



May 2022

Greetings from OGT, Jonesville, Indiana!

Thank you to all who make moments happen like the following story.

A couple who had been helped with setting up their household, who said that OGT helped them get started again after some poor decisions were made regarding their lives, showed up again at the office. This time they had brought another man with them who had just been released from jail and was in the process of trying to turn his life around. They had come alongside of him and told him about OGT, helped him get a referral, and rented a U-Haul truck so that they could help him get some household items and furniture.

I don't know what the story was, or the connection point with these individuals, but here was a couple that was blessed and who became a blessing to another. And it's because OGT has been blessed with gifts and donations of household goods and furniture that OGT can be a blessing to so many who are in need. So, THANK YOU to all who make this happen just when it is needed the most.

Saved 2 Serve,

Gene Ernst, Volunteer Manager

Our Partnership makes things happen!

Over the course of the past year, working with the agencies and churches in our 8 county area, OGT Indiana was able to help 327 individuals/families. These folks received roughly 2,352 items like pieces of furniture, bags of clothes, and household things like lamps, baby cribs, mattresses, etc. And to do this, in addition to our regular, faithful, dedicated volunteers, 138 **new** volunteers served in some capacity. These 138 people had never been to OGT Indiana before and were just learning some of the nuances of ministry being done through OGT.



Folks from White Creek Lutheran Church



Quality by Design, Seymour



Toyota Material and Handling give-back hours

Even in the midst of war and tornados!

The call came from Montgomery, Alabama. "Gene, this is Cathy and I need to know if you have any

clothes, winter or summer, which can be sent for Ukraine humanitarian relief?"

I said we do and asked how we can help. Over the next couple of minutes it was determined that we could send a 26' box truck filled with 529 boxes of clothes to them that would fill their container and get it on the way to Ukraine, or at least somewhere close.

A quick call to Eric Scheidt got the required driver who would deliver it within a week. And he did!

Before Eric and Linda returned, Cathy was calling again asking if we had enough clothes on hand to fill a 40' container loaded from our dock and sent off to Poland where it would be distributed to more families in need.



I called Nancy, the manager of the OGT Ohio Collection center, and asked if she would be able to help fill our container. I then called Cross Borders in Fort Wayne for any clothes they might have to share. Another call to Dale at Love the Hungry in Louisville to see if he had any pallets of packed meals to send along with the clothes. Needless to say, between our four agencies we packed 1,450 boxes into that container and sent it on its way March 16.

AND THEN before we could catch our breath, the couple in Madisonville, KY, who were overseeing the distribution of items for the December 2021 tornado victims, called.

"We are ready anytime for furniture and household goods. When do you think you can deliver them?"

March 14 we filled our two 18' trailers and on March 17 Jerry Maley, Carol, daughter Annie and her two children, along with Vivian and myself, drove the two pickups down to House of I AM, a storefront

church located in a strip mall. As we were getting close to being unloaded, Charles, an elder of the church, said, "I am glad to see your trailer getting empty because my church is getting full."



Gene alongside the unloading crew in Madisonville



The delivery crew, from Indiana to KY

What a whirlwind of activity and the Lord provided all that was needed. He is a gracious and merciful God who continues to bless us in all we do.

Special thanks to Eric and Linda Scheidt for taking the time to make a quick trip to Montgomery, AL, to our Toyota loading crew for Ukraine, to Jerry and his family for trailering down to KY on short notice, and to all those who helped pack so many extra boxes and who are continuing to do so for Ukrainian needs during this devastating war.

Thank you! Thank you for the many, many folks who have stepped up and put in extra time over the last few months. Filling containers takes a lot of boxes and lots of people filling boxes with clothes. And many folks have answered the call. Thank you! And a special *Thank You* to our regular volunteers that show up on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, who know the routine and who make new folks welcome. Can't do it without you. Thanks!

Bike repair Handyman needed!

OGT has a wonderful working relationship with Columbus Fitness and Bike Shop. They have provided bikes to OGT that can be fixed and then sent to places like Myra, KY, and Riga, Latvia, where people can use and enjoy them. At present there are 18 bikes in need of repair and maintenance. OGT has been blessed with Thrivent Action Team Cards that can be used to buy parts. If you, or someone you know, might be interested in working on bikes, please call the OGT office, 812-405-2045, and talk with Gene. Somebody needs that bike!

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 mattress and bed springs, and then followed by dressers, sofas, and recliners. Appliances are always in demand, such as washers and dryers, refrigerators, stoves, and window air conditioners. Kitchen items of all sorts are needed, but especially silverware and 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 sometimes difficult because being practical at times means we have to say "thank you, but no thank you." Some unneeded items include: old, large TVs; electronic equipment; typewriters; file cabinets; suitcases; desks (unless smaller computer ones); books (except children's books and Bibles); as well as anything broken, dirty, or impractical for someone in need. Also, because of children who may have allergies, we are unable to send stuffed animals unless they are new.

It's hard to say no, but, for the sake of those who are receiving gifts, we want to give the best we can. The goal of OGT's giving is to help the person feel good about themselves in receiving items that are useful, clean, and that reflect our commitment of giving the best that can be offered.



While you are looking at your Thrivent page, please check out the **Thrivent Action Team Card**. It allows you to request a \$250 Action card for a project of your choice. Some examples of card usage include supplies of school items for school kits used here in the United States and overseas, buying bicycle parts for repairing bikes to be given away, and for buying supplies for disaster kits that are put into 5-gallon pails for use after disasters, such as tornadoes and hurricanes. Check with OGT in Jonesville to find other areas where an Action Team card can be used.

When OGT isn't open..._there is a solution!

On the East side of the warehouse is an enclosed trailer that can receive your donations. Please drop off your items by placing them inside the trailer. If you would like a receipt, call and leave a message or leave a note with your address and a receipt will be sent. PLEASE look at the posted list of items that we can and cannot receive. Thank you.



OGT Indiana has worked with Dale Oelker, Director for Love the Hungry in Louisville, to send many pallets of soy-based, protein-rich food to places like Guatemala, Haiti, and to the Appalachian regions here in the United States. Each packet of food, combined with water and heated, serves six adults or eight children. Each pallet holds 33 boxes with 30 packets so it offers hope and nourishment to many, many people.

St. Peter's Lutheran School, Columbus, has hosted a "packing party" to pack upwards of 3 pallets of these ready-to-eat meals. Maybe your group would like to host a "packing party" and help OGT send out more pallets of food to those in need. Call the warehouse.



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 Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays 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.
5. **A bike repairman** who is able to do minor tune-ups, repair/replace tires, and generally make a bike ride well and look good again. There are funds available to help with the purchase of parts, tires, tubes etc.

Email your newsletter? If this is something you'd like, please email indianaogt@gmail.com

Where does OGT stand nationally?



Charity Navigator ranks non-profit organizations. OGT, headquartered in Norfolk, NE, is one of 9,000 charities that accept only private donations and OGT has been ranked as **#6 out of the 9,000**.

The following bullet points are a tremendous tribute to the work and ministry of OGT for more than 26 years.

- 4 Stars- Highest Charity Navigator rating
- 100% for Overall Score & Rating for Financial, and Accountability & Transparency
- Financial Performance: 98.2% of donations help those in need; 1.8% go to administrative & marketing costs.

If you are interested in looking at the rating with Charity Navigator, go to:

<https://www.charitynavigator.org>

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. Orphan 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.

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.

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OPEN HOURS

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

