



May 2018

Greetings from OGT, Jonesville, Indiana!

A young man, 28 or so, came with his referral. He had just been released from doing 7 years in the state penitentiary. He was hoping to get some household items because he had nothing, nothing except a referral from a local social agency and a job application. As he and I went through the items he needed and the items we had, he asked the "how and why" questions about OGT. I shared with him that people of faith in Christ Jesus have a wonderful role model in the Lord for giving of themselves and their stuff. At that point he told me that he had come to know about Jesus in prison through a chaplain and had been given a Bible which he was reading and studying. I shared with him more of Christ's love, forgiveness, and the hope He gives to all who trust Him through all situations. He said he believed this and we shared a prayer of thanksgiving.

This was one of those moments when sharing and encouraging happened because of the availability of donated goods in a place God had put us. It is only because of the folks who donate their kitchen wares, furniture, clothing, and appliances that OGT is able to continue serving others even as He first served us. Thank you to all who support OGT financially and with physical donations and, above all else, **with your prayers for this ministry.**

Saved 2 Serve,

Gene Ernst, Manager

Celebrate Twenty!

That is our theme for the July 29, 2018, Open House celebration of the **twenty years** OGT has been in operation in Indiana. AND YOU are invited to join us from 2-4 p.m. that Sunday afternoon to remember and celebrate the beginnings of OGT.

Come and enjoy some homemade ice cream and a trip down memory lane with some of the folks who made it possible. ***Celebrate Twenty!* July 29, 2018.**

Thanks to more volunteers!



A group from the Walesboro Cummins block line



Lutheran Central Jr Honor Society



Zion Lutheran, Seymour

And a special thank you to the folks who helped load the 53' trailer for Cornerstone Children's Ranch, Quemado, TX. It was a hectic day and the manager didn't get a picture to share but know that you are

all appreciated for sending the big load of clothes and household items to where it was needed. Thank you to all who help in every way with this ministry of love and compassion in His name!

What's next?

A load to Latvia is being planned for a September or October shipping date. In discussions with Pastor Artis Eglitis while he was in Columbus at the Best Practices conference last October, he mentioned that many of the young mothers he works with have very little with which to care for their babies. He said that boxes of supplies for newborn to 18 month-old babies would make wonderful gifts to give them as he shares the Gospel love of Christ.

Our thinking was to ask our congregational groups, Sunday school children, LWML and LLL groups, and youth groups to gather up baby items, box them and bring them to OGT Jonesville. These would be boxed into our standard boxes and labeled as **“Latvia Love Kits”**. These would be sent with boxes of winter clothes, 48 bikes that have been collected, and medical supplies they can use.

Would this be something that your group could do? All it takes is a bulletin announcement, a couple of signs, some willing volunteers to collect and box the donations and then work with OGT Jonesville on how to get the boxes delivered or picked up.

Give it a try and let's make this 40' container a reality for Latvia!

People have asked—what do you need?

Easily 75% of OGT's donations and shipments are clothes of all sizes and styles—men's, women's, and children's, so please keep it coming.

Next on the list is good, clean, practical furniture. Number one request is for mattresses/bedsprings, then followed by dressers, sofas, and recliners. Appliances are always in demand, such as washer and dryer, refrigerator, stove, and window air conditioners. All sorts of kitchen items are needed, especially silverware, pots and pans. Lamps come and go and the supply rarely keeps up with the demand.

And what are some of the items we can't use? This is difficult because being practical means we sometimes have to say “thank you, but no thank you.” Some of these “no thank you” items are older, larger TVs; electronic equipment; typewriters; file cabinets; suitcases; desks (unless smaller computer desks); books (except children's books and Bibles); or anything that is broken, dirty, or impractical for someone in need.

