

Orphan Grain Train, Inc.



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Nourish Body and Soul

Kids International Ministries (KIM) in the Philippines rejoiced and gave 'thanks' to God when they saw a container filled with 256,608 Mercy Meals arrive! Norman Denler with KIM shared that they were down to 50 boxes of Mercy Meals. It is amazing how shipments of food are in perfect timing – God's timing. They have an enormous need for the Mercy Meals which are used to feed children in their orphanages, schools and families at their daily feeding programs. Some of their daily feedings are a tub of Mercy Meals in the back of a vehicle parked on the side of the road. Children come running with their cup or bowl for the meal, the only meal they may get that day. More meals are needed now that Kids International Ministries is also providing food for drought stricken farm families and refugee camps for families fleeing an erupting volcano. The refugee camps house around 40,000 people that are unsure when they can return to their homes. The need may be great but more relief is on the way from Orphan Grain Train's Wisconsin Branch which recently funded a shipment of 272,160 Manna Pack meals (processed rice meals) donated from Feed My Starving Children which is scheduled to arrive before the end of May. Hundreds of children are fed daily to nourish the bodies and KIM then nourishes their souls by offering bible stories after meals. Consistency is one of the ways to make a big and lasting impact in the lives of these precious kids. It is KIM's desire to open their hearts to Jesus and discover their life's purpose at a young age.

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Orphan Grain Train's partnership with Kids International Ministries reaches beyond their daily food distributions and feedings. On March 14, 2018 a raging fire ripped through a portion of Las Piñas City in the Philippines leaving nearly 1,000 families homeless. The fire was possibly started by someone using wood while cooking (which is common) and spread rapidly through homes made of combustible material. The firefighters

had difficulty getting down the narrow streets that had very few installed fire hydrants. Their homes are meek and humble dwellings but they are proud of what they have. Annette Helbig with Springboard Foundation shared feeling fortunate to have received Mercy Meals from KIM and able to distribute to families that lost their home and belongings in the fire. Annette shared "There is much hardship already in this area and now to lose everything. How do you start over? The families and the children are resilient with smiles and great gratitude for what they do still have – each

other." Springboard Foundation also provides Mercy Meals in their program for expectant mothers so they are well nourished during their pregnancies and all have delivered healthy babies with normal birth weights. Praise be to God!

Orphan Grain Train is able to feed, give hope and share the 'Good News' with so many children and families in the Philippines. These shipments of food and relief supplies would not be possible if it was not for our dedicated, compassionate volunteers and supporters. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus.



The surroundings maybe meek but they are hard-working prideful people.



This sweet girl stops to smile for a photo while eating a bowl of processed rice mail.



Filipino children are given Mercy Meals for their families to nourish their bodies.



OGT Donated Mercy Meals are served to families that lost everything in the raging fire. They are grateful for the gift of a hot meal.

Another OGT Branch

Michigan is on its way to becoming the 27th location of Orphan Grain Train—and what a unique way to begin. In February, Rev. Ralph Schmidt, Director of Donor of Advising for OGT, visited with Rev. David Reed, a recently retired pastor in Sebewaing, Michigan, asking him to consider becoming the branch manager and organize a Michigan Branch for OGT. Michigan is the largest District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and has long been on OGT’s radar screen. During their visit, Pastor Reed showed Rev. Schmidt around Sebewaing, looking at several vacant commercial properties. At the edge of downtown was a vacant building for sale which for many years housed the Satow Home Furnishings store. It seemed to have many features that would work for a warehouse.

A few days later Pastor Reed agreed to become the Michigan Branch manager and said he would look into who owned the building. A few weeks later Pastor Reed and Rev. Schmidt visited with Sally Comer, the building’s owner, and her sister, Kathy Mason, and told them all about OGT. Sally explained that her grandfather built the store in the 1950’s,

and her family operated a retail furniture business for about 50 years. She had been trying to sell the building, but after hearing the OGT story, she said she would be delighted to donate the building to Orphan Grain Train for the new Michigan Branch. By April 11 the building had been deeded over to Orphan Grain Train, a remarkable beginning just seven weeks after asking one person to start a branch.

The building is about 8,000 square feet on the main level, about 5,000 of which is the showroom area. A room right at the front will serve well as the sorting and packing area, and a couple of smaller rooms can be used as a break/meeting room and other storage. There is also an 1,800 square foot apartment on the second floor that can be rented to provide income for the branch.

Pastor Reed is now engaged in selecting a board to work with him and getting the volunteers needed to operate the branch. Already by mid-April he had spoken to a half dozen circuit pastors conferences and received very positive support.

Orphan Grain Train is deeply grateful to Sally Comer for her

generous gift. Sally is very excited that the building which served her family so well for decades will now serve countless thousands of people the world over in this ministry of mercy. She said her family shares her enthusiasm for this new venture and looks forward to what can be accomplished through her gift.

Friends of OGT that live in Michigan and would like to volunteer their service to the Michigan Branch may contact Pastor Reed at 989-600-2264.



