susan Bell, Exton Square Mall, PA
Shipments Outlook

(Continued from page 1)

to a joint packing effort between MAB and KAH volunteers in early November. Medical equipment, Kayelee Ryan’s School Kits (see “Donations Bolster MAB Mission”), and Hygiene Kits were also part of the shipment, as well as 50 boxes of shoes and accessories, plus 20 repaired bicycles.

Everything will be delivered to Charitable Foundation Mariam, a mission helping orphans and low-income families with humanitarian aid since 2006. We anticipate the container will arrive the first part of January to help Ukrainian families during the winter months.

Open House Welcomes...

(Continued from page 1)

showed volunteer opportunities such as sewing Pillowcase Dresses, making School and Hygiene Kits, gathering clothing, and donating used bicycles for us to refurbish.

Volunteer Ruth Hewlett welcomed a guest who showed interest in OGT after meeting her at the Boscov Friends-Helping-Friends event four days earlier; the women shared how God had drawn them together. Ruth invited her to the Open House and was delighted to report, “She did come and met several volunteers and remains excited about our work. She is praying about volunteering. God is good!!!” A Delaware supporter commented, “So nice, what you and the team are doing. What a great place and location. Really glad we could visit and see, not just read about. I’ll keep sharing the news.” In all, MAB welcomed 60 visitors and volunteers to show how MAB has been “blessed to be a blessing.” (For more photos see SPECIAL INSERT page 3.)

Urgent Need for Bicycles

(Continued from page 1)

Bicycles are a great blessing to those in need, and often the only means of transportation in poor areas. MAB is fortunate to have an in-house expert who refurbishes unused, unwanted, or damaged bikes, all to the glory of God. To date, Tom Fuesler has repaired 87 bikes for MAB, but current inventory is low. Did you purchase a new bicycle this past Christmas? Could you donate your old one to someone in need? If you know of a bike to donate please contact Tom directly at tpfuesler@gmail.com or call Cliff Kraft at 610-420-0380 to arrange a pick-up. Thank you for your help continuing this worthy mission!
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?

• MAB News is Available All Year Long — Between newsletters the monthly ‘News Flash’ will keep you up-to-date. Subscribe by emailing carlaniesen@verizon.net.

• Giving to MAB is Easier and Faster — Our website donation page is new and improved! Your monetary contribution is immediately acknowledged with an emailed receipt, and we receive the funds quickly. See www.ogt.org/branches/mid-atlantic and look for this button: Donate to Mid-Atlantic

• “Considerations for Donors“ Now Online — Our clothing donations list, normally a half-page mailing insert, is posted on our webpage. Look for “Items Accepted for Donation” to download the document.

what's AHEAD...

• New Weekend Hours! — We are open to sort clothing and receive donations two Saturdays a month from 9:30-noon. Scheduled dates through Easter are: Jan 11 and 25, Feb 8 and 22, Mar 14 and 28, April 25. Join us!

• Dollars Deadline — Thrivent Financial members can donate “Choice Dollars” to MAB at any time, but the annual cutoff date is March 31st. Your support helps our branch send future shipments. See the enclosed yellow card for instructions.

• Spring Shipment — A full 40’ container holds 1800 packed apple boxes. With more volunteers and new Saturday hours we hope to ship our next container in May or June. We need you to reach our goal!

To God alone be the Glory!