



## Orphan Grain Train

### Good Tidings

News *-for and about -*

OGT Maryland

December, 2025



## A Christmas Message

Christmas, 2025

Dear OGT Brothers and Sisters,

**As we celebrate the birth of our Christ and Savior, we take a moment to reflect on the past year and how our Lord has blessed us through the works He has called us to undertake at our Branch. Looking at 2025, we see that our Lord has blessed us beyond measure. These blessings have come through our donors, volunteers, churches and supporting organizations.**

**In 2025, our Branch managed to intake, handle, process, and ship over 370,000 lbs. of aid across the world with a value of over \$1.5M. As our Lord calls us to feed, clothe, and provide for the impoverished and less fortunate of our country and this world, our volunteers have done this by obtaining and filling boxes with needed supplies, loading containers, and shipping goods to the needy. These supplies have been sent to the streets of Baltimore, the mountains of Appalachia, war-torn Ukraine, rural villages in Africa, and those in need right here in Anne Arundel County.**

**The success of our Branch for 2025 is best characterized and reflected by the many expressions of sincere gratitude in the faces of all those we served and helped along the way; however, let us not lose sight that the Bible teaches, "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2:10) From this, we understand that we are truly the hands and feet of Christ Jesus in all that we undertake and contribute to the Branch. To this end, our ministry is very blessed by all the volunteers and contributors who show the joy of the Lord in all they do.**

**It is our privilege and joy to work alongside such a wonderful community of people. We wish each and every one of you a wonderful Christmas and a joyous new year celebration. May the Lord's favor continue to shine on us all in 2026.**

**In His Service,**

**Irene Giguere, Assistant Branch Manager, Administration**

**Anthony Rodriguez, Assistant Branch Manager, Operations**

## **Giving Tuesday - December 2, 2025**

**Thanks to all who volunteered or brought in donations during our Open House on that day. The weather wasn't "friendly", but the hardy folks who braved the elements certainly were. While we did not have a monetary challenge match like last year, we were nonetheless blessed with over \$10,000 in giving. Special thanks to Steve Overton**

whose ProVision Memorial Run considered our Branch as one of its beneficiaries. Steve and members of the organization brought in a \$5,000 check to kick off our Giving Tuesday events.

Steve Overton (far right), Greg Burns, and Shane DeWind present check to Elfie, Irene, and Denise at the Warehouse. OGT was one of the 3 beneficiaries of the ProVision Memorial Run in October. Thanks to the Overton family for their continued support of our mission!



## Jacob's Bags of Blessings



Jacob, an eighth-grade student at St. Philip Neri School in Linthicum, founded "Jacob's Bags of Blessings" to help girls and women who are going through tough times. He fills donated purses with hygiene items and small snacks and passes them on to women in need,



OGT delivered the box of Jacob's Blessings to Faith and Work in Baltimore City. LeChelle Redd of Faith and Work is pictured above opening the Box. She was so moved by Jacob's generous spirit. The purses were distributed on December 20th, adding

On Giving Tuesday, Jacob delivered 15 filled purses to the warehouse. OGT is elated to partner with Jacob to help make his dream of helping the less fortunate become a reality!

some holiday cheer to the lucky recipients!

## 2025 Coat Collection



Thank you for being a blessing! Prior to Christmas we have given out 1,036 winter coats. They have been forwarded for distribution to Giving Back Linda's Legacy (Anne Arundel County), Christian Appalachian Project (Kentucky), St. Thomas and Redeemer Lutheran Churches (Baltimore), Faith & Works Enterprises (Sandtown), and some area public schools. We'll continue to collect and distribute throughout the winter months.

## Partners for the Needy

As our cold weather spell continues, the homeless will have a perilous winter. Yearly, Giving Back Linda's Legacy has a holiday drive to collect winter clothing and warm blankets to help with this need. For several years, Orphan Grain Train has donated warm coats and winter clothing to Linda's Legacy for distribution. We are thankful we could help out again this year. Prior to Christmas we were able to donate 367 boxes of winter clothing, 30 of shoes, 27 of diapers, 27 of towels and 188 winter coats to this wonderful partner.