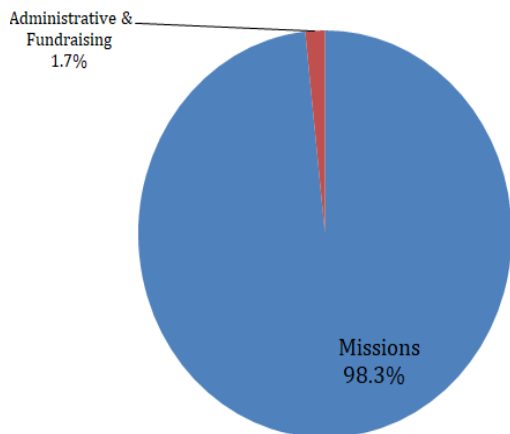
The goal of OGT's giving is to help the person feel good about themselves in receiving items that are useful, clean, and reflect on OGT's commitment of giving the best that can be offered.

OGT on the Road



Gene and Vivian Ernst at Grand Rapids MI OGT displayed the traveling OGT exhibit at the English District LWML convention in Grand Rapids. While this is not usual to travel outside the state, responding to Norfolk OGT request to represent them gave OGT Indiana the chance to talk with these LWML ladies and update them on the work of OGT both nationally and locally.

Jerry and Carol Maley took another display to the Toyota plant on the same weekend. Toyota wanted to give their employees exposure to the non-profit groups in the Columbus area that are helping people so that their employees could use their paid service time volunteering. Jerry said there was a lot of interest as they talked with many about OGT.



Charity Navigator has given Orphan Grain Train its highest rating of 4 stars again for 2018. Topping the chart is one thing but to have decreased the administrative and fund raising to only 1.7% of the budget is outstanding. It is always nice to know that the donations given are used wisely and efficiently.



Thrivent makes **Choice Dollars** available to its members to designate to charities of their choice, such as your church, Orphan Grain Train Jonesville, or something else. Consider checking this out at thrivent.com and directing your **Choice Dollars** to OGT to help keep the lights on, the trucks running, and shipments leaving Jonesville on their way to people who need what we have to offer.

OGT Wish List

1. **Prayers of the faithful** that OGT Indiana continues to serve the needs of those less fortunate, and remains true to the Lord's challenge defined in James regarding the care of widows and orphans, as well as the words of the Lord who calls us to clothe the naked, feed the hungry, care for the sick, and visit those in prison.

2. **Drivers and those willing to assist** in picking up donations, especially appliances and furniture. Please call 812-405-2045 to add your name to the OGT list of volunteers.
3. **Volunteers** willing to share a couple of hours a week or every other week or whatever fits your schedule. The basic days for sorting and packing items are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Other times can be scheduled whenever OGT members are available.
4. **Receptionist** on Thursdays to answer the phone, help direct people, and be a smiling, welcoming face for those who come.

Email your newsletter? If this is something you'd like, please email jlbrown@cinergymetro.net

And finally, I began this newsletter with a story and will end with another God-incident story. We haven't had a call for carpet for at least two years until Tuesday, May 1. We haven't had a donation of carpet for quite some time either, that is until May 1. The call came for carpet to be picked up at the family farm only minutes before the call came asking if we had any carpet on hand. The young mother only had bare floors in her house and needed some help, which, by the Lord's direction, OGT was able to provide almost instantly. It shouldn't be amazing to see how the Lord answers prayers even before the request is made, but I am telling you, I still am amazed at how He makes all this OGT thing work!

Orphan Grain Train
209 Jackson, Jonesville IN 47247
812-405-2045
indianaogt@gmail.com



NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PD
COLUMBUS IN
PERMIT NO. 110

Orphan Grain Train Indiana Branch
209 Jackson Street
Jonesville IN 47247

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. Sometimes that character expresses itself as a word well spoken, sometimes as a bandage well applied, and sometimes as a child well fed.

What is Orphan Grain Train?

Orphan Grain Train is a 501c3 Nonprofit Christian volunteer network that shares personal and material resources with needy people in America and around the world. Grain Train volunteers gather donations of clothing, medical supplies, food, Christian literature, and other aid to meet real needs. The Orphan Grain Train movement is a loving response to Jesus Christ's example as a servant and His love for us.

Visit www.ogt.org/indiana

OGT Warehouse Jonesville IN

OPEN HOURS

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Phone: 812-405-2045

