



Orphan Grain Train

Relief for Human Need Worldwide

Orphan Grain Train Convention 2026

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OGT Convention 2026



Ysleta Lutheran Mission Human Care (YLM) is a faith-based 501(c)3 non-profit and a Recognized Service Organization of the LCMS that provides relief and human care services while planting and nurturing missions along the US/Mexico border in the El Paso/Juárez region. Serving thousands of people each year, YLM began its work in 1982 and was formally incorporated in 2005, continuing to share Christ's love through both aid and ministry.

- <https://ylm.org/about-us/>

The enduring partnership between Ysleta Lutheran Mission Human Care (YLM) and Orphan Grain Train (OGT) continues to be a vital lifeline, extending mercy across the border and providing critical support to communities in need, particularly in Ciudad Juárez. This work is a testament to God's grace and mercy, tangibly shown through partnerships meant to bring both physical relief and the hope of the Gospel to vulnerable

neighbors. YLM has been the consistent recipient of a wide array of donations from OGT, including medical supplies and equipment, bicycles, clothing, and packaged “mercy meals.” These items are essential for partnering with mission churches and organizations that work directly within the underserved communities of Ciudad Juárez.

- <https://ylm.org/mercy-across-the-border/>

Karla Gonzalez, Director of Ysleta Lutheran Mission / Human Care in El Paso, Texas will be speaking at the opening of the 2026 Orphan Grain Train Convention on Friday, September 11. Mariachi San Pablo will be attending the 2026 OGT Convention and providing worship music on Friday and Saturday.

Mariachi San Pablo is an intergenerational music ministry of Ysleta Lutheran Mission’s Adelante Ministries in El Paso, Texas. Founded in 2001 by Rev. José Ruiz and Stephen

Heimer, the group began as a small outreach effort and has grown into a vibrant ensemble that includes musicians from both El Paso and Ciudad Juárez. As the only Lutheran mariachi in the world, Mariachi San Pablo blends traditional mariachi style with Christ-centered worship, sharing the Gospel through culturally rooted music. For more than two decades, they have traveled across the United States and Mexico, offering joyful, bilingual music that connects communities, cultures, and generations.

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 to sign up online
or print off the registration form and mail to:**

Orphan Grain Train

PO Box 1466

Norfolk, NE 68702-1466



Relief for Human Need Worldwide

ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN CONVENTION 2026

SEPTEMBER 11 & 12, 2026

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.

Norfolk LODGE
A SUTTER

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

Holiday Inn

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

Hampton Inn

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

Fairfield
BY MARRIOTT

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



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NORALL VISITOR INFORMATION

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



Volunteers Encourage and Bless Others! / OGT

Milbank





On Wednesday, August 19, 2026, Orphan Grain Train Milbank Collection Center was incredibly busy with 13 volunteers sorting and packing. Usually on Wednesdays, there are nine

to ten volunteers. To have thirteen was encouraging! Then on Friday, August 21, a group that cares for the kit making area worked for two hours. They put together six school kits, 14 teacher kits, 15 hygiene kits and 12 layette kits. What a blessing these servants of our Lord are!! Thank you, to all the volunteers who spent time at OGT Milbank this past week. Your presence matters to so many people!

Therefore, encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 NIV

Domestic Disaster Update / Western Nebraska



They are at it again! Another Orphan Grain Train fencing crew have made their way back to Hyannis to continue the work. Lead by DeWayne Erickson who is taking the group photo, Brian Oswald, Mic Onnen, Ralph Heine, Don Knapp, and Bill Masters stand in Bonnie Sutton's kitchen. Sutton has been preparing many of the meals for the crew members. For some of the men, this is a repeat trip. Thank you, men, for choosing to spend a few days in August fencing in Hyannis. Thank

you, donors for supporting OGT in this mission of restoration after the March 2026 wildfires burned close to a million acres in western Nebraska.

A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart.

