



New Volunteer Groups Welcomed

Local organizations increase packing rate and set new record.

Three components are vital to our work— material donations, boxes for packing, and volunteers. The Lord blesses us richly with the first two, so much so that we struggle at times to find space for all of it. The third need, volunteers, resulted in many prayers as we seek to ship more often. The Lord answered us by sending six (!) groups of enthusiastic new volunteers.



Christ Community Church youth box up clothing

Last October we welcomed young people and their parents from **Christ Community Church in West Chester, PA** (center header photo), for an evening training and packing event. Then in January and early February, more PA groups poured in the door in quick succession: we hosted **The Rotary Club of Kennett Square** (left and right header photo); the **Southern Chester County Chamber of Commerce**; youth from the **Christian Life Center** in New London Township; teachers from the **Technical College High School** in Jennersville; and college students attending **Lincoln University**.

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Shipments Outlook

Shipments are determined by specific requests from our destination partners. Here are the latest updates.

Life for the people of Kyrgyzstan this winter is unusually difficult. Inflation rose drastically, and (as of last summer) the poverty level soared to 31%, an increase of 11% over 2020. On top of all this, a severe drought created dangerously low levels of hydroelectric power. Electricity



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2021 Grant-Match Drive a Success

Donors once again exceed our expectations.

For the seventh consecutive year, your donations far surpassed our grant-match goal of \$20,000. MAB received more than \$35,000 in total funds! During on-going pandemic challenges you continued to show your generosity. As our branch plans shipments for 2022, we see a greater worldwide need for food and aid than ever before. Beyond maintaining warehouse operations, your gifts have already allowed us to purchase 120,000 Kids Against Hunger meals for immediate shipping, and to acquire \$2,000 of supplies for assembling personal Hygiene Kits. This would not have been possible without you – we simply can't thank you enough! ■

Mid-Atlantic Branch

New Volunteer Groups ...

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Children from age eight on up through adults enjoyed packing boxes, a few even 'graduating' to learn our



Christ Community Church team is all smiles!

sorting process. Some sang while they worked, enjoying comradery, finishing tasks, and cleaning up their workspace. What wonderful volunteers – they all brought fun and joyful energy to the warehouse. We even reached a new box-packing record – 120 by the kids from Christian Life Center – nice job everyone! Best of all, several expressed a desire to come back, and we couldn't be more pleased. Branch Manager



Rotary Club of Kennett Square volunteer packs infant clothes

Cliff Kraft said it perfectly, "Working with Christian youth emphasizes the future hope for our churches and our country."

Would your group or organization like to help at the warehouse? Contact Cliff Kraft: (610) 420-0380. ■

Meet The Apple Box Man

Long-time volunteer finds new way to contribute.



Mike Pralle has been volunteering with OGT for almost twenty years. In the beginning, he helped Jack and Eleta Buss organize clothing drives at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Ridley Park, PA. Once the donations were sorted and packed, Mike assisted Jack in delivering the boxes to MAB's

Wilmington, DE warehouse. As St. Mark's membership dwindled and clothing drives were no longer viable, Mike turned his hand to collecting apple boxes for OGT and hasn't looked back.

When MAB operations moved to our new warehouse, Mike shifted his attention from Wilmington to Jennersville grocers. He now collects from Giant in New Garden and Jennersville, and The Produce Place in Kennett Square. The stores generously save all their apple boxes for us – what a blessing! Mike often picks up boxes three times a week – thank heavens his Ford Ranger can accommodate 60 at a time. Best of all, Mike's new contacts have hearts receptive to hearing about our mission. In his own words, "It's a win-win situation for OGT." Yes, indeed! Thank you, Mike, for your faithful service. ■

Boscov's "Friends" Return

Wow, what a comeback!

Thanks to your support and prayers Boscov's Friends Helping Friends Day was another great success. With a matching grant of \$1,500, we raised \$3,804 through sales of



\$5 shopping passes and unsolicited donations. After 2020's low Covid turnout, volunteers and shoppers alike were delighted to get back into stores and shop the annual one-day sale. Organizer Sandy O'Hedy commented, "It has been a blessed day for OGT MAB, not only in money earned but in getting the word out about our mission." Special thanks go to all the volunteers who masked up and worked tables on sale day, many for more than one shift. Did you miss this event? We will be back next October for our seventh year of participating. ■

Shipments Outlook

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for heating homes this winter was cut to *a quarter* of what is normally needed. In this situation, warm clothing, shoes, and blankets are vitally important. To answer this need, MAB shipped 1,440 boxes filled with winter clothing for men, women, and children to Social Charity Fund "Compassion." We thank the Maryland branch for contributing 455 boxes of pre-packed winter clothes to help fill the container and so expedite the shipment. On January 10th we learned the shipment arrived. We pray it was distributed quickly!



