



All for the Love of Others

Warehouse fills with donations.

Four factors influence the timely shipment of containers: ample material donations, willing volunteers, ready apple boxes, and generous funding. At this time the Lord is



Lutheran Church of Our Savior members
Arnold and Gloria Ziccardi
with Gail Dejmaj (far right)

blessing us greatly with material donations; our 30 holding bins are overflowing! We have witnessed this miraculous replenishing now four years in a row. In February, we received tubs of clothing from the now-closed **Beebe Thrift Shop** in DE. Posing with the donations

in the header photo are teacher, Kristin Kassner, student Alondra Valdez-Perez, and OGT volunteers.

The miracle progressed through April with donation drives at **Grove Methodist, Episcopal Church of the Advent, and Lutheran Church of Our Savior**, and ended with a truckload of goods in early May from **St. James Lutheran** in NY.



St. James Lutheran volunteers Nick Chirco
with Scouts Thomas and Steven

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Shipments Outlook

Shipments are determined by specific requests from our international and domestic destination partners.

Loading a container on March 13th for Republic of Georgia went very smoothly, thanks to an experienced team, a punctual truck, and a blessed day of beautiful weather! The load was mostly clothing, 30,000 KAH meals, 20



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Is God Calling You?

Serving more people depends on filling key positions.

In the five years since relocating to Jennersville, God has sent us blessing after blessing. More donations, volunteers, workdays, and interest from the local community have grown our operation and created a need to fill several positions, each critical to our mission:

- **Opening and Closing Managers** for overseeing the operation of our warehouse during work hours.
- **Publicity Manager** for press releases, group presentations, and traveling kit updates.
- **Vehicle Drivers** for collecting donations and 'passing through' items we cannot ship.
- **Recording Secretary** for maintaining accurate records of board meetings.
- **Box Collectors** for sourcing apple boxes, a crucial component in packing donations.

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Making an Impact

Thrivent Financial members support MAB.

Each spring, we encourage MAB Thrivent Financial members to direct their annual '**Choice Dollars**' to our branch, thereby giving us their financial support. Since enrolling in 2010, MAB has received a remarkable \$64,173, enough to send three or four international shipments!

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Beyond the Choice Dollars program, Thrivent '**Action Teams**' offer a powerful tool for engaging the community. The Action Team Card provides \$250 in seed money to fund help team projects. Obtaining an Action Team Card is straightforward and user-friendly. Members can apply for up to two \$250 gift cards each calendar year – use them or lose them! Since 2015, MAB Thrivent members have used their gifts cards to purchase OGT Hygiene Kit supplies, leading to the assembly and shipment of over 2,000 kits!

Many other projects are described on the OGT website. You can visit ogt.org/special-projects/ to explore additional ideas. Please note: anyone can complete an OGT Special Project, regardless of Thrivent membership status. For example, **Concordia Lutheran** in Wilmington, DE, ran an 'Undie Sunday' campaign in April and collected an amazing 714 items of new underwear in one month. Thrivent Action Teams are great for 'jump starting' a project, but the true motivation is always love for the Savior, expressed by helping our neighbor. ■

Is God Calling You?

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Filling these positions with dedicated individuals is not just about addressing immediate operational needs. It is also about moving us toward our long-range goals of expanding our reach and impact by increasing outgoing shipments, boosting donation intake, recruiting volunteer groups, and securing the finances needed to sustain and grow our initiatives. Please join us in making a tangible difference in the lives of those we serve. If you feel called to serve in one of these positions, contact Rob Hall: (484) 459-9217. ■

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Our Long Island friends joined with their neighbors to prepare bicycles, 20,000 Kids Against Hunger meals, pillowcase dresses, Hygiene Kits and School Kits. They gathered clothing, medical aids, child care items, and new underwear. In the photo (left), Laretta Sauer presents Rob Hall with one more donation: a check to help pay for transportation!



The 'harvest' is now ready and we need volunteers. Sorting and packing are easy to learn and we welcome everyone middle-school-aged and up on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Come on your own or bring your group. Take **Lutheran Community Services** of Wilmington, DE, for example: four members volunteered for the first time on a Saturday and packed most of the 49 boxes filled that day. They found the work very rewarding and had such a good time they hope to return! Call or text Rob Hall to make arrangements for your organization: (484) 459-9217. Help us pack these blessed donations of beautiful 'gifts' for needy people. ■

Acceptable Donations?

Thank you, but no thank you!

