Orphan Grain Train is expanding its aid to helping more children and families in more regions of Central America. This is achievable through a recent partnership with former New York Yankees relief pitcher Mariano Rivera and his foundation. He is regarded as one of the most dominant relievers in major league history. In 2017, Mariano became the 1st person in history to be unanimously selected into Major League Baseball Hall of Fame. Raised in the fishing village of Puerto Caimito, Panama, he feels compelled to give back to underprivileged children of Panama with what God has blessed him with. He and his wife, Clara, opened a church named Refugio de Esperanza—“Refuge of Hope” which she is pastor and hosts a congregation in New Rochelle, NY. Mariano is a humble man who leads passionately by sharing the Gospel and serving the underprivileged children of Panama.

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God’s Handiwork

Mariano Rivera Foundation will ship the food and Mariano will personally receive the meals in Panama on February 11. He will distribute the meals to the Christian schools and daycares for the underprivileged that his foundation was instrumental in developing and opening. Through this partnership, OGT plans to increase the number of shipments of Mercy Meals along with school furnishings and supplies to reach more children in more Central American countries that OGT does not currently serve.

Grant Schmidt had this to say about meeting and the partnership with Mariano Rivera: “To say it was a thrill to personally meet and talk with Mariano Rivera would be an understatement, but if you read about his personal life and mission you will see that this truly is a Christian man interested in bringing aid and food to the children of Panama and Central America. He, his wife, and his Foundation are committed to spreading the Gospel and providing aid to the country and region that he grew up in. He is not interested in being a celebrity but rather, serving the Lord by preaching the Gospel and by giving to the less fortunate.”

Future Church Workers’ Event

Orphan Grain Train wanted to help support and encourage the students and their families attending Concordia Theological Seminary which is an institution of theological higher education of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in Fort Wayne, IN. For the students and those with spouses and children, life can be overwhelming at times while juggling classes, studies and personal life. On Tuesday, January 28, 2020 many students were able to help unload 6 cases of 10-pound tubes of hamburger, along with boxes of dried foods, condiments, various other foods, diapers, laundry detergent, and paper products to stock the shelves of the Concordia Food Bank, which serves 425 students weekly. OGT is grateful to be able to contribute to the food bank to care for our seminary students and their families as they prepare to be our future church leaders.

Orphan Grain Train delivered 128,304 Mercy Meals to former New York Yankees relief pitcher Mariano Rivera in New York. His foundation will ship the much-needed food to underprivileged children in Panama.

Katie Rittner is delighted that the seminary food pantry received 10 lb. rolls of hamburger and other pantry items worth nearly $19,000.00 from Orphan Grain Train. She is a deaconess who is the director of the Food and Clothing Co-op at the seminary and was also responsible for setting up this whole event with OGT.
The new Servant Center will connect seamlessly to the current Norfolk warehouse. Orphan Grain Train continues its capital campaign for the future Servant Center in Norfolk, NE. This center will not only better serve the Norfolk warehouse receiving, storage and shipping needs but will also house Mercy Meals – The Food That Endures. Their new and improved portion of the servant center will allow for bigger packing events and millions more meals to be produced and shipped by OGT to fight malnutrition and starvation worldwide.

The new Servant Center will cost approximately $3.7 million. This will be the largest fiscal challenge in our history. And yet, it pales in comparison when we see that Orphan Grain Train now delivers nearly $50,000,000 worth of aid annually. So far Orphan Grain Train has been blessed with $1.3 million pledged for the new Servant Center. We ask you to hear the cry of orphans and answer with a sacrificial gift that will make all of this possible. If you would like more information about the new Servant Center please call toll free 877-371-7393 or email us at info@ogt.org and someone will personally contact you. Thank you for your consideration with this important investment to feed more in need.

Orphan Grain Train also had another mission for the Concordia Seminary students, staff and family members which included two Mercy Meals (fortified rice meals) packing events. On the evening of Wednesday, January 29, tables were set up with ingredients and materials for the first packing event. There was a problem though, instead of the planned 10 people, OGT had 41 people show up to pack! This meant even more meals were packed in 2 hours for a total of 12,127 meals! Then for Thursday’s packing event a total of 115 staff, students and family members packed 15,783 Mercy Meals! The total for the two days was 27,910! A big ‘Thank You’ to everyone at Concordia Theological Seminary for your help in feeding the world!

