



## Blessed with Bounty

*MAB receives extraordinary donations.*

It is a challenge to maintain a steady supply of material donations at the warehouse. The last several months, however, have been unique. Why? Thanks to very special donations, our bins never emptied.

Last November, a generous resident donated a remarkable **6,000-piece clothing collection** belonging to his late wife. Honoring her wish to support the needy, MAB volunteers transported pristine women's tops, pants, shoes, and handbags to our warehouse over several months: the items packed filled over 380 boxes! Soon after, we learned the hospital auxiliary **Beebe Treasure Chest Thrift Shop** (Rehoboth Beach, DE), would be closing its doors. Could we use their excellent quality pre-sorted clothing? Absolutely! Shop and MAB volunteers worked together to bring 50 oversized totes to the warehouse – 'treasure' indeed.

In early spring, **St. James Lutheran** (Long Island, NY) began their third collection drive for us. (See team photo above.) Once again, they galvanized church members, pre-school parents, shops, and local Scout troops to collect clothes, bedding, toys, bikes, medical and baby items. They made several different OGT Kits (see [ogt.org/special-projects/](http://ogt.org/special-projects/)), housed truck driver Rob Hall and wife Jane overnight, and even contributed to our transportation costs. When we unloaded everything at the warehouse, their gifts filled ten watermelon bins to overflowing!

We are deeply grateful for all these acts of selfless love. They ensure that OGT's mission "to share personal and material resources in bringing Christ's name and character to needy people" will endure. ■

## Shipments Outlook

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

MAB was blessed this spring to **ship twice in two months!** The first container left on March 8<sup>th</sup> headed for Lilongwe, Malawi. The team was tasked with the unique challenge of stacking 204 metal and fabric



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## Showing Our Gratitude

*Diligent supporters receive Certificates of Appreciation.*

We happily presented our first certificate this year to St. James Lutheran Church (St. James, NY). Their tireless support since 2017 is truly remarkable. Thanks especially to Outreach Ministry President, Laretta Sauer (C), and Project Leader, Liz Wagner (L), their congregation gave us over 57,000 Kids Against Hunger meals, and a wealth of clothes, medical items, bikes, and toys. They eagerly took on several OGT Special Projects, including New Underwear drives, Pillowcase Dresses, Hygiene Kits, and School Kits, donating a combined total of over 450 items. We are so grateful for their dedication to making a difference in the lives of those in need.



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Mid-Atlantic Branch

## 'Sew' Many Gifts

*Volunteers stitch for children with love.*

This spring, hand-crafting has bloomed, all for the love of those in need. **Carlyn Hudak**, from the American Sewing Guild, mobilized her Sussex County, NJ Chapter to make 71 dresses for our branch. Excited to share their story, she forwarded the guild's e-newsletter write-up: *"The Sew Techies recently made pillowcase dresses for Orphan Grain Train... that ships donated food, clothing, medical supplies, and other items to people in 69 different countries. We know these darling easy-to-care-for dresses will be much appreciated by their new owners."*

**Bonnie Johnston**, a passionate seamstress from St. John's (Dover, DE), felt God's hand leading her when she received work space at the church, volunteers to help, and a promise of free fabric for the next sewing workshop. The 50 beautiful dresses she donated inspired her to write, *"I love the thought that these colorful gifts await a joyful smile! Praise the Lord."*

**Jeri Monthie** loves to sew for the Outreach Ministry group (St. James, NY). Not only did she make 43 dresses this year, she also fashioned beautiful bags for the 44 School Kits they donated. To date, Jeri has stitched almost 150 of each!

**Barbara Veil** of Hope Lutheran Church (Levittown, PA), is a prolific quilter, donating almost 100 colorful children's quilts thus far. She told volunteer Rich Gruenhagen, *"I want them to go to someone who really needs them, especially the children."*



We are immensely grateful to these wonderful contributors. Their dedication and creativity is certain to bring joy and blessings to countless children in need – just check out the shining smiles on these happy Liberian girls, showing off new pillowcase dresses from Wisconsin Branch. ■

## Showing Our Gratitude

*(Continued from page 1)*



Vince King  
THE PRODUCE PLACE  
Kennett Square, PA



Mike Pralle with  
Fernando Cortez (R)  
GIANT — West Grove, PA



Kenny Gonzales  
GIANT  
Kennett Square, PA

In addition to donations, we need boxes to pack them! Since moving to West Grove in 2019, they are always plentiful, thanks to three local grocery stores and volunteer 'Apple Box Man,' Mike Pralle. Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to the employees of these stores for saving boxes. We recognize them for their "generous donation of time and resources in aiding those in need." ■

