



May 2025

Friends of Orphan Grain Train,

He is Risen! He is Risen indeed! That joyous refrain is probably still singing in your heart as we have just celebrated Resurrection Sunday a short month ago. And, yes, even while so many are recovering from tornadoes and floods, we live in the absolute knowledge that our Lord has been there in the middle of it bringing hope and healing. Some of that help has come through OGT over the past few months as trailer loads of clothes, medical supplies, food, furniture, and even bicycles made their way to many places here in the United States.



Pictured are two skids of Love the Hungry packaged meals. These very nutritious meals are gladly received by folks here in the States and around

the world. Two skids were sent to Quemado, TX, to Cornerstone Children's Ranch very close to the border. They said they were in dire need of help for the families there on the border with whom they minister. Each skid holds 33 boxes containing 30 packs of food each providing 6-7 people a meal. So, quick math means that each skid has between 6,000 and 7,000 meals. It's not steak 'n taters, but it is a good hot meal to enjoy and fill an empty stomach.



Our 18' trailer made its way to Manna From Heaven, Myra, KY. Just before these doors were

closed 2 full-sized mattresses and box springs were loaded and sent off. This trailer contained much needed food for the flood ravaged ministry that OGT has worked with for over 12 years. The first flooding came with the torrential rains from Hurricane Helene, the second, and equally devastating flood, with the outbreak of tornadoes across the state of KY, TN, and IN.

And while we haven't forgotten our local folks here in the 7-county area, the need has not been quite so dramatic but OGT stands ready to be of assistance.

Charity Navigator

rates OGT as one of the best charities in our country with respect to financial integrity. This chart represents the entire OGT network

consisting of 27 branches around the United States, with the headquarters in Norfolk, NE.



OGT Indiana Branch operates entirely on the gifts of individuals who have a heart for doing the Gospel of our Lord Jesus, being His hands and feet, His voice and love with those we serve. All are volunteers, no one is paid here at OGT IN, so all funds are utilized in the service of others. Our monthly bills include the usual utilities like LP and electricity, gas and repairs for trailers and pickup, and the usual business office supplies.



Looking closely, one can see a broken shackle on the suspension of the 18' trailer. Many miles and bumps down the highways of IN, KY, even into NC, begin to take their toll on the equipment. So down to

BBN Trailer repair in Seymour it limped and will soon be on the road again.

Speaking of wearing out, I must address a similar situation regarding the aging of the volunteer workforce at OGT. This is being discussed in our quarterly Board meetings because the pickup of furniture like dressers, mattresses, appliances like refrigerators, washers and dryers, are becoming more difficult with each passing year.

One of the ideas being floated is for an app to be designed for folks to check on a Saturday and offer their help to do pickups. The Board is talking about a Saturday, maybe two Saturdays a month, that a crew of two or three guys could spend a few hours picking up donations. I am raising this as an item for folks who are able and can volunteer some time in helping this ministry continue to grow and help those in need. So, if an app or something like this becomes available people can step up and volunteer to help.

Any other thoughts and suggestions are most welcome. Time just has a way of catching up with us and age has a way of wearing a person down. Thanks for reading.

Where does it all go? Good question, thanks for asking. Here is the list from Nov-April.

Manna From Heaven received two 18' trailers of various foodstuffs, furniture, clothes, household goods, and bikes.

The Attic in McKee, KY, received an 18' trailer load filled with clothes and household items.

One of the "on the ground" ministries in the war-torn country of Ukraine received a 40' container shipped out from our dock in March. It contained both winter and summer clothes, Love the Hungry skids of food, and bikes as this is sometimes the only mode of transportation available.

And in mid-April a 53' semi-trailer load of 42 bunkers of household goods and toys, 13 bikes, 909 boxes of summer clothes, along with sheets and blankets, was shipped to Cornerstone Children's Ranch, Quemado, TX.

Some have asked how much it costs to ship these loads. My answer is always, "it varies with every load". When our OGT pickup and trailer make the delivery, it's usually just gas. Sending a 53' semi-trailer costs between \$3000-\$3500 depending where in the states it is bound. Overseas shipping of the 40' containers can run between \$6,500 and \$11,500.

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OGT Hours Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Serving the Lord with you,

Gene Ernst, Volunteer Manager