Boxes are loaded for Kyrgyzstan

Last November, MAB shared another joint shipment with Maryland Branch, this time to help impoverished Americans living in eastern Kentucky. Christian Appalachian Project (CAP), headquartered in Paintsville, KY, received nine pallets of clothing and 270 boxes of toys to distribute through area churches. Many people were blessed! Thanks go to Rob and Jane Hall for driving the rental truck on the long round trip. ■

Grateful for *You*

We give thanks for our volunteers and supporters.

Throughout a second year of pandemic life the Lord richly blessed our branch. Several churches discovered 'work arounds' for holding clothing drives while maintaining masking and distancing. A simple Facebook posting by a savvy social media friend drew countless Jennersville neighbors with cars full of clothing, shoes and bicycles. We received beautifully crafted items: pillowcase dresses, knitted hats and mittens, and crocheted children's blankets. And who could forget all the athletic uniforms and equipment given by area sports organizations? Donations kept our bins full.

Our workspace increased by 1,200 square feet, warehouse hours expanded to include two Saturdays a month,

Blanketed with Love

Beautiful children's blankets received for shipping.

Last September, Diane Stoelting and the Sunday School of Holy Ghost Lutheran Church in Niagara Falls, NY, made fleece blankets for our branch to ship. On October 27th forty-five beautifully tied blankets were delivered by proud brother-in-law Bruce Sutherland. Diane wrote, "I'm so glad that the blankets will be put to good use in the near future."

In January we were thrilled to receive our 4th delivery of hand-crocheted afghans from Project Linus, a national organization dedicated to providing security to children through blankets. To date, The Blanket Circle at Maris Grove, PA, has donated 900 beautifully made children's afghans. Frankie Moses, the club's coordinator, emailed, "It is our pleasure to be able to donate blankets to the OGT organization."

Thank you all for your gifts of kindness and love. ■



Rob Hall displays Project Linus afghans

and dedicated MAB volunteers brought friends and neighbors to help sort and pack. Result? Volunteer hours surged 40% ahead of 2021.

Paul Leckband, the Spiritual Correspondent for OGT Norfolk, sent a letter of encouragement last November to all branches and collection centers. He wrote that God "*provides us with the ability to touch the lives of the poor, the needy, the suffering, the oppressed... and our efforts also open doors to share with them the Bread of Life, Jesus Christ. Thank you, my friends, for your dedication to the mission and ministry of Orphan Grain Train. May Jesus continue to bless us richly so that together we may, in turn, be a blessing to those He's called us to serve.*" Thank you, Paul, amen! ■



Mid-Atlantic Branch Office
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Website: www.ogt.org

Warehouse:
8 Federal Road
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Hours of Operation:
Wednesday, 10:00—2:30
2nd and 4th Saturday, 9:00—1:30

Our 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.

Mid-Atlantic Branch Purpose

To build a Christ centered team who can use their God-given talents to be a blessing to others through their service in the Mid Atlantic Branch of Orphan Grain Train fulfilling the Mission Statement of the OGT movement.

Genesis 12:3 - "I will bless those who bless you ... and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

"I will not leave you as orphans, I will come to you." John 14:18

did YOU KNOW?

- **STAPLES Rewards for MAB** — Help us buy supplies for the warehouse when you shop with the enclosed Staples Rewards card. You could save up to 70% while donating your points to our branch.

- **Grant Paid in Full** — Our \$5,000 grant from the LWML Chesapeake District was paid in December thanks to Sandy O'Hedy and the Lydia Circle at Peace Lutheran in Smyrna, DE. Funds will be used to buy food for shipping.



- **Lost and Found** — A man's jewelry item was 'donated' last November at the warehouse. If it is yours please describe it in an email to carlaniesen@verizon.net.



- **What Can I Donate?** Look on our webpage! Find our *Considerations for Donors* list, and much more, at www.ogt.org/branches/mid-atlantic/.

what's AHEAD...

- **Make Your 'Choice'** — Support our branch by directing your Thrivent Choice Dollars to OGT MAB before March 31, 2022. See the yellow Thrivent card insert for help. Please choose OGT projects for your Thrivent Action Teams. Visit www.ogt.org for a list of ideas.
- **MAB Goes to Syracuse** — Rich Gruenhagen will represent our branch at the Eastern District's Biennial Convention June 10 -12, 2022 in Syracuse, NY. If you attend, be sure to stop by our table.
- **Saturday Hours Reminder** — The warehouse will be open in February and March on the 12th and 26th, and on April 9th and 23rd. Out of care and concern for our volunteers, we ask that masks be worn when visiting the warehouse. Come join us!
- **Milestones Reached** — This year marks the 30th anniversary for OGT, Inc. and the 20th for Mid-Atlantic Branch. We thank God for his steadfast blessings through the years!

To God alone be the Glory!