



# Orphan Grain Train

Relief for Human Need Worldwide

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**Announcements**



# ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN CONVENTION 2026

SEPTEMBER 11 & 12, 2026

Relief for Human Need Worldwide

ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN NORFOLK SERVANT CENTER

&  
MIDTOWN EVENT CENTER

NORFOLK, NEBRASKA



## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

- 4:00** Opening of Convention
- Ysleta Mariachi Band from Ysleta Lutheran Mission Human Care, El Paso, Texas
  - Karla Gonzalez – Interim Executive Director of Ysleta Lutheran Mission Human Care, El Paso
- 
- 5:00** Three-Quilt Spotlight Auction Break
- 
- 5:15** Dinner – Paul’s Paellas from San Diego
- Introduction by Paul Dimech
- 
- 6:15** Bar open
- Three Quilt Spotlight Auction Break
- 
- 6:30** A conversation with Rev. Ray S. Wilke
- 
- 7:30** Three Quilt Spotlight Auction Break
- Silent Auction Final Bids and Three-Quilt Auction Winners
  - Proceed to Checkout and Pickup your Treasures
- 
- 8:00** Concordia Seward Choir

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

- 7:45** Doors open at Midtown Event Center
- 
- 8:30** Opening Service
- 
- 8:50** Toi Carter/Pastor Manning – New Orleans
- 
- 9:30** North Carolina Disaster Recovery
- 
- 10:15** Break
- 
- 10:30** Dr. Pieper or Hyannis Connection/Jamaica Water Demonstration
- 
- 11:00** Alla of Bible Orphan Ministry in Ukraine/Kirk and Brian Rosin

### 12:00 TO FAIR WELL

Finish up speakers/lunch served either as sit-down for conversation or to-go boxes offered



### QUILT AUCTION

Orphan Grain Train will once again have a quilt auction. This year, twelve quilts will be juried by three professional quilters and auctioned Friday evening. We are asking that all quilts donated be new, stitched, not tied and of good quality. Since space is limited, only one quilt will be accepted from each donor or organization. There is no set size or quilt style. ALL quilts have to be received at the home office in Norfolk, NE before **August 1, 2026** and clearly marked "For Quilt Auction." If you have any questions, please contact Kamryn at (402) 371-7393



### LODGING: SPECIAL PRICE LODGING OPTIONS

Please mention that you are with Orphan Grain Train, tax not included with price.



King or 2 Queen \$123.00  
(402) 379-3833  
4200 W. Norfolk Ave.



King or 2 Queen  
\$149.00  
(402) 379-1524  
920 S. 20 St.



King or 2 Queen  
\$149.00  
(402) 379-3585  
904 S. 20 St.



King or 2 Queen  
(402) 370-2244  
1302 Cyhawk Loop



FOR ALL LODGING OPTIONS GO TO:  
NORALL VISITOR INFORMATICR

<https://visitnorfolkne.com/home/places-to-stay/>



# **Orphan Grain Train**

## **2026 National Convention**

**Friday, September 11 - Saturday, September 12, 2026**

**Registration for the 2026 OGT Convention is currently open.**

**Please register now by visiting [www.ogt.org](http://www.ogt.org) to sign up online  
or print off the registration form and mail to:**

**Orphan Grain Train**

**PO Box 1466**

**Norfolk, NE 68702-1466**

**Orphan Grain Train Convention 2026**

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**OGT Norfolk**



**For more information call 402-371-7393 and ask for Nettie.**

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## **In Need of Hay for New Mexico**

Las Vegas, New Mexico, is currently facing severe to exceptional drought conditions, exacerbated by historically low snowpack and lingering watershed damage from the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon fires. Approximately 94% of the state is under drought, with the Rio Gallinas—the city's primary water source—facing critical flow shortages. We received a phone call from Las Vegas asking if we could send hay. The ranches are small, but the forage available to feed the cattle is depleted. If you have hay available to donate, please contact Orphan Grain Train Norfolk @ 402-371-7393. ask for Kamryn or [kgreen@cgt.org](mailto:kgreen@cgt.org). This hay would be going to New Mexico, not to western Nebraska.

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## **Adopt-an-Orphanage Ukraine:**

**Orphan Grain Train recently added orphanages to the Adopt-an-Orphanage program which is now supporting nine institutions in Ukraine, all of which are suffering great hardships because of the ongoing war.**

### **Nadiya Orphanage**

**We've newly added the Nadiya Orphanage in the village of Mokrets. It currently houses children, ages 3-14, but can accommodate up to 40 children. The conditions are those of an old kindergarten building.**

### **Volyn Regional Center**

**We've newly added the Volyn Regional Center in Kovel, which is operated by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ukraine. It constantly houses 30-40 children, ages 3-18.**

**These are children who find themselves in difficult circumstances: orphans, children deprived of parental care,**

children who have been subjected to various forms of violence.