It was an inspirational two days of packing meals with these future church workers that gladly gave of their time to help feed those in need worldwide.

This was an amazing group of Concordia Theological Seminary students, staff and family members that packed 12,127 Mercy Meals in 2 hours! Thank you for your help in feeding the world! On the far right is Pastor Jim Carretto; OGT’s Director of Care Ministries and a graduate from this seminary.
‘2019’ – A Year In Review

2019 was a productive year for international and domestic shipments. Orphan Grain Train shipped humanitarian aid and food to 24 different countries. We also assisted with domestic disaster relief, humanitarian aid and food to those in need in 25 states.

Thank you to our supporters that raise OGT up in prayers and for your generous donations and precious time shared. Orphan Grain Train would not be able to deliver relief for human need worldwide if it wasn’t for YOU. Thank you!

• Orphan Grain Train delivered nearly $40 million worth of donated goods and food internationally and domestically during 2019.
• Within the United States, 161–53’ containers of aid and relief supplies were delivered.
• Internationally 123–40’ shipping containers filled with life changing food and humanitarian aid were distributed.
• OGT shipped 7.1 million fortified rice meals to help fight malnutrition internationally and in the U.S.
• A total of 130,374.68 volunteer hours were given with a value of $1,173,372.12 if paid $9/hour. Thank you for sharing the gift of time and talent with doing our Lord’s work.

We do all of this with only using 1.7% of all donations for administrative and marketing needs. That means 98.3% of all donations go toward helping those in need worldwide. Orphan Grain Train understands you work hard for your money and we are good stewards of your generous offerings.

Did you know that Orphan Grain Train appreciates your support of our ministry and we respect your privacy? You can feel safe and secure that we do not share any of your personal information with other organizations or persons.

Did you know that Orphan Grain Train has a rating of 4 out of 4 Stars with Charity Navigator? Charity Navigator is America’s premier independent charity evaluator. This high rating indicates that Orphan Grain Train adheres to good governance and other best practices that minimize the chance of unethical activities and consistently executes its mission in a fiscally responsible way. Check us out at www.charitynavigator.org

OGT has 27 locations from California to Connecticut collecting and distributing donated goods and food. To find a location near you, go to www.ogt.org and click on Branch Locations.

Thrivent Choice Dollars Expire Tuesday, March 31

Attention Thrivent Members – Please direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars to Orphan Grain Train before they expire on March 31, 2020. Please keep in mind that the phones will be very busy on Tuesday, March 31st so why not designate your Choice Dollars today. It is simple and doesn’t cost you anything but your time.

YOU MUST RENEW THE DISTRIBUTION OF YOUR CHOICE DOLLARS EVERY YEAR. YOUR CHOICE OF A PRIOR YEAR DOES NOT CARRY OVER.

There are two ways to direct your Choice Dollars. Go to www.thriventchoice.com or call 1-800-847-4836 and say “choice dollars” at automation.

Thank you for considering OGT when making your Choice Dollars donation.
**Michigan Branch had First International Shipment!**

On November 21, 2019, the Michigan Branch volunteers loaded their first international shipment which was to Kyrgyzstan! Compassion International was grateful to receive quilts, gloves/hats/scarves/belts, coats, clothes, shoes, towels/washcloths, medical equipment, wheelchairs and bikes to share with families living in poverty, the elderly and disabled individuals. In April 2018 was the forming of the Michigan branch then finding and renovating a warehouse with formal operations taking place earlier in the spring of 2019. Their first domestic distribution was disaster relief buckets this past April. Thank you, Michigan volunteers and donors!

![Michigan branch volunteers smile after loading their first international shipment for Kyrgyzstan.](image)

**69th Country Received Aid from OGT**

Orphan Grain Train has now shipped humanitarian aid to 69 countries on 5 continents! The 69th country was Togo which is found in West Africa. Togo covers 22,008 square miles, making it one of the smallest countries in Africa, with a population of approximately 7.6 million. OGT’s new recipient, Maranatha Bible Church in Lomé was excited to receive 7,128 Mercy Meals, blankets and goods from OGT’s Central Nebraska Branch. God has blessed OGT to be a blessing to even more people in need in yet another area of His world.