Luke 6:45 NIV



Domestic Disaster Update / Las Vegas, New Mexico

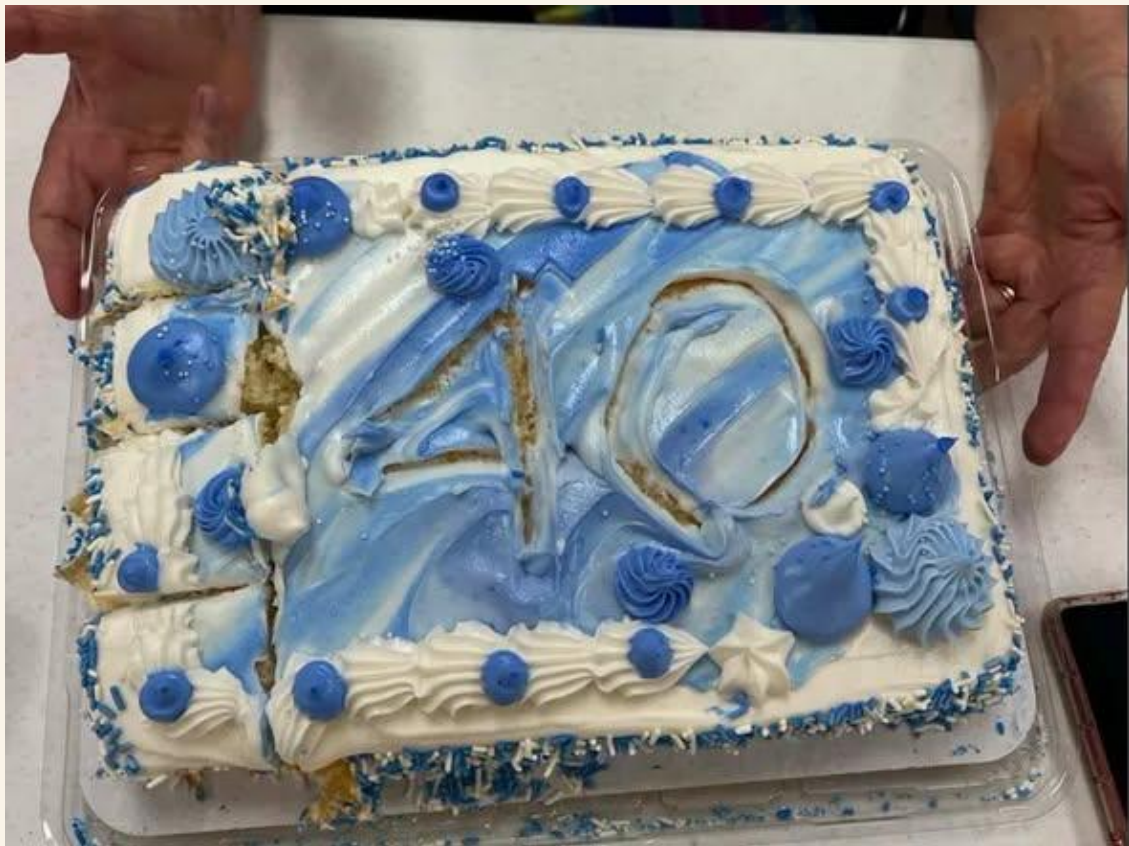


A second load of 34 bales of hay was delivered to Las Vegas, New Mexico today, Wednesday, August 26, 2026. Thank you, Damon Thomas for donating this load! Thank you, Lowell for

another load well delivered. Thank you, Janna Lopez, from Neighbors Helping Neighbors for all that you did in organizing the logistics for this distribution. New Mexico is facing urgent needs due to the long-term recovery from the 2022 Hermit's Peak–Calf Canyon wildfire, ongoing water infrastructure damage, and the continued impact of post-fire flooding and drought. Ranchers there are needing hay for their livestock.

The righteous care for the needs of their animals, but the kindest acts of the wicked are cruel.”

Proverbs 12:10 NIV



This is the group of volunteers from Orphan Grain Train packing station in Plover, Wisconsin. The cake is in

celebration of the groups' packing 40,000 boxes in the past 11 years. In addition to those 40,000 boxes, there have been medical supplies, children's large toys, and other household items that either won't fit in a box or need to be shared unboxed. The Plover group shares these items with Orphan Grain Train Wisconsin in Westfield who then ships them either domestically or internationally. Thank you, Plover, Wisconsin volunteers for your persistence and determination that started with a few boxes and grew into 40,000!

Blessed are those whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the law of the Lord. Blessed are those who keep his statutes and seek him with all their heart— they do no wrong but follow his ways.