Satow Home Furnishings store owner Sally Comer donates the property to Orphan Grain Train for the Michigan warehouse.



The Michigan Branch warehouse has 8,000 sq.ft. of work and warehouse space to serve others where needed.

Little Blessings Big Joy

In the District of Smiltene, Latvia there is not a lot of job opportunities and for some residents poverty is a part of life. Vitnija, an 18 year old single mom with her one year old son, Alex, struggled with having enough money for food or heat for the very frigid winter. In America there are government programs to assist single women raising children. In Latvia there is limited funding which makes life very stressful, hopeless and difficult. Vitnija rented a small flat,

but without any financial support she couldn't pay rent or buy any firewood. Neighbors told the local social department about Vitnija's struggles and not having any food to eat. They placed Vitnija and Alex with an organization called Fonds Saules Kalns, which is a recipient of Orphan Grain Train. Fonds Saules Kalns was able to place her in an apartment that was affordable with their assistance and Orphan Grain Train donations provided clothing, toys, curtains, blankets, etc. for them. Fonds Saules Kalns will continue to help her with food, diapers and other support as needed. Vitnija

was very grateful for the gifts from Orphan Grain Train and for helping to make her apartment a home.



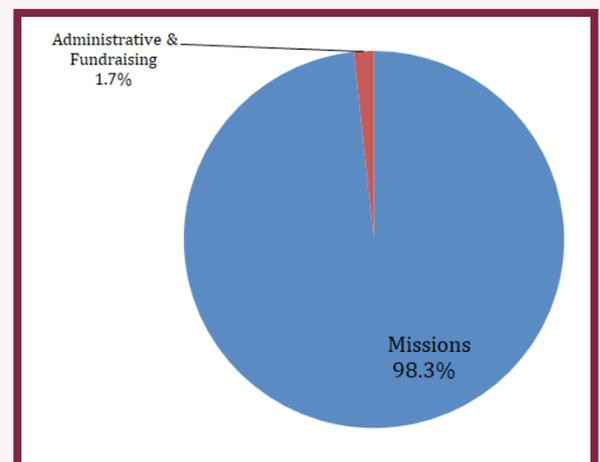
Vitnija and son Alex are able to have a 'home' with help from Orphan Grain Train

4 Star Rating Again

Orphan Grain Train's strong financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency have earned it another 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, America's largest independent charity evaluator. This is the 7th consecutive time that Orphan Grain Train has earned this top distinction. Orphan Grain Train is also a good steward with your hard-earned donations. For the last Fiscal Year, fund raising and administrative expenses were only 1.7% of total contributions meaning 98.3% of donations were used for mission related expenses.

"Orphan Grain Train's exceptional 4-star rating sets it apart from its peers and demonstrates its trustworthiness to the public," according to Michael Thatcher, President & CEO of Charity Navigator. "Only a quarter of charities rated by Charity Navigator receive the distinction of our 4-star rating. This adds Orphan Grain Train to a preeminent group of charities working to overcome our world's most pressing challenges. Based on its 4-star rating, people can trust that their donations are going to a financially responsible and ethical charity when they decide to support Orphan Grain Train."

Orphan Grain Train is honored and blessed to have received such high ratings from Charity Navigator. We couldn't have received this top rating without you. Thank you for trusting us with your donations, your volunteer time, and your good will. Your trust and support mean so much to us at Orphan Grain Train. You can find more information about our rating at www.CharityNavigator.org.



Little Blessings Big Joy

On March 1, 2018 Fonds Saules Kalns received a shipment of humanitarian aid from Orphan Grain Train's Rocky Mountain Branch located in Julesburg, CO. It was -4F, one of the coldest days but helpers from a local high school and other volunteers unloaded boxes of quilts, clothes, coats, shoes, stuffed toys, school kits, sewing supplies and medical equipment all by hand. They were overjoyed by the gifts which warmed their hearts through the cold unloading. One of Fonds' dedicated volunteers, Monika, loads her minivan with clothes, quilts and supplies to take to City Strenci that has a large psych- neurological hospital and outpatient clinic. Most of these people living with mental health issues can't receive any support by themselves. Monika delivers

help and hope to their homes all the way from Orphan Grain Train donors.

Victor with Fonds Saules Kalns shared another story of how Orphan Grain Train impacts lives. This beautiful story is about Laura. When Laura was younger, she had a difficult leg surgery. After surgery she had very hard time at home, where she did not receive any support from her parents. Also she suffered from emotional violence. When social workers found out about this situation, Laura was placed in an orphanage. We know Laura very well, because she also has spent a lot of time in our organization with support groups, spending time with other children and other life skills activities. At this moment Laura is fully recovered after her surgery and lives with

a foster family, where she is appreciated. Next month Laura has a prom, so we invited her to look at beautiful dresses that we received from the Orphan Grain Train shipment... she found the perfect dress and was incredibly happy and thankful for it. She knew she could not afford a dress for her prom and her prayers were answered.