Non-shippable goods are accumulating at the warehouse, taking up valuable space and using valuable volunteer time to process. These items cannot be shipped because they are blocked by foreign customs or because our recipients cannot use them. For these reasons we prefer **no battery-powered or electrical items except** functional sewing machines with accessories, **no books except** Bibles and hymnals, **no used underwear/socks/swimwear, no jewelry or structured hats, no used board games or puzzles, no automotive materials including** car seats, **no kitchenware or furniture, and above all, nothing damaged!** Without your generosity we could not fill containers, but please seek other organizations when donating things that do not appear on our [Considerations for Donors](http://ogt.org/branches/mid-atlantic/) list. If you have questions, refer to the list on our webpage ogt.org/branches/mid-atlantic/, or call Rob Hall: (484) 459-9217. Thank you for your understanding. ■

Shipments Outlook

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bicycles, sewing machines (photo right), linens, medical aids, and hygiene products. Twelve additional volunteers came just to sort and pack, remarkably filling 57 boxes. We pray the container arrives in Tbilisi soon so that our recipient, 'Women for Justice,' can continue assisting vulnerable families and individuals.



Our next shipment will go to Lithuania at the end of June. Recipient Rev. Valdas Miliuskas distributes aid to his rehabilitation center, six local parishes, and many Ukrainian refugees. Since 2019, Rev. Miliuskas has received 17 shipments from OGT. Lithuania is a new destination for MAB, and we happily support his mission. ■



Team Republic of Georgia!

Volunteers Retire

We honor decades of dedication.



We sadly bid farewell to two longtime volunteers, Caroline Goetz and Bob Guy, who have relocated. Before Mid-Atlantic Branch was even founded, Caroline's garage served as a collection center in the 1990s for the (then) New York branch. When MAB was established, Caroline and Bob became weekly volunteers, giving their unfailing support throughout the last twenty years. We send them with God's blessings; they will be missed at the warehouse! ■

Meet the Jump Rope Man

He turns t-shirts into toys.

After volunteering for just a few months, newcomer John Hollinger has already found his 'niche.' As John tells his story, he was looking for places to volunteer when daughter Katrina saw OGT on Facebook. He and wife Grace stopped in on a Saturday to drop off donations and were so impressed by their orientation tour that John decided to come back.

John brings the unique skill of making jump ropes from scrap t-shirts. He credits his wife with finding the directions on Facebook. He liked them so much he made over 350 in his first year. When John comes to the warehouse, we receive a double blessing as he brings not only jump ropes but also hand-sewn and crocheted items from his wife. Caring for people in need comes naturally to the Hollingers; both enjoy crafting items that bring joy to others. John said, "It has really been nice to find OGT so that we can help out another ministry." ■



Aid for Baltimore

A hurting community still needs your help.

The Francis Scott Key Bridge partially collapsed on March 26th after a catastrophic collision with a container ship, bringing the thriving port to a standstill. Six workers were killed, over 180 sailors were stranded, and 8,000 dockworkers were left idle. MAB responded to an immediate call with food, snacks and gift cards, and delivered them to LMS Compassion Place in Essex, MD.

The food collection is now concluded but the relief effort is ongoing. There are three ways you can help: **1)** Pray for everyone impacted by the disaster; **2)** make a financial donation at [SED give online and donate to Disaster Response and Recovery](#); **3)** mail gift cards from Target, Walmart, Giant Food, Harris Teeter, Weis Markets, or Safeway grocery stores to the LCMS SED Office, 2305 N Parham Rd, Suite 200, Henrico VA 23229. Thank you for caring for others. ■



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

Warehouse:
8 Federal Road
West Grove, PA 19390

Hours of Operation:
Wednesday, 10:00—2:30
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?

- ♦ **MAB is Growing** – Volunteers worked 667 hours in February, the highest ever recorded! New volunteers join us every month. Will we see *you* at the warehouse? Hours are posted above.
- ♦ **We Need Apple Boxes** — More donations and more volunteers necessitate more boxes. Please contact your grocer and bring any quantity to the warehouse. Our work depends on it.
- ♦ **See Our New Ad** in the Southern Chester County CONNECTIONS magazine by visiting their [website](#) to view page 44 in the Spring/Summer 2024 issue.
- ♦ **Monies 'Granted'** – Thanks to volunteers Susan Bell and Sandy O'Hedy, vital grant funding from LWML is secured every two years. Does your organization need to distribute charitable dollars regularly? MAB could use your help. Contact Rob Hall: (484) 459-9217.
- ♦ **Please Choose "email only"** to stop receiving hard copy mailings. Your funds should be used more to help those in need, and less for operations costs. Contact carlaniesen@verizon.net.

what's AHEAD...

- ♦ **Our Next Shipment** will go to Lithuania in late June. This is our second container of the year and a new destination for us! Watch for loading day details in a special **NEWS FLASH**.
- ♦ **Save October 22nd for Boscov's Friends Helping Friends Day.** Shopping passes are available now. If you are willing to represent MAB at a table in your Boscov's store on sale day, please contact Sandy: s.ohedy116@comcast.net. More event details will be forthcoming.
- ♦ **MAB at Conventions** — Representing OGT at two upcoming conventions of the LWML will be Richard Gruenhagen/Pittsburgh, PA, for the Eastern District in June, and Sandy O'Hedy/Herndon, VA, for the Chesapeake District in September. They will help spread awareness of our work and mission.



To God alone be the Glory!