![Maranatha Bible Church children are grateful for clothes, school supplies and backpacks from their first OGT shipment.](image)

**More Than 1,000 Families Served**

In March of 2019 majority of counties in Nebraska had declared a state of emergency due to devastating flood waters. OGT headquarters and Norfolk warehouse were located on dry land within the majority of the flood waters and was able to bring immediate help to evacuation centers with quilts and mattresses. At the time of this writing, 10 months has passed and OGT has helped more than 1,000 Nebraska families and ranchers with vouchers for cost assistance with furnaces, washers, dryers, deep freezers, dry wall, insulation, fencing with posts and numerous other needed building materials for a total of $884,012.17. OGT also delivered food and bottled water to several towns and locations for families and volunteers cleaning up the muck and making needed repairs. This will be a long-term disaster relief effort with spring flooding approaching soon. Thank you OGT supporters for making these efforts a reality!

![Laura and Mike Lauters are one of the more than 1,000 families that OGT helped with building materials to make needed home repairs.](image)
**Food That Endures**

Orphan Grain Train continues its capital campaign for the future Servant Center in Norfolk, NE. This center will not only better serve the Norfolk warehouse receiving, storage and shipping needs but will also house Mercy Meals – The Food That Endures. Their new and improved portion of the servant center will allow for bigger packing events and millions more meals to be produced and shipped by OGT to fight malnutrition and starvation worldwide.

The new Servant Center will cost approximately $3.7 million. This will be the largest fiscal challenge in our history. And yet, it pales in comparison when we see that Orphan Grain Train now delivers nearly $50,000,000 worth of aid annually. So far Orphan Grain Train has been blessed with $1.3 million pledged for the new Servant Center. We ask you to hear the cry of orphans and answer with a sacrificial gift that will make all of this possible. If you would like more information about the new Servant Center please call toll free 877-371-7393 or email us at info@ogt.org and someone will personally contact you. Thank you for your consideration with this important investment to feed more in need.

![The new Servant Center will connect seamlessly to the current Norfolk warehouse.](image)

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**Gifts At War Time**

The City of Melitopol has a population just over 154,000 people and is in the southeast region of the Ukraine. In 2014 Russia invaded the Ukraine and they have been defending their country and land ever since. It has taken a toll on Ukraine’s economy and government services. Melitopol is not far from where the continued military activities occur which has caused an enormous increase in refugees into the city. This has put an even more critical burden on an already devastated society.

Charity Fund ‘Mariam’ is a humanitarian organization in Melitopol that assists those that are disabled, the elderly, orphanages and families living in poverty which have been severely affected by the decline in government assistance. This vulnerable population has grown immensely in number due to families escaping regions affected by the war. When the refugees enter the city, they have nothing; they have lost their home, possessions, land and jobs. These are working families whose lives have been changed forever because of war. Children have lost stability, their home and some not able to attend school. OGT has provided furniture, clothes, food and restored hope to these families through ‘Mariam’.

Orphan Grain Train has shipped humanitarian aid and food to ‘Mariam’ for 7 years. Through your donations,
either monetary or material, you have given pride and excitement to students when they receive new school supplies and backpacks along with sitting in new to them desks and furnishings. OGT has supplied hospitals with medical equipment, beds, wheelchairs, crutches, etc. Mercy Meals have been shipped to fill the bellies of hungry children and families. Many families have appreciated the warm quilts, clothes and boots in winter months donated by OGT supporters.

‘Mariam’ shares Mercy Meals, fortified rice meals donated by OGT with Church of Transfiguration that feeds the homeless and those living in poverty. They feed approximately 200 people weekly living on the streets.

OGT is grateful for the working relationship with Charity Fund ‘Mariam’ and our ability to reach children, families and individuals in need in the Ukraine. Thank you, OGT supporters for being the hands and feet of Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

 OGTV has shipped fire protective suits and helmets for local fire departments. They are thrilled to receive the supplies because there are no funds to purchase new when their gear becomes old or damaged.

This boy received a new bike from OGT which otherwise would not be possible. Every child should have the experience of riding a bike.

These children are excited to receive new comfortable beds to sleep restfully at night.
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