In Latvia social support is incredibly low and these people need to use all available help from organizations like Fonds Saules Kalns to be able to survive. Thanks to Orphan Grain Train's donations, children and families are touched by simple gifts of kindness and know that these gifts are given for the love of Christ.



Enthusiastic and smiling volunteers unload an Orphan Grain Train shipment on one of the coldest days in Latvia



Monika packs her van full of clothing and supplies to share with families struggling with mental health issues. What a wonderful way to show God's love through others.



Laura's smile is infectious and shows the excitement and joy of having a prom dress! Thank you OGT donors and supporters.

Thrivent Members ROCK!

Thank You Thrivent Members! YOU designated a total of \$430,153.00 Choice Dollars to Orphan Grain Train this past fiscal year which ended March 31, 2018! This amazing gift will help pay expenses with shipping food and humanitarian aid to the less fortunate worldwide along with transportation costs of delivering food, goods and disaster relief supplies for those in need across the U.S. We know you have a lot of charity choices for your Choice Dollars and we want to say "Thank You" for choosing the missions of Orphan Grain Train.



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Dresses of Hope

A simple dress can be more than clothing; it can give hope and a heart-felt smile. Severe poverty is throughout the world and is much different than the poverty experienced in the United States. Poverty to children in 3rd world countries means lack of clothes, usually only one meal a day or maybe one in 2 or 3 days, no electricity, running water or a bed to sleep on. Imagine yourself being a child growing up in these conditions with little hope or future. It fills my eyes with tears of sadness and my heart with gratitude for little blessings I have that others do not. I am thankful for the people that make the pillowcase dresses that Orphan Grain Train ships to girls needing hope and a smile. How something so simple is a priceless gift for these girls. Some wonderful women in

Castle Rock, CO mailed boxes of pillowcase dresses to Orphan Grain Train's Norfolk warehouse to be placed on a shipment with Mercy Meals and Kids Against Hunger meals to Sandra Koch with Help For Haiti. Sandra took a couple of the boxes of pillowcase dresses to the slums of Cite Soleil, the poorest city in Haiti. Some of the dresses were shared with girls in 'Norway', an area in Cite Soleil which borders on the ocean and every time there is a storm the ocean wipes out most of what they have. The children live in 'homes' made of rusted tin nailed together, with no running water or electricity. Sandra also shared the dresses with girls living in an area called 'The Mangos' which borders on the filthy canal. The pile of debris behind the girls is the garbage cleaned out of the canal. These children live in the slums on a garbage dump. There is neither water nor electricity, just a few schools and very little food. Sandra came with the dresses and began to share them with the girls

who wanted to pick out their colors and enjoyed their picture being taken. The dresses brought a ray of happiness into the girls' lives that day...they felt pretty, they posed for the photos, laughed and for a short time, life was as close to normal as it could be. Thank you to everyone that makes these adorable dresses to put a smile on a child's face and give hope to her heart.



This precious girl is posing with her new dress in front of the garbage dump she lives on. Her hair is thin and reddish because of malnutrition.



A new pillowcase dress makes them feel pretty and magical for a short time.



How blessed and joyful these girls feel with a simple dress made from a pillow case.

Christmas in July

Last year children in the Philippines, Haiti and Nicaragua received their very own Christmas Gift Box from Orphan Grain Train. Each box contains age and gender appropriate toys, activities and clothes along with a letter sharing about the celebration of Jesus's birth. 2017 was the introduction of making the Christmas Gift Boxes to brighten a child's day and share the

love of Jesus through others. These made an incredible impression on the children and Orphan Grain Train would like to encourage you to lead a group project making Christmas Gift Boxes in July for Orphan Grain Train to ship to children throughout the world for Christmas. What a wonderful way to share the story of Christmas and give hope to a child. All boxes must be to Orphan Grain

Train by September 1. For more information and to receive the boxes to fill please call the international office at 877-371-7393. Together we can put the spirit of Christmas in a child's heart.

Children in Nicaragua hold up their Christmas Gift Boxes from Orphan Grain Train. This is a wonderful way you can spread the Christmas spirit and story



We Need Your Help

Our inventory of hygiene kits, school kits, backpacks and bicycles have been depleted. The requests and need for these items are great within the US and worldwide. Would you, your employer, a local organization, youth group, or congregation consider collecting these items to assemble kits or have a bike drive? It is a fun and rewarding event which helps children and families less fortunate. If you are a Thrivent member you can apply for a Thrivent Action Team event and the seed money goes toward purchasing supplies. For more information on these Special Projects go to www.ogt.org click on the tab 'How You Can Help' and scroll down to Special Projects. If you have any questions, please call toll free 1-877-371-7393. Thank you for your support of Orphan Grain Train missions.





Relief for Human Need Worldwide

Orphan Grain Train

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Charity Navigator
has given Orphan Grain
Train "4 Stars", which
is their highest rating.



*Lunch is served outside, no dining room table to gather around for blessings and family.
Learn more about how Orphan Grain Train nourishes their body and soul on pages 1 & 2.*