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This young orphan boy unloads winter clothing and quilts from Orphan Grain Train.

Care For The Children

Hidden away in the Carpathian Mountains of Romania is a small town called Brosteni with a little less than 10,000 people. In 2000, Brosteni was a place that had seen much suffering and heartache from closing of coal mines. Normally a prosperous mining town, it became a place of high unemployment and extreme poverty. It is into this setting that Bread of Life came to offer help for today and hope for tomorrow. They began working with poverty-stricken families and children and the need was overwhelming.

In September of 2003, Bread of Life Orphanage opened its doors to give hope and care to children. Some remained only for short time, until their relatives could recover from a temporary crisis. Others have remained till time to venture out on their own. Some children were taken in and nurtured back to health, tutored in their school work, and all were taught the Bible and about Jesus' sacrifice for their salvation. Today, eighty children live at the orphanage and a Soup Kitchen is offered to feed children and adults living on the streets or in extreme poverty. Orphan Grain Train ships Mercy Meals, winter clothes, quilts, hygiene and school supplies for the children. The need is great but with God's blessings and our compassionate donors and volunteers, we are able serve His children in Romania.

Read on page 2 & 3 about feeding 2,500 children and families daily.

Care For The Children

Bread of life (BOL) also saw extreme hunger and poverty in rural villages throughout Romania. When you step out of the larger towns and cities and venture into the rural regions time seems to have stopped decades ago. You will see horse drawn carts, horse and plow and people working the land by hand, no cell phones, internet or in some areas no electricity or indoor plumbing. In the past 10 years, BOL has advanced their outreach to help feed more than 2,500 hungry children daily by opening 51 feeding centers in remote villages of Romania. At these locations, local authorities were struggling to feed and clothe the children and many were undernourished and sick. If a child looks ill, neglected or homeless then they are offered a bed at the orphanage. It is normal to see children living on the streets and eating at the feeding centers. Orphan Grain Train is able to ship Mercy Meals and other fortified rice meals to feed the hungry because of donors like you.



The weather is getting cold and so are their frail homes; families gather for warm clothes and blankets



Children waiting to eat at a feeding center – their daily routine.

Alin Panican, Director at Bread of Life has witnessed firsthand how the contributions from OGT have given hope, laughter and warmth to many families in the village of Mironeasa. *"We (BOL) have a family pack program where we take food and clothing that is distributed to families. Recently we made a delivery with two truckloads of winter clothing from Orphan Grain Train that was saved during the summer months for the winter. Here the children and poor families have little to no income and it is still a mystery to me, after 20 years, how they survive. One of their main sources for food during the winter months is what we provide through the fortified rice meals, much from OGT. The winter clothing and blankets are again very important for them as most of them live in tiny shacks with no insulation. We cannot say that we take care of all the problems of these hundreds of children but at least we know that some of the basic needs are met through the kindness of our OGT partners. The work in Mironeasa also has a spiritual side as all of the aid is directed through the local two churches. This opens a good door for the Christians to witness to them and serve them too."*

Orphan Grain Train has been shipping food, bikes, school supplies, quilts, clothing and other aid to help the children in Romania since 2013. It is heart touching to see and hear about the lives improved, bellies filled and hearts growing with Jesus because of Orphan Grain Train supporters! Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus, our Lord and Savior.



Bread of Life gives hope by sharing OGT clothing, blankets and Mercy Meals to many families living below poverty level.



Can't you hear the laughter of these orphans riding their new bikes from OGT! It is rare for the children to have so many bikes, usually they share 1-3 bikes.



Children at BOL orphanage enjoy meal time together. Winter coats are worn because heat is turned down to save money.

Aid for U.S. Disasters

Where ever you may live in the United States, you have possibly been affected by a natural disaster or know someone that has. This past year, the U.S. is having the worst

wildfires in history and hurricanes are also breaking records for most formed in a single season. So far, the hurricanes this year do not match the intensity of 2005, but 2020 is not over yet. Tornadoes and floods have also ravished regions. Orphan

Grain Train is helping with several disasters across the US and we plan to be there for families for the long term. There are no quick fixes for disasters; OGT helped with clean-up of hurricane Katrina for five years.

Louisiana and Hurricane Laura

In early September, Orphan Grain Train sent three trucks to Louisiana with disaster relief aid being coordinated with LCMS Southern District. OGT's portable power unit, bedroom unit and shower unit were set up at Trinity

Lutheran Church in Sulphur. The units are part of OGT's Volunteer Village for volunteers to use as sleeping rooms and for showering while helping with clean up and repair from hurricane Laura. OGT also delivered two pallets of bottled water and three dehumidifiers.

Sulphur is only one of many towns hit hard with widespread destruction from Category 4 winds causing mangled power lines, downed trees, roofs blown off and homes and buildings destroyed for miles and miles.



The overpass in Louisiana is backed up with utility trucks ready to restore power for families.



To give volunteers a place to sleep and shower, OGT sets up a part of the Volunteer Village.



This is what is left of a diner in Sulphur, LA. So much destruction and being overwhelmed; "Where does a person start to rebuild?"

