



Special Thanks from Malawi

MAB receives a message of joy.

Loading a container can be arduous and require patience. Our shipment to Malawi required particular strength and skill to securely pack 204 heavy, upholstered metal chairs so they would not be damaged in transit. The volunteer team was relieved when the container left on March 8th, unaware of the life-changing impact these chairs would have on the other side of the world.

Soon after confirming the container's arrival, Bishop Harvey Chabinga sent this happy message: *"Hallelujah... we offloaded and distribution done ... What a blessing to see the smiles of people receiving these gifts... we are grateful indeed for the love OGT has displayed to Malawi for transforming us."* Bikes, bedding, clothing, Hygiene Kits, meals, and stuffed toys, were all received with great joy, but the chairs won exclamations of special praise: *"... I brought them to Lilongwe to our main church. We are amazed... we never thought to have such chairs. Awesome! This is a huge, huge blessing that nobody thought we would have such chairs."* (See center photo above.)

The chairs' donor, Freedom Village Senior Living Community in West Brandywine, PA, was equally thrilled. Executive Director, Danielle Geyer, conveyed their commitment to making a positive impact on the lives of others, *"By repurposing these chairs, we have...provided comfort and support to individuals in need worldwide."*

Thank you, one and all, for showing Christ's love to people across the world. Visit our branch webpage at www.ogt.org/branches/mid-atlantic/ to watch Malawians singing praises to the Lord. ■

Shipments Outlook

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

The Lord blessed us with the timely arrival of both our spring shipments, despite the continuing delays in international transportation. Malawi received our March shipment in late June and eagerly began distribution. (See "Special



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MAB Seeks Branch Manager

Cliff Kraft's tenure with MAB draws to a close.

Are you a leader with strong management skills and a heart for Christian service? We need you! You could step into the role of guiding Orphan Grain Train, Mid-Atlantic Branch, when manager Cliff Kraft retires at the end of the year.

Since the branch's founding in 2002, Cliff describes his 21-year journey as *"joyful, yet challenging, but always blessed by the Lord. Our branch has moved from three Delaware locations to West Grove, PA, where by God's good grace we are flourishing. We've shipped 35 forty-foot international containers, given support to domestic disaster recovery, and helped fund air shipments to Ukraine and Maui."* We thank God for directing our branch through Cliff's many years of service!

If you feel called to join our mission of "bringing Christ's name and character to needy people" please

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Living Examples

Volunteers show commitment through action.

Giving aid to those in need is never once-and-done; people require the necessities of life on a continual basis. We are grateful that so many of you choose to share your time and talents over and over again.

Three PA organizations, who already mastered our station processes, expressed commitments to continue volunteering. Members of **London Grove Friends Meeting, Christian Life Center, and Southern Chester County Chamber of Commerce** all returned multiple times, sending both young people and adults. CJ Ortiz (in green), from the Chamber's **Young Business Leaders**, even posted on social media, inviting his readers to get involved with OGT.



Volunteers who work outside the warehouse also bless us with gifts they make on an ongoing basis. **Bonnie Johnston and Barbara Veil** keep sewing beautiful pillow-case dresses and blankets for children, buoyed up by a host of supporters who donate fabrics, supplies, sewing machines and even work space.

And where would we be without all the wonderful groups who consistently gather clothing for us? We thank God for all these dedicated workers who bless many people in need through their efforts! ■

From Junk to Joy

One man's donations reach a milestone.

In fall 2021, we introduced you to Eric Saulsbury – aka, Eric the Recycler – who began donating bikes to MAB when passer-by Sharon Weaver asked him about his 'scrap metal' collection. Since that first encounter three years ago, we've refurbished **100 bicycles from Eric!** We gave him a special 'thank-you' showing photos of all the bicycles he has given us, especially those with recipients holding his bikes in Malawi and Republic of Georgia. Eric was very touched, and couldn't wait to go through and really look at each one. Eric's donations are *still* 25% of all MAB bikes we ship; his faithfulness is a real blessing to us and to those around the world who cherish bicycles. ■

MAB Seeks Branch Manager

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contact Jim Bell for a job description at (610) 937-1484 or b-jell_2819@comcast.net. We are eager to see where the Lord leads us. ■

Think Fall, Think Boscov's!

MAB returns for eighth year of fundraising.

On **Wednesday, October 18th**, MAB will join Boscov's **Friends Helping Friends** one-day sales event. Your \$5.00 donation will help us share Christ's love with those in need while giving you a store-wide shopping discount up to 25%. All stores will participate from **8am-11pm**, so friends and family can help our branch, too. **Passes are available now** from any volunteer and also on sale day when MAB will be in six PA and DE mall stores.



MAB has raised nearly \$20,000 in seven years – enough to send a container overseas! *Plus*, a generous donor pledged to match the first \$2,000 of donations, doubling their impact. Will you make a donation and help us maximize this gift? Contact Sandy O'Hedy with questions and for passes, s.ohedy116@comcast.net. ■

All Dolled Up *Toys become messengers of love.*

Play is the work of children. Toys are a necessary tool in that work, and for lots of children, that means dolls! Enter



volunteer Kathy Bley and her two granddaughters, Masie and Ada. For the past year, they've been washing soiled dolls, combing and styling their hair, and dressing them in new clothes. The girls were

excited by their project, knowing the dolls will be treasured in other countries. We thank all three ladies for their labor of love. They remind us that even the simplest gesture can brighten the world of a child, one doll at a time. ■



Shipments Outlook

(Continued from page 1)

Thanks from Malawi” page 1.) Our Ukraine container arrived only two months after leaving on June 26th, and pictures of grateful recipients just started coming in. We are told Smolin Ministries will convert the container we gave them into either a bedroom unit or a storage facility.



