“Do you have a hospital bed for my son who has some particular health needs?” I said we have two beds but I wasn’t sure what specifics needs we could meet, but to please come down and check them out. When the father arrived he had some things written down from the nurse who attended the son. Was the bed fully electric and adjustable? Yes. Was the bed a Trendelenburg? I said I had no idea what that was so we called the nurse and found out that the whole bed would fully tip from end to end. After looking over the buttons on the bed, yes, it did. Does the bed have a pressure relief air mattress? Again I said I didn’t know but as it was being loaded into the pickup it was discovered that it did have that exact type of mattress. And all that any of us could say at that moment was how good God is in providing even before it was being requested! The Lord’s hand was at work once again through the ministry of OGT in helping those in need. Praise the Lord, for He is good.

Where does all this come from?
That is a question that is asked many times. It comes from many places and many people. I want to thank and acknowledge some of the places and people that make OGT what it is today.

Trinity Resale Shop, Jackson County Thrift, PSI Thrift shop in Columbus, Columbia Sportswear in the outlet mall in Edinburgh, Arnold Braasch in Renssaler, Katie Walsh in Cicero, and to the countless number of individuals who give of their abundance to share with those in need, THANK YOU to all!

And how does all this happen?
That is the second most asked question, and again, here is a list of some of the groups that work with all the donations.
St. John, Dillsboro, aka Farmer’s Retreat; St. Paul, Jonesville; St. Paul’s, Clifty; Bartholomew Merri Makers; Zion, Seymour; Shepherd of the Hills, Bean Blossom; St. John, White Creek; Immanuel, Seymour; St. Peter’s LWML, Columbus; First Baptist, Seymour; Central Lutheran School, Brownstown; Jackson County Purdue Club; MOPS of Columbus; Grace, Muncie; St. John, Lanesville; Stonebelt; various small groups from St. Peter’s Columbus.

And then there are the monthly and weekly folks that come and share many hours. Jerry and Elinor Brown, Jerry and Carol Maley, Al and Marge Lazzell, Mark and Jan Buss, Donna Otte, Florence Dunn, Dan Schroer, Bill Boes, Greg Hazelgrove, Colin Scheidt, Vaughn and Tina Sylva, Jan Voelz, and Irene Shireman. There are many others who come when called for loading/unloading trailers and making pickups. And to all, even those not mentioned by name, THANK YOU for all you do to keep OGT working and serving the needs of those in need!

And where does it all go?
Probably the third most asked question when people see the amount of donations and sorted boxes. Since last May OGT has sent the following:
Internationally 40’ containers have left the dock in Jonesville for Ukraine; Republic of Georgia; 2 to Latvia; 2 to Puerto Rico; and Guinea, Africa.

Domestic shipments around the US include The Children’s Ranch in Que Modo, TX; Ysletta Mission, El Paso, TX; Matthew 25 Ministries, Cincinnati, OH; Red Bird Ministries, Beverly, KY; Manna From Heaven, Myra, KY; Orange County Women’s Ministry, Paoli, IN; and Putnamville and Plainfield Correctional facilities, IN.

Locally within a six-county area OGT makes available furniture, appliances, household and kitchenware to those who come with a referral from a social agency or a church. Since January 2019 OGT has been able to help 136 entities with 816 Items. So, once again, THANK YOU for all that is done in the name of Jesus for the sake of others!

And what kinds of donations does OGT take? Clothing of both genders, children and adult, that has been gently used, without any rips, stains, or obvious defects are gladly received. Kitchen utensils, pots and pans, small appliances are also needed, as well as larger appliances like -- refrigerator, stove, washers and dryers. Furniture, like sofas, living room chairs, end tables, coffee tables, all bedroom furniture, especially dressers and chest of drawers, clean mattresses, and metal bedframes are always in demand.

And what is on the horizon? Some exciting things are happening soon. OGT is being gifted an electric forklift from Toyota Materials Handling division here in Columbus. This will replace the older forklift that has been in use since early 2000. Together with a grant from the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League to get the electric work done, OGT Jonesville will not have any financial outlay to get the forklift. OGT is most grateful to Toyota and LWML for their help and support of this ministry of helping others.

Tuesday, May 28, OGT is partnering with St. Peter’s Lutheran School to pack three pallets of packaged food from Love the Hungry, Louisville. This will provide about 12,000 meals that OGT can send to areas in this country or around the world to help alleviate hunger.

And, as always, all gifts, whether financial or material, are tax deductible. Orphan Grain Train, operating as a branch under the umbrella of our national headquarters in Norfolk, NE, is a 501(c)3 non-profit Christian organization. There are 27 branch locations of OGT located from Connecticut to California. All are fully staffed by volunteers who give of their time and energy year in and year out. This allows OGT to operate with the highest rating from Charity Navigator. To find out more, go to the ogt.org website and check it out. And, of course, please continue to pray for this ministry. Please pray for continued health and strength of all who work in the sorting and packing areas, as well as for those who travel to make pickups. Pray for the ongoing efforts to ready the load for Haiti in May and for the load to Liberia, Africa, some time in July. Pray that more people might come to know of this ministry and experience another aspect of God’s love through the sharing of all things donated in His name to help those in need.
Thrivent Choice Dollars are another way to help OGT. By directing your Choice Dollars to OGT Jonesville, you are helping with the everyday costs of operations and with providing funds for making shipments overseas and within our borders. Many people do not realize that a 40’ container can cost between $5,000 and $7,500 to send overseas. Sending a 53’ trailer within our country is usually around $2,500. Orphan Grain Train Jonesville has been blessed by many financial donors over the course of the years and we praise the Lord for all the support and help. Please continue to pray for this ministry that it is all done to glorify His name and in sharing the message of the Gospel more might come to know the Lord as their Savior.

Interested in helping?
OGT hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. with other times available by calling and setting up a time. If you want to bring a group, please call 812-405-2045 and find out when would be the best time to come. We want your time at OGT will be an uplifting and gratifying experience.