Texas Tornado

On April 22, an F3 tornado traveled across several subdivisions in Polk County, Texas. Approximately 1,100 facilities and 600 homes were damaged or destroyed. Of these homes, 45% were uninsured and in a low-income area. There was no federal aid since it was not declared a National Disaster so people have to rely on donations from people (volunteer repair teams), dollars and materials. Orphan Grain Train lessened some of the burden by purchasing almost \$40,000.00 worth of building materials at a local Lowe's and delivered it to a warehouse in Livingston, TX. LCMS Texas District is distributing the materials to help repair homes for families not insured. This donation helped free up donated money to hire contract labor to do the jobs volunteer teams cannot do. This has put home repairs in the fast lane. Thank you, OGT donors for helping our neighbors in Texas.

Tennessee Tornado

Last March, two powerful tornadoes with winds up to 175 mph ravished central Tennessee leaving 24 people dead and destroyed almost everything in their path. Orphan Grain Train worked with Faith Lutheran Church in Lebanon, TN and delivered two-bedroom units for volunteers to sleep in after a hard day's work cleaning up and repairing homes. The bedroom units are at full capacity, serving 36 volunteers together, to help those in need.



Some of the building materials OGT purchased to help families with no insurance.

Three years after Hurricane Harvey

Orphan Grain Train purchased more than \$20,000.00 worth of various foods from Lou's Thrifty Way in Norfolk, NE for Spring, TX. Trinity-

Klein Lutheran Church will use the food to stock their food pantry that serves families along with volunteers still rebuilding from the devastating

effects of hurricane Harvey in 2017.

Wyoming Wildfires

Wyoming had an exceptionally dry summer and conditions worsened with high winds and low humidity drying the grass and timber even more. These conditions had fires spread rapidly and the steep terrain with minimal roads made it difficult

for responders to fight the fires. The Norfolk warehouse volunteers loaded 2,900 pounds of frozen pork shoulder roasts, whole chickens and sausage and 168 cases of bottled water to help firefighters and others battle wildfires in Wyoming. The

food was delivered to Western Sky Diner in Wheatland which was feeding approximately 100 firefighters daily!

Orphan Grain Train's newest location is in Lincoln, Nebraska.

The Lincoln Collection Center started accepting donations and volunteers in September and has already filled a container that was delivered to Norfolk warehouse for distribution. Way to go Lincoln donors and volunteers! For more information or to donate or volunteer contact Steve Sirek at 402-416-1972 or sbsirek@gmail.com. Warehouse is located at 4817 N. 56th Street Suite #10 Lincoln, NE 68504.



Names L to R - Dick Waechter, Bob Marshall, Pastor David Edwards, Roger and Geri Meyer, Kathy Carter, Kathy and Steve Sirek. Not pictured - Kay Marshall and Tom Wobig.

Food that Endures

Investment in OGT's Future will Serve More in Need. Bringing OGT and Mercy Meals together in one place.

For more information go to www.ogt.org or call toll free 1-877-371-7393



The new building will provide efficient use of space for more shipments from OGT's warehouse and for more meal production from Mercy Meals.



The current Mercy Meals facility is small, outdated and unable to provide large packing events to keep up requests for food worldwide.

Shop For You and Help OGT

If you are one of the thousands that have turned to online ordering because of the pandemic, did you know you can donate to OGT while shopping for your family? When you shop at AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to Orphan Grain Train. Simply go to www.smile.amazon.com and register Orphan Grain Train as your charity of choice and set this website as your place to order from. Let the shopping and donating begin!



Orphanages & CV-19



At a sponsored facility for the elderly in Romanovka, Russia, this doctor was provided non-contact thermometers and gloves from OGT's Adopt an Orphanage program.

The pandemic has negatively impacted many orphanages, missions and ministries. The orphanages in Russia and the Baltic states of Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania are on a very minimal and limited budget from the government which does not include needed safety items to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus. It is much different in those countries than here in the US. Nearly every town with 500 up to 5,000 people or more has one or two orphanages, sometimes three. Most of them have 60 to 150 children; 25% are true orphans with no living parents or have been abandoned by their parents. The rest have been taken from their parents because of alcoholism, drug addiction or the inability to care for their children. Orphan Grain Train, through sponsors, offer hope for these

children along with sharing about Jesus, our Lord and Savior. As a sponsor, you not only help with medicine, vitamins and hygienic supplies and most importantly, Bibles and the saving words from our Savior Jesus Christ but now you also help slow the spread of the Coronavirus. Since the pandemic, our orphanage coworkers have been able to purchase gloves, non-contact thermometers, sanitizer and other needed PPE for the children. Adopt an Orphanage sponsors are providing the care needed for the children, however, we all know that it comes from our Heavenly Father first. If you would like to know more about the Adopt an Orphanage Mission or would be interested in a presentation about the Mission, contact Karen Reehl Tiedeman at Ktea889@gmail.com.



These children live at Vyborg Orphanage, a sponsored orphanage in Russia. They received non-contact thermometers, masks and hand sanitizer to lessen the spread of CV-19.

Thank You!

This will be the last newsletter for 2020 and I believe most of us are praying for a 'normal' 2021. As we come to the end of another year, Orphan Grain Train would like to thank everyone for his or her support, contributions and volunteer time during this past year and since the beginning in 1992. Orphan Grain Train would not be able to feed the hungry, ship aid to children and families or help those affected by natural disasters in the United States or around the world if it was not for You. Thank you! We also want to say thank you for your continued support, especially to help those less fortunate this Christmas season.



We would like to wish everyone a safe and blessed Christmas and a Christ filled New Year.



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



Bread of Life orphanage has children with various backgrounds and stories. Read about Orphan Grain Train's impact with these children on pages 1-3.