



Maryland Branch **2019 ANNUAL REPORT**

Orphan Grain Train

Dear Friends of OGT,

Truly this has been another banner year for Orphan Grain Train, Maryland Branch. Our volunteer base has doubled, our medical walk out program has expanded, our donor pool has exploded, 8 containers were shipped. 3,000 Bombas socks and 800 winter coats were distributed. The Lord has provided! May He be praised!

The purpose of this report is to highlight what your interest and generosity have enabled. What follows is a listing of the principle points of activity.

The driving force which runs through all of the activities of the Maryland Branch of Orphan Grain Train is sharing the love of God in Christ, by sharing what we have in abundance. Thank you for being a vital part of Orphan Grain Train's work this past year!

In His Name,

Elfie Eberle
Branch Manager

Warm Coats for the Homeless

Pastor Elliott Robertson (one of our Board members) has gathered inner city Baltimore churches together in a consortium called "The Wyneken Project". These churches are having a decidedly positive influence on their communities and Orphan Grain Train is helping them by delivering clothing and household goods. We also helped Linda's Legacy, (a local group that helps the needy in Annapolis area) with 800 boxes of winter clothing. **We are pleased to announce that we donated a record 959 coats as a result of our coat drive in 2019!**

In International Shipments national Shipments in 2019

2019 ended with our having shipped 8 forty foot containers to 4 countries, **India, Liberia, South Sudan, and Nicaragua**. Our total transportation budget was \$69,000. And the value of these shipments is \$901,000 This complicated process is expertly guided by Ron Phipps.

We always ship only what the recipient requests. Hence India received equipment and supplies needed for the establishment of a nursing school and for the orphanages. The shipment to Nicaragua contained medical equipment and related supplies. The 2 shipments to Liberia included educational supplies and equipment for the 14 Lutheran Schools scattered throughout the jungle.. These shipments have a special emphasis which reminds us how essential education is. Learning to read is the first step out of poverty. Some young people are so eager to learn that they are willing to attend a much lower grade just to be in school. Joe Bokay reports that there is a 25 yr old in 5th grade and a 22 yr old in 8th grade.



South Sudan, the newest country on the planet, received 4 shipments. This country is slowly recovering from the devastation of war. As a matter of fact, violence is still very much a part of life there. They need everything. In fact , it is hard to find an item in our warehouse they don't need. The following words from Pr. Stephen serve as a reminder of why Orphan Grain Train exists.

“Apart from meeting our material needs, I am glad to share with you the following three abstract benefits that we got from the container. First, as a pastor the container gave me a great opportunity to share God's Word with all the recipients of the donated items in the course of the wider distributions. Second, our people became well aware of how Americans stand shoulder to shoulder with the people worldwide. Third, the container enhanced the spirit of hospitality among the South Sudanese, understanding that there is always a greater blessing in giving than in receiving.”



Volunteers



It's been a great year for volunteers! 49 new volunteers applied online, 14 groups came to sort and pack donations, as well as Chick-fil-A and Long and Foster Realtors. Galilee Lutheran Church, Mt. Oak Methodist, and Bay Area Community Church pack one day every month. Both Bello Machre and the Severna Park Special Challenges group pack weekly. The Severna Park group cleans one day a week for us at the warehouse. Thank you for helping us help others

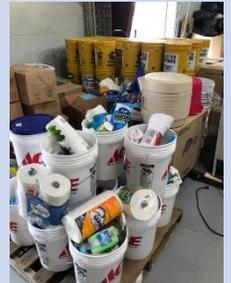
VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER

An exciting event being planned for 2020 is our Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, scheduled for Sunday, April 26th (5:00-7:00 p.m.). This event is to be held at St. Andrews Swim and Tennis Club in Chartwell (a Severna Park community). We look forward to an evening of good food, lighthearted fun and laughter. Our Volunteers are the "wind beneath our wings" and we want them to know how much they are appreciated!

Disaster Relief

As always, OGT is prepared to step up when called to help in times of natural disasters.

Shipments of cleaning supplies, hygiene supplies and medical equipment were sent to Word of Faith Ministries and Trinity Lutheran Church, Panama City, Florida, and Calvary Lutheran Church, Jacksonville, Florida



Shunts

We continue to supply any hospital (with the surgical skill) in a third world country with Shunts (hydrocephalic valve units). Each one saves a life. Thus far we have shipped 2,500 shunts, valued at \$2 million, to hospitals in Kyrgyzstan, Panama, and Nicaragua. 2,500 lives saved! We are preparing a shipment now for The Neurosurgical Hospital in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan with additional items Dr. Karachev has requested. Integra Life Sciences generously donates the shunts to us.



Medical Walkout Program

This program, started in 2018, offers free medical equipment to all, with no questions asked. 150 pieces of equipment, including hospital beds, wheelchairs, transport chairs, walkers, rollators, Hoyer lifts, knee scooters, canes, crutches, shower seats, and toilet seats, have been provided for people in need. We only ask that following one's need for the equipment, it is either returned or given to someone else in need. To maintain this program, we encourage and greatly appreciate all contributions of gently used medical equipment.



Additional Donors

We were blessed to have Dynamic Clothing donate 3,500 pieces of beautiful new athletic wear.

Bombas Sock Company donated 3,500 beautiful pairs of socks which they manufacture solely for the homeless. They are black, with a very thick sole, and impregnated with an antibacterial substance.

Standard Textile and CEO Paul Hyman donates hospital linens of every sort regularly. We need but ask for what our recipient needs and Mr. Hyman generously donates.

Our local Chick-fil-A brought 97 people to our warehouse. One of these folks works for Johns Hopkins Medical Center and now donates the Ultrasounds and Echocardiograms to us for shipment to hospitals.

A very new donor is IRN which recently donated a 53 ft. truck of beautiful school furniture. It will be going to 14, soon to be 15, schools in Liberia.

Concordia Lutheran Publishing House donates books of all sorts regularly for the 5,500 children attending school for the very first time in Liberia.

"Miles for Mankind"

On Track to Give Back

Our Fundraiser for 2020 will be a 5k race planned for September 19th. The tentative course is on East-West Blvd., starting and ending at the OGT warehouse. We have seasoned planners and runners involved in this event so it promises to be a great race, and a great *experience* for people with all levels of ability.

Stay tuned for more information!



Exciting News

The Lord has provided a new Branch Manager for Maryland.

Jeff Piegols recently retired from government work and has for some time been a dedicated volunteer. His faith dictates his life. He is generous, wise, hard working and thoroughly engaging. His enthusiasm for the job is inspiring. The transition will be in process for about a year. I cannot wait for you to meet him.

***In His Name,
Elfie***



Orphan Grain Train

Warehouse hours and directions go to WWW.OGT.ORG/MD

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