



## Orphan Grain Train †

### Good Tidings

News -for and about -  
OGT Maryland

November, 2023



On this Thanksgiving Day we are most thankful for all of our dedicated volunteers and supporters who make this organization as great as it is! We could not do it without you!

## Stepping Down .... But Not Out!

### A Salute to Ron Phipps!

In 2004, when the Maryland Branch of Orphan Grain Train was in its infancy, Elfie Eberle, the then Branch Manager, asked Ron to assist her by serving as the Assistant Branch Manager. He readily accepted and has served faithfully in that position until recently when he decided it was time to step down.

During his tenure, Ron has had many duties. In the early days, he accompanied Elfie on speaking engagements at various churches and events, sharing the good works that OGT was doing and seeking donations so that the organization might grow. Ron carefully kept our inventories for Nebraska, completed our International Transportation Requests which initiates the process of sending an international container, and spent several mornings each week welcoming many to our warehouse and directing their activities. He sent international containers to Nicaragua, Kyrgyzstan, South Sudan, Liberia, Cameroon, Ethiopia, India, the Philippines, Cuba and Haiti, carefully recording every single item that went on each



container. He also arranged for our domestic shipments, sending many truckloads of help to Ukraine, Ghana and Appalachia. He has written many grants for us which supplies us with the financial power to accomplish our goal.

What is most notable about Ron Phipps is his deep passion for the needy wherever they are located. He leaves no stone unturned in sending the help needed. His quick wit, his wisdom and keen discernment are such a blessing to the ministry of the Maryland Branch. Thankfully, Ron has not actually retired from OGT. He remains with us as communicator with those very people all around the world who we continue to help. We extend our blessings, our gratitude, and our love to Ron for so generously sharing his God-given gifts with all of us for the past 20 years. And are extremely grateful that he has only decided to "step down, but not out"!

## Look What's New at the Warehouse!

Purchasing the sign was the easy part. Obtaining permits from the county and finding someone who was willing and able to install the sign was the real challenge! Thanks to Bruce Coonrad and Larry Zimmerman for dealing with the county and succeeding in obtaining all the necessary permits. Our sincere thanks go to Dennis Thomas and his crew from Conduit Systems Inc. for installing the sign, free of charge. What a blessing Dennis has been to our organization.

It is our hope that the sign's presence will give members of our community a better understanding of who we are and what we do. Be sure to check out the sign on your next visit to the warehouse!



## First Annual PRO-Vision Event is Huge Success



The Overton family of Severna Park held a Memorial Race Event last month to honor their son, Paul. They graciously chose the Maryland Branch of Orphan Grain Train to be the recipient of the proceeds from their first annual race. They recently presented OGT with a check for \$10,000. It was truly an honor to meet the members of the Overton family and we are so grateful that they chose to support our humanitarian efforts through this generous donation!