### **Zhytomyr Orphanage**

The Zhytomyr Orphanage houses 40 children, ages 5-8 years old.

### **Nova Borova Orphanage**

Nova Borova Orphanage is located about 50 miles north of Zhytomyr. This orphanage houses 70 girls, ages 6-30. These are extreme special-needs cases, many suffering from cerebral palsy or Downs Syndrome, many who are completely bedridden. The director has been told to expect a 45% cut in their budget for this year, & next year 20 boys will be transferred to this facility.

### **Doneshi Orphanage**

Doneshi Orphanage is located about 50 miles west & south of Zhytomyr. This institution houses 80+ special needs children,

ages 6-12. Many suffer from autism, speech impediments, or other disabilities. Government regulations are nearly impossible for them to meet.

### **Kmitiv Orphanage**

Kmitiv Orphanage houses 80 children, ages 6-16 and has great needs.

**The support we give to our mission partners in Ukraine enables them to provide Gospel outreach & deliver humanitarian aid. If you would like more information or might be interested in supporting this institution, please contact Paul Leckband.**

**Email: [pleckband@oqt.org](mailto:pleckband@oqt.org).**

**Call: 402-992-0578.**

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**2026 Nebraska Fire Disaster**



[CLICK ON PHOTO TO LINK TO VIDEO](#)





An Orphan Grain Train team traveled to Hyannis, Nebraska on Thursday, May 28 to visit with the ranchers affected by the March 2026 Minor and Morrill fires that raged through the area. OGT driver, Bob Schleppenbach delivered a semi-load of hedge posts to the area at the same time. Pastor Ray and Judy Wilke and Grant and Deb Schmidt met up with Schleppenbach to survey the area for needs. While there, they were able to visit with many of the ranchers and witness the distribution of posts. Meeting the ranchers was the highlight of this trip. The sense of community, thankfulness and care for their neighbor was evident in their conversation.

Bill Baker, a local veterinarian, has been in conversation with OGT vice-president Schmidt since the onset of the fires.

Baker helped organize this orderly distribution of posts for twelve local ranchers. The group was already at the drop-off site with a loader when Schleppenbach arrived with the posts. They immediately stepped up to help unstrap the load and begin unloading and redistributing to individuals. OGT plans to deliver two more loads of hedge posts, a load of treated posts and a load of barbed wire. There is also an OGT fencing crew slated to begin refencing in the area.

**If you would like to be a part of this mission,  
please contact OGT Norfolk at (402)371-7393 or  
email [info@ogt.org](mailto:info@ogt.org)**

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**OGT Ohio / Domestic**



**Orphan Grain Train Ohio delivered five domestic loads in the month of May.**

**Concordia Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana received 30 pieces of furniture as well a washer and a dryer. Nine bicycles, clothing and linens were part of this distribution.**

**Defiance Area Stewards of the Handicapped received 41 pieces of medical equipment.**

**North American Lutheran Disaster Relief was the recipient for a load**

of disaster supplies such as shovels, cleaning kits and generators. In addition, OGT Ohio shared with them many household items, linens and school supplies.

Two boxes of craft supplies were shared with Filling Home / Soaring Arts in Napoleon. Finally, Shoal Creek Baptist Church in Burnsville, NC received linens, furniture, household items and toys. OGT Ohio has delivered to all of the recipients at least once during the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

Thank you, OGT Ohio volunteers for continuing to support these organizations by sharing valuable items that you have gathered, cleaned, packed and loaded. Thank you, for being good stewards of the Lord's provisions.

**Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint.**

**Isaiah 40:31 NIV**

## OGT New England / Liberia



On May 28, Volunteers for the Orphan Grain Train (OGT) New England Branch, located at 33 South Main St. in Terryville, Connecticut delivered a box truck load of items to a warehouse in Providence RI to go on a shipment to the Gbarnga Lutheran Mission in Liberia. St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Providence started this Mission for children in Liberia to provide education, food, hygiene and medical assistance. From constructing a building about ten years ago, the school now has 230 students

through the 8th grade and has added a full medical clinic. On the shipment were 44 boxes of Harvest Pack Meals, a dehydrated, rice based and fortified food in sealed plastic bags that can last up to three years requiring only water for preparation. Each box contains 216 meals. The school has installed its own wells, so clean water is not a problem. This is enough of a supply to make over 9,500 meals and can be used to supplement the schools own gardening program when droughts or other weather events occur. In addition, one treadle sewing machine was sent which they use because there is not a reliable power supply. OGT has supplied treadle sewing machines in the past to help with their learn-to-sew program. This past year saw some 35 graduates who now can sew on their own for their families or sell to make some income. Also included were twelve folding school desks and nine folding chairs to help with expansion. two computer screens were added to help outfit a recent donation of computers to the school.