Matthew 25:40: "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."



## Distribution of Goods in Ghana



**Ebenezer Akwanga Human Rights and Humanitarian Institute (EAHRI) continues to tend to the distribution of OGT and church donated goods to the people of Ghana. Just this week EAHRI visited the Danchira community of the Accra region to distribute rice and bean rations, as well as clothes.**

## **Closed for the Holidays**



**The OGT Warehouse will be closed to the public from December 23rd through January 4th.**

## **Looking Ahead to the New Year ....**

- **While plans are not yet finalized, international shipments to Cameroon and Ethiopia are tentatively planned for early next year.**
- **A picnic for all OGT Maryland volunteers is being planned for Spring!**

# Good Money Sense

## How can you use your IRA to amplify generosity?

You can amplify your generosity if you're 70 ½ or older, by considering gifts to charities you cherish from your individual retirement account (IRA) assets. These gifts count toward your required minimum distributions (RMDs), and you may still receive tax benefits from your donations, even if you don't itemize deductions.

These gifts called qualified charitable distributions (QCDs), provide individuals with the opportunity to distribute up to \$108,000 for tax year 2025 (indexed for inflation) from an IRA directly to an eligible charity. In doing so, you do not recognize assets transferred to the qualifying charity as income for federal tax purposes, all while meeting your RMD obligation. The IRA owner must be 70 ½ or older at the time of the distribution and the distribution must be made directly to charity. There are additional strategies you may use with QCDs as well.

Together with Thrivent Charitable™, you can use your IRA assets to create a charitable fund and provide ongoing support to the charities you love. Visit [thriventcharitable.com/QCDs](https://thriventcharitable.com/QCDs) to learn more.

Please contact Teresa Powell or Arnold Abel at 443-860-6700 to arrange a meeting to learn more about QCD strategies and explore additional ways you can experience the joy of generosity through charitable planning.

Thrivent Charitable™, the marketing name for Thrivent Charitable Impact & Investing®, is a public charity that serves individuals, organizations and the community through charitable planning, donor-advised funds and endowments. Thrivent Charitable works collaboratively with Thrivent and its financial advisors. It is a separate legal entity from Thrivent, the marketing name for Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

Insurance products, securities and investment advisory services are provided by appropriately appointed and licensed financial advisors and professionals. Only individuals who are financial advisors are credentialed to provide investment advisory services. Visit [Thrivent.com](https://Thrivent.com) or FINRA's BrokerCheck for more information about Thrivent's financial advisors.

Donors must itemize deductions to receive a charitable income tax deduction. Charitable giving can result in tax, legal and financial consequences. Thrivent, its financial professionals, and Thrivent Charitable™, do not provide legal, accounting, or tax advice. Consult your attorney or tax professional.

## REFLECTION FOR TODAY



## JOIN US IN PRAYER

Please remember our OGT community in your prayers!

- Our Volunteers
- Our Donors and Supporters
- Recipients of our humanitarian aid

Continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in Ukraine, Israel and Palestine and for an end to these wars.



## USED PRINTER CARTRIDGE PROGRAM



Orphan Grain Train accepts your used printer cartridges as part of a recycling program that provides funding for OGT. Please continue to bring your depleted cartridges to the warehouse when you come to volunteer, donate, or visit.

# VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

Orphan Grain Train is always looking for new volunteers. Many opportunities, both large and small, are available. For more information, please call 410-417-9674 or stop by the warehouse any Monday or Tuesday morning (9:00 - noon), Tuesday evening (5:00 - 7:00 p.m.), or the second Saturday of each month (9:00 - noon).



## Warehouse Location:

621 East-West Blvd.,

Millersville MD 21108

## Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 1741

Millersville MD 21108

e-mail: [md-orphangraintrain@ogt.org](mailto:md-orphangraintrain@ogt.org)

## Assistant Branch Managers:

- Irene Giguere, Administration
- Anthony Rodriguez, Operations/Shipping

Call us at: 410-417-9674

[Visit our website](#)

[Donate to Orphan Grain Train](#)



**Contact us for details on our  
Medical Walk Out Program  
including donations and availability.  
410-417-9674**

