



**Relief for Human Need Worldwide**

**NORTH DAKOTA BRANCH**

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**Jamestown, ND 58402-1546**

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**Oct/Nov/Dec 2017 QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER**

### **BABY COMING!!! NEW CONTACTS**

Elissa will be stepping away for a bit this winter. She will be welcoming her 4<sup>th</sup> child come early Dec. Here is a list people to contact instead of her:

**Presentations/Events-** Kirk Rosin, Carmen Larson

**Volunteering/Drop Offs** - Carmen Larson

**Shipments** - Andrea Eckstein, Kirk Rosin

**Treasurer/Financial** - Sue Corwin

**Questionable Donations/Relief Efforts-** Kirk Rosin, Andrea Eckstein

**Kirk Rosin (acting Branch Manager)**

701-361-6441 | [krosin@juno.com](mailto:krosin@juno.com)

**Andrea Eckstein (Mercy Meals)**

701-658-9057 | [andrea.eckstein100@gmail.com](mailto:andrea.eckstein100@gmail.com)

**Carmen Larson (Warehouse Manager)**

701-269-6555 | [kclarson@daktel.com](mailto:kclarson@daktel.com) \*after 3:15p

**Sue Corwin (Treasurer)**

701-320-3259 | [scorwin@csicable.net](mailto:scorwin@csicable.net)

### **Double Your Donation for Hurricane Harvey, Irma & Maria Relief**

Once again Thrivent Financial will double your contribution for Orphan Grain Train through



Thrivent's website. You can make a personal donation on [Thrivent.com](http://Thrivent.com) for OGT to provide assistance to hurricane victims. When you do, Thrivent will double the impact - up to \$3 million. This opportunity will run until the \$3 million match is met or until December 31, 2017, whichever comes first. Go to [Thrivent.com](http://Thrivent.com) to learn more about Thrivent's disaster response or click [here](#) to make your online donation. To be eligible for the Thrivent match, all donations must be made online through Thrivent's website.

### **HARVEY RELIEF UPDATE**

The items collected by the Jamestown Branch **left the warehouse Oct 10<sup>th</sup>**! The note below is the most recent update from the main office in Norfolk, NE:

#### **TEXAS:**

The requests OGT has been receiving for assistance in Texas is for tools and building materials for rebuilding homes. OGT recently purchased \$40,000.00 worth of drywall, 5 truckloads, 2 of which will be shipped on Friday, October 13 to the Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Houston for reconstruction of homes. This is just the start of a large commitment to Houston and the Texas coastal region of Rockport and Victoria for restoration and rebuilding of homes destroyed by Hurricane

Harvey. On October 30 we will be moving two of our bedroom units (each unit houses 18-20 beds) to the Gloria Dei Lutheran Church for volunteers to sleep in while using the Gloria Dei facility for meals and showers. We will also send a container that will store tools for volunteers to access. We plan to be there for the long term and this is just the beginning of our commitment to help with disaster relief of Hurricane Harvey.

#### **FLORIDA:**

Now for Hurricane Irma which destroyed portions of Florida, OGT is planning to send volunteer village units to the Fort Myers area as well as containers of supplies for the rebuilding process. We are looking at options for the village to be in a key location with the ability to obtain proper permits. Orphan Grain Train was stationed and assisted victims of Hurricane Katrina for 5 years and we plan to be a part of the rebuilding of homes destroyed by Hurricane Harvey, Irma and Maria for the long term.

#### **PUERTO RICO:**

Orphan Grain Train is doing what we can to assist Puerto Rico with the much needed aid after being devastated by Hurricane Maria. The main issue is that only one port is accessible for humanitarian aid and then beyond that the infrastructure has been devastated. The roads out of San Juan are 60% inaccessible and there is lack of vehicles available to transport the shipping containers. At this time about 20% of the electrical power is restored which also includes the communication lines and internet so attempting to establish a recipient that is able to accept cargo is a challenge. OGT is working daily to see how we can get aid to the devastated and hurting children and families of Puerto Rico.

### **HOW YOU CAN HELP**

**1. VOLUNTEER: Assemble a work crew to travel down to rebuild.** Contact Kirk Rosin if you have any interest in taking a team down there. 701-361-6441. The goal was for the Texas villages to be approved and open by the end of October. Churches were hit hard as well as homes. For example in Texas, within the LCMS alone there were 204 congregations affected by this. 126 have severe damage. Pastors and parishioners alike have been affected. There will be lots of rebuilding to be done over the next couple years. Do you have skills that could be of use down there? There will also be a great need for listeners who can help mend hearts as well. Disasters affect the whole person- their heart and mind are a big part of it. Just taking time to hear their stories is a huge ministry.

**2. COLLECT:** We have a generic list at this moment of items that have always been helpful when it comes to cleaning up after a disaster. **Priorities are :** **new underwear and socks, tennis shoes, diapers, formula, non-perishable food, large heavy trash bags, brooms, 5 gallon buckets, dust masks, safety glasses, work gloves, tarps, pry bars (for removing sheetrock), square shovels, wheelbarrows, pressure washers (gas), gas powered generators**

**3. GIVE:** Once the volunteer villages are set up and containers in place, we plan to use the money donated to purchase items down there for rebuilding. **Be sure to designate "Disaster Relief" on your donations.** These can be mailed or given online at [ogt.org/help/donate.html](http://ogt.org/help/donate.html)

**4. PRAY:** Prayers for ourselves so that we don't forget them. Asking God to show us how He is in control amidst these storms- how He can still work good amidst chaos and disaster. Ask Him what we can learn from it. And most importantly for His comfort and care for those who are affected. May He spur us to help and be answers to their prayers!!