In the past, OGT has also sent hospital beds, medical supplies, clothing and other school desks. Other shipments have gone to missions in countries on four continents as well as Appalachia and

hurricane relief for Puerto Rico, Florida, Kentucky and North Carolina. The Branch also helps those locally in New England, giving medical items that have been donated to individuals in need and thru the visiting nurse and hospice care organizations of the area. The effort is an Outreach Ministry of the Lutheran Church, and OGT is a 501(3)(C) charity affiliated with the church and supported locally by Holy Trinity Lutheran in Terryville and Immanuel Lutheran in Bristol and is open to all who want to help others. For more information, please call Holy Trinity at 860-582-0723 and/or check out the [OGT.org](http://OGT.org) website.

Pictured: Jon Rossman, Executive Director of the Gbarnga Mission and Kevin Reade from OGT Mid Atlantic.

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**OGT Indiana / Domestic**



In April and May, Orphan Grain Train Indiana delivered loads to Manna from Heaven in Myra, Kentucky, Matthew 25 Ministries in Cincinnati, Ohio and The Attic in McKee, Kentucky. Each delivery contained a variety of clothing, blankets, household items, bicycles and toys. Thank you, to all the OGT Indiana donors and volunteers for showing up on Tuesdays, Wednesday and Thursdays to donate or sort and pack in Jonesville.

*Photos:*

*OGT Indiana volunteers, Mark and Harold who helped load the trailer, along with Gene Ernst, OGT Indiana manager. (taking photo)*

*OGT Indiana's 18' trailer that is used to deliver domestic loads is packed for The Attic in McKee, Kentucky.*

**Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my**

**fortress, my God, in whom I trust.”**

**Psalm 91: 1-2**

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**Six Minnesota Lutheran Churches / Hygiene Kits**



The ladies from St. Paul Lutheran in Perham, Mn., Bethlehem Lutheran in Frazee, Mn. Beautiful Savior Lutheran in Callaway, Mn., St. John Lutheran in Vergas, Mn., Zion Lutheran in Detroit Lakes, Mn. and St. Paul Lutheran of Loon Lake Vergas, Mn. gathered at Adkins warehouse the third week in May to assemble hygiene kits. All the women from the churches brought items to use in the kits, and together they made 307 kits for OGT. Afterwards the women gathered and enjoyed fellowship and a great rhubarb dessert. What a fantastic gathering of women from six Lutheran churches in Minnesota! The evidence of what you have accomplished is in the boxes filled with the 307 hygiene kits. Thank you, so much for gathering all of the items, organizing this event and then putting together the kits.



**Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you[a] free from the law of sin and death.**

**Romans 8:1-2 NIV**

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## **OGT Lincoln**



Orphan Grain Train Lincoln gives thanks to their sponsors and volunteers for OGT Lincoln's first fundraising dinner and silent auction held May 28, 2026, at Robber's Cave in Lincoln, Nebraska. The sold-out, gala event was a fundraiser to support the mission of OGT Lincoln and to celebrate all that has been accomplished there in the Name of Christ. . Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make this event a success!

Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nation, I will be exalted in the earth.

Psalm 46:10

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Q U I L T

OF THE WEEK



**Quilt #29**

**Do you recognize this quilt?**

Every quilt has a story. Many beautiful and unique quilts are shared with Orphan Grain Train, but not their story. Quilts are sewn into the history of Orphan Grain Train. Quilts were

included on the first shipments to Latvia and Russia in 1993, and were given to children in orphanages.

**Orphan Grain Train accepts quilts and blankets in all sizes, year-round.**

All 27 Orphan Grain Train branches and collection centers receive donated quilts which are shipped by OGT to people in need both domestically and internationally.

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**Weekly Devotion**



**By Paul Leckband**

Orphan Grain Train, Director of Spiritual Correspondence

**Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance;**

**perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us. (Romans 5:1)**

Access: How many passwords do you use? I've lost track of how many I've used over the years. To name a couple: I have one password that allows me to use my debit card. Another password allows me to access the online edition of the Omaha World Herald. There are many more that I have a hard time keeping straight! I used to keep my passwords on a Post-it note under the keyboard of my computer. That's not a good strategy, and you won't find them there anymore. Our passwords allow us to access vital information. Without my password, I can't access the funds in my checking account. Thank goodness we don't need a password to access our faith. St. Paul writes, "We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand." And as we reflect on the celebration of Pentecost which we recently

observed, “God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us.” It’s like the Holy Spirit is our heavenly password. Maybe not the best analogy, but I’m grateful that the Holy Spirit—through water and the Word—makes our “peace with God” possible.

**We thank and praise You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.**



Orphan Grain Train, Inc. PO Box 1466 Norfolk, Nebraska 68702-1466

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