## Wheels of Change

*Bicycles transform lives in Africa.*

In underdeveloped nations like Malawi, bicycles are essential transportation, serving as the equivalent of cars. This is why Action for Progress (AFP), was thrilled to receive



31 MAB bicycles in January. AFP's programs teach farmers to enhance crop production, helping communities become hunger-free. The volunteers who train typically walk hours to reach the farmers, but bicycles make their travels much quicker! Since 2017, MAB has been blessed to ship 300 bicycles overseas, 120 of them specifically to Malawi. ■

*"...by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the*



## Shipments Outlook

(Continued from page 1)

chairs, in addition to 150 crutches, canes, commodes, walkers, bicycles, and sewing machines. Loading 723 boxes of clothing and food was easy in comparison! Bishop Chabinga of Christ Mandate for Mission Church eagerly awaits the container's arrival. We pray they receive it quickly and safely.



Stacking and packing chairs for Malawi

Just seven weeks later, our second container left for Ukraine. The team loaded 1,167 boxes, also fitting in a 100 pieces of medical equipment, bicycles, and children's items. We are so glad to support the recipient "Christian Mission New Life" of Smolin Ministries in Odessa. This shipment is especially significant, it is our first sent since the war began. Due to war-time challenges, the 40' container will be trucked overland from Germany. It will stay in the Ukraine as a generous donation from our branch made possible by your unwavering financial support. ■



Loading medical aids for Smolin Ministries



Closing up the Ukraine container



TEAM UKRAINE!

## Faith and Love Together in Service

*Volunteer teams move us closer to our next shipment.*

We have been blessed with many hands to accomplish more work than we can do alone. **Friends Home** in Kennett Square, PA, sent three first-time guests who quickly learned the rigors of sorting and took bags of clothing back for residents to pack. Tracey Gable, Events & Volunteer Coordinator, emailed, "We had a really good time!"

**Lincoln University** students returned in February to help. *Miss Lincoln University* and *Mister Legacy*, Nia and Nicholas, were there to lead their co-workers by example. Supervisor ArenRenae Hamer explained that for these student leaders: "volunteerism is essential to their role as the standard for outreach and advocacy in their community."



CLC kids prep bikes for shipping

A few days later, 23 kids and adults from **Christian Life Center** sorted five watermelon bins of clothing, packed boxes, and even inflated tires of bikes to be shipped. The students showcased CLC's core value of Service, driven by their love for God and neighbor.

**London Grove Monthly Meeting and Allen AME Oxford Church** came for a full day. Their trust in God to open ways for them to serve together brought them to our warehouse in May. 19 volunteers learned how to pack and sort. On top of that, they assembled an impressive 272 Hygiene Kits! Rev. Thomas of the AME MAB volunteers and guests make Hygiene Kits church said their visit was "...truly a blessing to put some hands and feet to our faith."



MAB volunteers and guests make Hygiene Kits

We thank God for all the wonderful volunteers He sends us. Would you like to join us, too? We are at 8 Federal Road, West Grove, PA 19390. Please come and bring your friends: Wednesdays 10-2:30, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays 9-1:30. ■



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Warehouse:  
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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?

- ♦ **We Need Men's and Children's Clothing** — Items for women are always on hand, but clothing for men and children is in scarce supply. Please consider donating in these two categories.
- ♦ **"How You Can Help"** is a list of ways to help MAB in addition to working at the warehouse. Go to [ogt.org/branches/mid-atlantic/](http://ogt.org/branches/mid-atlantic/) for ideas.
- ♦ **Go Paperless** — Stretch your funding as far as possible. If you receive both electronic *and* hard copies of our communications, please contact [carlaniesen@verizon.net](mailto:carlaniesen@verizon.net) and choose email only.
- ♦ **Focus on MAB** — Our branch recently appeared under the OGT "Spotlight". Visit our webpage to read the story of how God has blessed us for over 20 years! Go to [ogt.org/branches/mid-atlantic/](http://ogt.org/branches/mid-atlantic/) and click on

Mid-Atlantic Branch Spotlight

## what's AHEAD...

- ♦ **Our Next Shipment** will be to Republic of Georgia, planned for late June. There is a huge need for clothing and food due to thousands of Ukrainian refugees. Watch for more information emailed in the **NEWS FLASH**. You don't receive the Flash? Contact [carlaniesen@verizon.net](mailto:carlaniesen@verizon.net)
- ♦ **'Friends Helping Friends'** is a go! It's official, we just committed to our 8th year of participating in the one-day Boscov Department Store event. Details about this popular fundraiser will be sent later this summer.
- ♦ **Fall 2023 Grant-Match** — Preparations are again underway for our most important funds appeal. Please prayerfully consider a generous donation when you receive your invitation to take part in this campaign.



***To God alone be the Glory!***