

NORTH DAKOTA ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN & MERCY MEALS

# NEWSLETTER

To encourage & enable God's people to share personal & material resources in bringing Christ's name & character to needy people both far & near.



## SUPPLIES NEEDED

Items requested for upcoming shipments and also those in need locally.

- school supplies\*
- bath towels\*
- washcloths\*
- cloth diapers\*
- large safety pins
- baby sleeper (newborn - 12 mo)
- toothbrushes
- combs
- rubber or swimmer pants\*
- soap boxes\*
- travel size Kleenex
- nail clippers\*

\*Items in greatest need at this time.

We often get questions about what we can and cannot accept. Here are some of the most common:

### Can Accept

- furniture
- bed pillows
- pots & pans
- dishes
- beds (new or used)\*

### Cannot Accept

- knick knacks
- holiday decorations
- decorative pillows

## OGT HOSTS VOLUNTEERS FOR JAMESTOWN DISASTER RESPONSE

In early August, Orphan Grain Train had the privilege of hosting members of the Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT) as they carried out disaster relief work in Jamestown following the severe windstorm that struck the area in June.



On Friday and Saturday, August 1-2, volunteers came together to help residents repair storm damage. Some stayed overnight at the OGT warehouse during the project.

The group worked at two homes—at one property, they replaced a roof, tore down and rebuilt a fence, and cleaned up yard debris. At the second home, they installed a new mailbox to replace one that had been destroyed by the storm.

Thanks to Thrivent Financial, meals were provided for the hardworking volunteers. The team represented communities across North Dakota, including Fargo, Kramer, Minto, Oakes, Mapleton and Wahpeton.

We are grateful for the dedicated volunteers who gave their time, skills, and energy to support neighbors in need and demonstrate Christ's love through service.

## MERCY MEALS AND JAMES RIVER CORRECTIONAL CENTER



On August 1, Orphan Grain Train hosted a Mercy Meals event at the James River Correctional Center, where 60 detainees packed nearly 15,000 meals for those in need.

This partnership is a wonderful example of how participants can serve others in a meaningful way, even though

the group itself does not provide funding for the meals. Your contributions to Mercy Meals make events like this possible—thank you for your support!

Looking ahead, we're excited to continue this partnership. Beginning soon, a crew of 5-6 detainees will visit the OGT warehouse on a weekly basis to assist with maintenance, cleaning, packing, and other important tasks.

# A LEGACY OF FAITH AND SERVICE

## Remembering the Brandenburgs' Role in OGT ND

- Interview with daughter, Marin Brandenburg

For more than three decades, the Brandenburg family of Edgeley, North Dakota, quietly but faithfully poured their energy, talents, and hearts into serving others through Orphan Grain Train. Their story is one of faith, family, and a deep commitment to sharing Christ's love with people near and far.

Don and Marlene, were lifelong North Dakotans who raised their five children in a home centered around faith and service. Don served as superintendent,

Marlene was active in LWML and Sunday School was important to the entire family. Their children remember the family listening together to "The Lutheran Hour" on KFYZ radio. Missions and outreach were simply woven into everyday life.



That commitment deepened after the couple traveled to Riga, Latvia, on a mission trip in the early 1990s. There, they witnessed firsthand the devastating impact of the Chernobyl nuclear accident on children and families. The abundance of need they saw contrasted sharply with the abundance of resources at home. They returned determined to help, becoming connected with Orphan Grain Train in Nebraska. Soon, their home, garage and farmyard would be filled with boxes, donations, and even an OGT trailer. Sorting, collecting, and transporting items became part of daily life.

As OGT grew in North Dakota, the Brandenburgs helped establish warehouse space to support the mission. Whether it was coordinating shipments, driving semis of supplies to Mexico, or volunteering their children and grandchildren to lend a hand, Don and Marlene made service a family calling. Their daughter recalls laughing about times when the family vehicles couldn't be parked in the garage because it was full of donations awaiting sorting.





But their service was never just about boxes or supplies—it was about people. The Brandenburgs believed in sending only quality items, treating recipients with dignity and care. Time and again, when asked why they worked so hard, their answer was simple: “Because we are Christians. God loves you. And we want to tell you about our Savior.”

Both Don and Marlene were known not only for their dedication but also for their humor and creativity. Marlene brought joy to LWML gatherings through her playful skits and illustrations, even sketching the hand-drawn OGT van that once appeared on envelopes. Don, meanwhile, could talk about Orphan Grain Train for hours—because the mission was dear to his heart.

Their impact continues to ripple outward today. From North Dakota to Mexico, from Russia to countless other places, people received both physical aid and the hope of the Gospel through their efforts. The Brandenburgs would be the first to say the glory belongs not to them but to Christ, who called them to serve.



## VOLUNTEERS SEND SHIPMENT TO LITHUANIA

On July 8, a dedicated group of Orphan Grain Train volunteers came together to sort, pack, and load a shipment bound for Lithuania. The container held more than 1,100 boxes filled with clothing and hygiene supplies, with an estimated value of \$249,774.

These essential items will be distributed to families and individuals in need, offering both practical help and hope in difficult circumstances. For many recipients, these supplies mean relief from daily hardships and the reminder that they are not forgotten.

This effort reflects the heart of Orphan Grain Train’s mission: to share Christ’s love by providing humanitarian aid and spiritual comfort to people in need around the world. Since its founding in 1992, OGT has relied on the generosity of donors and the hard work of volunteers to collect, pack, and ship food, clothing, medical equipment, and other supplies.

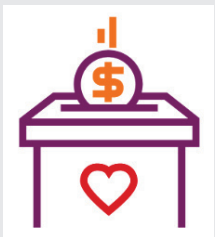
Every box represents a gift of kindness made possible by those who give their time, resources, and prayers. We are deeply grateful to the volunteers who worked tirelessly on this project, and to the supporters whose contributions help keep shipments like this moving to communities across the globe.





North Dakota Branch  
PO Box 1546  
Jamestown, ND 58402-1546

## FUNDS NEEDED!



We're busy preparing for future shipments. We can use your support to continue our mission.

To donate to the North Dakota Branch, send checks to:

North Dakota Orphan Grain Train  
PO Box 1546  
Jamestown, ND 58402-1546

To contribute by credit card, visit [www.ogt.org/nd](http://www.ogt.org/nd) and click "Donate to North Dakota Branch."

**A sincere thank you for your support.  
Your donation will help us change lives!**




## ND Branch Warehouse

103 4th Ave SE  
Jamestown, ND 58401

[ndakota@ogt.org](mailto:ndakota@ogt.org)

[www.ogt.org/nd](http://www.ogt.org/nd)

 Like us on Facebook!  
Orphan Grain Train, Inc.

## Branch Hours & Volunteer Opportunities

We continue to be open  
Mondays and Saturdays  
from 9am to noon.

For additional drop-off  
and volunteer times, call  
Sue at 701-320-3259 or  
Andrea at 701-658-9057.