Women in Ukraine proudly display much needed gifts of food and medical equipment



Our third shipment this year headed to Republic of Georgia in early August. The beautiful day brought out 20 volunteers who made short work of loading over 56,000 Kids Against Hunger meals, 1,000 boxes of clothing, diapers, and linens, plus several pieces of medical equipment. ‘Union of Investments & Humanitarian Projects’ charity unloaded everything by 5 pm on September 19th, the same day it arrived! They reported all items were “above average” and had arrived in great shape. The aid will benefit vulnerable populations in the Tserovani settlement of displaced individuals and in communities near the capital city of Tbilisi.

Locally, MAB volunteers delivered a surplus of women’s clothing to two Delaware charities. Mosaic, a Newark organization that helps intellectually disabled people, was thrilled to take 10 boxes of summer clothes. Lutheran Community Services in Wilmington likewise readily accepted 10 boxes of winter items. We are so glad to do this work “which God prepared beforehand” for us to do. ■



Ashley Mittelmeier, Community Relations Manager at Mosaic (left)
Jean Washington and Jennifer Williams of Lutheran Community Services (right)

Two Ways, One Purpose

Join our efforts to provide basic necessities for the poor.

1) Since becoming a mission partner in 2016, Kids Against Hunger Philadelphia (KAH) and MAB have fed thousands of hungry people. Initially, our sponsor-churches held meal-packing events, collectively producing over 132,000 meals. When Covid limited social engagement, Heather Griesser and her KAH team packed meals at their Broomall warehouse on our behalf. Your gifts allowed us to buy close to 566,000 already packed KAH meals, bringing the grand total to 698,000!



Heather in the Jenner'sville warehouse

With Covid mostly behind us and the need for food still great, **would you consider holding a packing event with your group?** St. James Lutheran on Long Island prepared 22,000 meals last fall, and Hope Lutheran in Levittown, PA, will pack 20,000 meals in early October. We pray we can continue to provide food well into the future to those who need it.



2) We frequently promote Hygiene Kits as a way to help our branch, but other ideas can also be found at www.ogt.org. Our recipients love the kits because they are carefully configured to meet their needs and requests. For example, many countries ask for children’s school supplies.

Warehouse volunteers Roger Hazzard, Angelina Smith, and Kathy Mest (above) put 24 School Kits together, stuffing colorful papers and pens into backpacks. OGT provides specific directions for each of the projects because uniformity is key to passing customs inspections. **Would you consider completing an OGT project?** Remember, Thrivent Financial members can apply twice a year for an Action Team Card worth \$250 to “seed” your project. Don’t lose your opportunity to claim available funds.

Contact Cliff Kraft with any questions about packing meals or making kits: (610) 420-0380. ■



Mid-Atlantic Branch Office
89 Line Road
Malvern, PA 19355
Phone: 610-644-4508
E-mail: mid-atlantic@ogt.org
Website: www.ogt.org

Warehouse:
8 Federal Road
West Grove, PA 19390

Hours of Operation:
Wednesday, 10:00—2:30
2nd and 4th Saturday, 9:00—1:30

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?

- ◆ **Help for Hawaii** — Maui families devastated by fire received their first OGT container in August. A second air shipment left September 27th to which MAB contributed \$5,000 for freight costs. Please keep the affected people of Hawaii, especially those who lost loved ones, in your prayers.
- ◆ **Your Volunteer Time Counts!** Whenever you work on behalf of our branch be sure to track your time. Accurate reporting improves our Charity Navigator score, which builds supporter confidence. Can't log your hours in person? Email them to carlaniesen@verizon.net.
- ◆ **That's a Fact!** Senegal and Syria were added to OGT's recipient roster over the summer, bringing the total country count to 71. Since 2021, worldwide shipping has gone up 13% and volunteer hours leapt ahead 32%. The Lord continues to prosper the work of our hands!
- ◆ **Still Receiving Paper Newsletters?** Please choose email only and contact carlaniesen@verizon.net. Our goal is to use your funds to help those in need, and not for operational costs.

what's AHEAD...

- ◆ **Save the Date!** Remember to make a donation, get your pass, and shop Boscov's Friends Helping Friends on Wednesday, October 18th. If you need a pass or have questions contact coordinator Sandy O'Hedy at s.ohedy116@comcast.net.
- ◆ **'We've 'Raised the Bar'** — This year our Fall Grant Match has a new goal of \$13,400. Look for a letter in late October/early November detailing how you can contribute.
- ◆ **Servant Center Receives Grant** — OGT Norfolk held a ground-breaking ceremony on September 14th for their new donations-processing and meal-packing center. As LWML's top 2023 Mission Grantee they will receive \$100,000, and be the first to receive funds in the current biennium. Many will be blessed in the years to come!



To God alone be the Glory!