



November 2023

God-Blessed Moments

How often do we give thanks for the God-blessed moments of our lives? I, for one, too often take them for granted. It's so easy to acknowledge the fact and move on to the next item of life.

Let me share with you one of those moments that came through Orphan Grain Train and has caused me to stop and give thanks for all He is doing.

In April OGT Jonesville loaded and sent a 40' container to the Republic of Georgia, not the state but the country near Russia. We had been told from the Headquarters in Nebraska that this was going to be a bit pricier than other loads. Well, it was a lot pricier, like six thousand dollars more than any other load we had ever sent. The total bill came to \$11,500. Yikes! But then the day after that bill came, a couple of checks arrived in the mail. One check was for \$1,000 and the other check was for an amazing \$10,000. Yikes, again! Why do these things surprise us when we serve and worship a God who does awesomely surprising things? He does things like loving us so much that He sent His only Son into this world to be our Savior. He stretched out His arms willingly in love on the cross to offer the forgiveness of sins to all who would believe in Him. He was raised from the dead as His authority of power over all the things of this world that want us to question and doubt His authority. And His involvement with this load and these checks was one of those God-Blessed Moments. Praise His Holy name!

Another one of those God-blessed moments has come in the number of new volunteers, young and older, who have shown up to help sort and pack clothes, help load trucks and unload trailers, clean gutters, sweep floors, and do general maintenance. These are the folks who keep OGT moving forward. All I can say is, "Thank You!"

Another blessing from the Lord comes in the donations of furniture and household items. These

gifts are what make it possible for OGT to serve the people in our communities with items that give them a hand-up. It helps folks find some financial balance since they don't have to go out and purchase the furniture or household items. These donations are truly God-blessed gifts for those in need and they often come when least expected. So, **Thank You** to all who make these God-blessed moments happen.



This picture is a snapshot of the scene in the Republic of Georgia as the container was being unloaded and people were there receiving the clothes and bikes.



Here are volunteers, on a hot day in July, loading a container bound for the Republic of Georgia. One 40' container can hold up to 1,300 boxes, plus some wheelchairs and bicycles. Not much air is shipped when all hand-packed.

Helping out comes in many ways.



Connecting faith & finances for good.®

If you have Thrivent insurance, please check into how you can use the money they offer to help out the OGT programs.

And then if you have IRA RMDs (required minimum distributions), you might think QCD (qualified charitable distribution) as a tax benefit to you and a financial blessing to OGT. Check with your financial advisor for help in this area.

There are also opportunities to give online when you access our page on the www.ogt.org website. Just click on the location tab, scroll to Indiana, and find the donation button.

And... THANK YOU for all your support.

Lighting up the warehouse

OGT is changing up the lighting throughout the building from fluorescent to LED bulbs. This will be accomplished in stages as the old ones wear out and can be replaced as needed. Thanks to Mark Wint, whose expertise in this really gave us insight as how it can be done in phases, that changeover is progressing. If you would like to help with that by using your Thrivent Action card or by a simple donation, OGT would welcome your help.

OGT Wish List

1. Prayers of the faithful that OGT Indiana continues to serve the needs of those less fortunate, and remains true to the Lord's challenge defined in James regarding the care of widows and orphans, as well as the words of the Lord who calls us to clothe the naked, feed the hungry, care for the sick, and visit those in prison.
2. Drivers and those willing to assist in picking up donations, especially appliances and furniture. Please call 812-405-2045 to



Pete's Trenching of Seymour and Ryan Benter of Prosperity Financial, Seymour, and Greg Hazelgrove helped load the shipment for Latvia in September.



Mary and Molly, Senior project through CSA New Tech, gathered up 748 pounds of clothes and \$866 in donations to help support OGT's mission.



For his Senior project, Luke also had an OGT clothing drive. Plus he raised financial help to fund shipments.

Want to help?

Here are a couple of ways to support OGT right here in Indiana. Thrivent Action Cards can be directed for various projects like School Kits, Health Kits, LED light replacement throughout the building, and for buying bike parts to repair donated bikes that can be sent overseas and down to Kentucky.

add your name to the OGT list of volunteers.

3. **Volunteers** willing to share a couple of hours a week or every other week or whatever fits your schedule. The basic days for sorting and packing items are Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Other times can be scheduled whenever OGT members are available.
4. **Receptionist** on Thursdays to answer the phone, help direct people, and be a smiling, welcoming face for those who come.
5. **Assisting Manager** who would be able to give two days a week to learn about the inner workings of OGT Indiana.

Email your newsletter? If this is something you'd like, please email indianaogt@gmail.com and let us know.

For Your Information

OGT is here to receive your donations in a couple of ways.

1. On Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday donations can be delivered through our drive through where folks will be on hand to help unload.
2. On days OGT is closed, there is an enclosed trailer on the East side of the building near the overhead door. It is unlocked so that your donations can be put inside.
3. OGT has two 18' trailers that are used to pick up the larger donations of appliances and furniture. Please call the warehouse, 812-405-2045, to make arrangements for a pickup. Wednesday and Thursday mornings are the usual days available for pickups.
4. A special OGT collection box is available in the coat room at St. Peter's Lutheran, Columbus. Items to donate can be brought there before coming in for worship.

OGT Board Members are Earl and Arlene Ayers, Elinor Brown, Jan Buss, Al and Marge Lazzell, Jerry

and Carol Maley, Charles Meier, Irene Shireman, Vaughn Sylva, Gene Wint, Pastor Bauman, and Branch Manager Gene Ernst.

These folks serve as volunteers along the myriad of other volunteers who sort, pack, load trailers, and help with pickups every week. Volunteers are indeed the heart of Orphan Grain Train. Say a prayer of thanks for them and for what they are doing and have done for 25 years at OGT Indiana Branch.

Orphan Grain Train is a 501c3 Nonprofit Christian volunteer network that shares personal and material resources with needy people in America and around the world. Orphan Grain Train volunteers gather donations of clothing, medical supplies, food, Christian literature, and other aid to meet real needs. The Orphan Grain Train movement is a loving response to Jesus Christ's example as a servant and His love for us.

Orphan Grain Train

209 Jackson, Jonesville IN 47247

812-405-2045

indianaogt@gmail.com

Visit www.ogt.org/indiana

OPEN HOURS

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Serving the Lord with you,

Gene Ernst, Volunteer Manager