Psalm 119:1-3

OGT Central Iowa / Republic of Georgia



Orphan Grain Train Central Iowa's container to Republic of Georgia arrived safely and was received with great joy by its recipients. The container held over 300 boxes of linens and blankets, school, teacher, hygiene and layette kits, and clothing for men, women and children. In addition, there were many medical supplies and medical equipment included on

this delivery. Thank you, Central Iowa volunteers for all you do to make these shipments happen.



OF THE WEEK



Quilt #41

Every Quilt Has a Story

This quilt was pieced together by Jan Hadenfeldt of Christ Lutheran Church in Cairo, Nebraska. The pieces of the quilt were already cut when Jan found them in the bin while she was volunteering at Orphan Grain Train Grand Island.

According to Nanna Wieck of OGT Grand Island, donated material is often set aside for quilters. "The cut pieces for this quilt were all new from a project that never was pieced together."

Thank you, Jan for piecing this together and finishing what was started by someone else. Thank you, Nanna for sending this to OGT for the auction.

It is one of many amazing quilts that will be available for bidding at the Orphan Grain Train National Convention auction September 11, 2026.

There is still time to register and attend

the convention. Go to ogt.org and click on the orange "Orphan Grain Train Convention 2026" tab to sign up.

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.

OGT Adopt-an-Orphanage

Did you know that Orphan Grain Train has expanded its Adopt-an-Orphanage Ministry into Ukraine?

We are currently supporting 10 orphanages & other institutions in Berezivka, Deneshi, Kmitiv, Korosten, Korostishiv, Nadiya/Moskrets, Nova Borova, Pugachivka, Teterivka, Volyn, & Zhytomry.

As you can imagine, all of these places are suffering severe distress due to the ongoing war with Russia. The support we give to our mission partners in Ukraine

**enables them to deliver humanitarian aid
and provide Gospel outreach.**

**If you would like information about how
to support our Adopt-an-Orphanage**

Ministry in Ukraine, email Paul

Leckband: pleckband@ogt.org.

Weekly Devotion



By Paul Leckband

Orphan Grain Train

Director of Spiritual Correspondence

“Am I only a God nearby,” declares the Lord, “and not a God far away? Can anyone hide in secret places so that I cannot see him?” declares the Lord. “Do not I fill heaven and earth?” declares the Lord. “I have heard what the prophets say who prophesy in My name. They say, ‘I had a dream! I had a dream!’ How long will this continue on the hearts of these lying prophets, who prophesy the

delusions of their own minds? They think the dreams they tell one another will make My people forget My name, just as their fathers forgot My name through Baal worship. Let the prophet who has a dream tell his dream, but let the one who has My word speak it faithfully. For what has straw have to do with grain?” declares the Lord. “Is not My word like fire,” declares the Lord, “and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?”

Jeremiah 23:23-29

Baal: When God’s people entered Canaan, the Promised Land, they encountered the worship of Baal, “a Canaanite and Phoenician deity and the son of the chief god El. In artistic depictions and archaeological finds, Baal took the shape of a bull or ram and had association with fertility.”

[Source: christianity.com] **Why did the Canaanites worship Baal?** He “was believed to enable the earth to produce crops and people to produce children.” [Source: bing.com]

God warned His people repeatedly not to have anything to do with Baal, his worship, his false prophets. His people repeatedly succumbed to temptation anyway, were guilty of idol worship, and suffered God's wrath as a consequence. They should have known better, right? So, what happened?

They turned away from God's Word and followed false prophets. We face temptations to chase after other gods today, too, even if they don't take the form of bulls and rams. We face temptations to heed the words of false prophets. God warns us about these false prophets in this week's reading. Those who preach the false doctrine of the prosperity gospel come to mind, but there are many others. God's true prophet, Jeremiah, speaking God's words, says, "Let the prophet who has a dream tell his dream, but let the one who has My word speak it faithfully . . . Is not My word like a fire . . . and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?" We are to constantly to test the truthfulness of any prophet against the truth—the only source of truth—Holy

Scripture.

Save us from false gods and false prophets, O Lord. Instead, may we always hold fast to the truth of forgiveness and salvation, found only in Your Word and through Your Son Jesus, our Savior and Redeemer. We pray in His name. Amen.



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

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