

NORTH DAKOTA ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN & MERCY MEALS

NEWSLETTER

To encourage & enable God's people to share personal & material resources in bringing Christ's name & character to needy people both far & near.



SUPPLIES NEEDED

Items requested for upcoming shipments and also those in need locally.

- School supplies*
- Bath towels*
- Washcloths*
- Cloth diapers*
- Large safety pins
- Baby sleeper (newborn - 12 mo)
- Toothbrushes
- Combs
- Rubber or swimmer pants*
- Soap boxes*
- Travel size Kleenex
- Nail clippers*

*Items in greatest need at this time.

We often get questions about what we can and cannot accept. Here are some of the most common:

Can Accept

- Furniture
- Bed pillows
- Pots & pans
- Dishes
- Beds (new or used)*

Cannot Accept

- Knick knacks
- Holiday decorations
- Decorative pillows

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: VALENTENA ERBELE

How long have you been volunteering?

I moved to Jamestown in 2022 and began volunteering with Orphan Grain Train shortly after.

What's your role with OGT ND?

I help sort the clothes that have been donated. We sort items into bins for men, women, kids, pants, shirts, coats, etc. The clothes are donated both locally and internationally. I've also helped with Mercy Meals.

What's your favorite part of the work you do?

I love the people I work with, and I love helping those in need. Whether it's bedding, furniture, or a specific clothing item, I absolutely enjoy finding particular items that families need. Right now, there are two local families I am helping to find items for, and when things come in, I get really excited knowing the difference it will make for them.

What made you interested in OGT?

Although I had driven by many times, I didn't know this organization existed. One of my friends from church invited me to volunteer. Since I started in 2022, I've hardly missed a day! OGT is open two days a week, and volunteering is a highlight of my week!

Fun fact: My name is Valentena because I was born on Valentine's Day!



Volunteers like Valentena are the heart of Orphan Grain Train—serving with love, compassion, and unwavering commitment. Born on Valentine's Day, her name is a perfect reminder that everything we do is powered by love, and by volunteers who give theirs so freely.



BEARING HOPE IN UKRAINE. SEEING THE IMPACT, FIRST-HAND

In the fall of 2025, Orphan Grain Train North Dakota volunteers Kirk and Brian Rosin, travelled to Ukraine to support ongoing humanitarian and ministry efforts during a time of great need. Their three-week journey focused on strengthening existing programs and identifying new opportunities to serve vulnerable children and young adults.

After flying into Warsaw, Poland, Kirk and Brian travelled by bus into Ukraine, staying in Lutsk, Zhytomyr, and Kyiv while visiting orphanages and care facilities in nearby communities. A primary focus of the trip was evaluating and expanding Orphan Grain Train's Adopt-an-Orphanage program.



Bible Orphan Ministry (BOM) partners with OGT to deliver aid and share hope with orphanages across Ukraine. Shown are members of BOM along with supplies donated: Lyuda, Nadia, Oksana, and Alona.

Through this program, Orphan Grain Train partners with orphanages that demonstrate transparency, clear need, and openness to sharing the Gospel. Kirk witnessed firsthand how donor support has made a difference—providing refrigerators for medicine and food, wood for heat, cooking equipment, furniture, and building materials. In one facility, supplies helped create safe housing for boys with severe disabilities who previously had nowhere to stay.

“The gratitude from the directors was overwhelming,” Kirk shared. “They are facing challenges most of us can hardly imagine, and the support they’ve received has been life-changing.”

During the trip, Kirk and Brian identified 10 additional orphanages that meet Orphan Grain Train’s partnership guidelines and could benefit from future support.

They also explored opportunities to establish a Hannah House-type program in Ukraine. Hannah House serves young adults aging out of orphanages by providing housing and teaching essential life skills such as cooking, cleaning, and finding employment. Potential locations in Lutsk and Kyiv were identified, though ongoing power outages and war-related challenges have slowed progress.



Orphanage supported by OGT ND



Bicycles donated by OGT



Half of the firewood purchased by OGT to heat an orphanage, including hired labor to split the wood during wartime shortages.

Bearing Hope in Ukraine, Continued

Even so, Orphan Grain Train remains committed to preparing for the future. By building relationships and laying groundwork now, the organization hopes to move forward quickly when conditions allow—continuing to bring hope, help, and the love of Christ to those who need it most.



Destruction from the war with Russia



A sleeping room in the orphanage bomb shelter, where children stay overnight to avoid being woken and frightened during Russian air assaults.



Children's activity showing Jonah, sharing Bible stories

RECENT SHIPMENT FOR UKRAINE

We continue to support efforts in Ukraine. Here's a detailed list of our most recent shipment from OGT ND. The estimated value was over \$430,000.

- 75 boxes of quilts
- 1 box of mixed linens
- 69 sleeping bags
- 59 boxes of Accessories
- 57 boxes of children's coats
- 76 boxes of children's shoes
- 150 boxes of children's winter clothes
- 150 boxes of infant/toddler clothes
- 10 boxes of Layette kits
- 45 boxes of Men's winter bottoms
- 89 boxes of Men's coats
- 31 boxes of Men's shoes
- 142 boxes of Men's winter tops
- 27 boxes Men's jackets /sweatshirts
- 5 boxes of purses/handbags
- 28 boxes of new underwear
- 46 boxes of Women's shoes
- 45 boxes of Women's winter tops
- 76 boxes of Women's jackets/ sweatshirt
- 33 chairs
- 26 boxes of infant diapers
- 18 walkers
- 20 student chairs

2025 MERCY MEALS RECAP

In 2025, Mercy Meals held 13 events and packed an impressive 187,920 meals for the hungry this past year. A big thank you to all of our volunteers who helped make this happen!

28,728 Colleges

University of Jamestown: Leadership Group & Basketball Team
VCSU Freshman Orientation

62,640 Churches

Immanuel Lutheran (Wahpeton)
Messiah Lutheran (Mandan)
Zion Lutheran (Bismarck & Ellendale)
Trinity Lutheran (Fergus Falls)
Bethlehem Lutheran (Upham)
New Hope Lutheran (Jamestown)

96,552 Community Groups

Community of Garrison
James River Correctional Center
Jamestown Kiwanis Club





North Dakota Branch
PO Box 1546
Jamestown, ND 58402-1546

FUNDS NEEDED!



We're busy preparing for future shipments. We can use your support to continue our mission.

To donate to the North Dakota Branch, send checks to:

North Dakota Orphan Grain Train
PO Box 1546
Jamestown, ND 58402-1546

To contribute by credit card, visit www.ogt.org/nd and click "Donate to North Dakota Branch."

**A sincere thank you for your support.
Your donation will help us change lives!**



ND Branch Warehouse

103 4th Ave SE
Jamestown, ND 58401

ndakota@ogt.org
www.ogt.org/nd

 Like us on Facebook!
Orphan Grain Train, Inc.

Branch Hours & Volunteer Opportunities

We continue to be open Mondays and Saturdays from 9am to noon.

For additional drop-off and volunteer times, call Sue at 701-320-3259 or Andrea at 701-658-9057.