### CHANGING LIVES IN LIBERIA

To all of who who have waded through books, books and more books- **THANK YOU!** We got to hear first hand at the recent 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary convention from our recipient in Liberia how much of an impact those books are making in the lives of the children there. We are changing the culture over there first hand. For so long books were so scarce. Now this summer thanks to the efforts of so many- each child was able to take one home with them for the summer. Over 3500 kids! This Fall they have 5000 students! They were each given a book and an assignment to swap books with 5 other kids in the hopes that they would be able to read 5 books this summer!



Also the Pastors in Liberia are being affected too! We were able to send them bibles and catechisms and other bible reference books. We got to hear a recorded video message from one of the Pastors over there- you could visibly see how much those resources meant to him and others. They for the first time have solid resources to teach the good news of Jesus Christ with! Kirk and Elissa got to sit down with Joe personally and ask what items are most usefully to them. Here is the list:

### LIST FOR LIBERIA

*Bibles & Catechisms*

*Desks, chairs, Tables like 6'-8' tables - anything that can have chairs set around it to use as a desk*

*Teacher desks*

*Chalkboards + Chalk - In the end he is looking for a total of 70 long boards. And lots of chalk. Chalk is very valuable. White boards are not good. The markers dry out too fast there.*

*Teacher record books*

*Mercy Meals- they have enough to get them 2 meals per week per kid until Jan/Feb*

*Backpacks/Totes - girls like totes. Boys like and need the backpack because of how active they are*

*Pens, pencils, educational posters, crayons, erasers, sharpeners, rulers, lined paper, notebooks*

*Encyclopedias- he will start sending random ones even home with the kids to teach them how to ask questions and find answers. They are like old school internet.*

*Children's Library Books*

*Hygiene Kits- they really, REALLY like these (they have a whole new appreciation for cleanliness after the Ebola crisis)*

*Feminine Kits- when girls get to the age of menstruation, they tend to drop out of school because they have no way of dealing with it. Even though this are elementary schools, some 13-15yr olds are in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Joe said even if we hand these out, the girls will give some to their friends as well. So they will get to the girls that need them. **To assemble any of the Kits - you can find instructions at this website:***

[www.ogt.org/help/projects/](http://www.ogt.org/help/projects/)

*Plastic bowls, plastic cups, Silverware metal- these are needed at the schools. The kids lose their parent's and then they come to school with no bowl for lunch, so they can't eat.*

*Children's Tennis Shoes- young and old*

*Pastor literature, Sunday School and VBS material*

*Church Banners and Church furniture- like an altar.*

*The one we sent was a big hit!!*

All the books in the warehouse are packed up and we have lots of Mercy Meals. We are preparing the paperwork for a shipment there. The plan is for end of November. Keep this in your prayers!!! The plan is that it will arrive early next year- January- after their election season and hopes that it will be calmer then.

### PRAYERS

Prayers for the volunteer crew as they take over what Elissa has been doing. For the upcoming shipment for Liberia. For more help to come that can assist Andrea in the back part of the warehouse. For Liberia as they go through their election. For the students as they learn. For those in our communities that have needs. For God to show us how to show His love by using what he has given us. For the other 24 branches/collection centers throughout the United States- for all the volunteer leadership in those places- that they may not be discouraged but have hope through all the trials that come in serving as a volunteer.

## Mercy Meals of North Dakota

Since our last newsletter article, we've had a few more packing events. Here is a list of the events and what we've accomplished so far this year:

1/28/2017

St. Johns LYF, McClusky  
3,230 meals/ 14 volunteers

2/1/2017

Zion Lutheran Church/MLS, Bismarck  
16,200 meals / 135/21 volunteers

3/25/2017

St. Mark's Lutheran, Minot  
12,960 meals/ 142 volunteers

4/25/2017

Marion-Litchville High School  
13,829 meals/ 40 volunteers

5/10/2017

Grace Point Church, Bismarck  
26,089 meals/ 200 volunteers

7/28/2017

Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, Minot  
4,968 meals/ 35 volunteers

9/9/2017

Litchville Community Center, Litchville  
17,712 meals/ 60 volunteers

9/16/2017

ND LWML Retreat, Carrington  
5,352 meals / 38 volunteers

9/23/2017

Zion Lutheran Church, Ellendale  
5,016 meals / 18 volunteers

As you can see, September has been busy. Each one of these packing events represents a day full of blessings! It brings me so much joy to be part of the Mercy Meals mission. With all of this packing, we now have 12 pallets full, or 792 boxes of meals ready for shipment. And with two more packing events coming in the near future, we will be able to increase that number before the end of November. Joe Boway, of the Liberian Children's Ministry, has told us that he wants as many boxes of Mercy Meals as we can send, so our goal is to keep adding to the total until we are ready to ship. We are hoping to be able to prepare a shipment to send to Liberia before the end of the year. These meals are used for their school lunch program for the 13 schools! They are such a blessing to those kids!!

Two new changes at Mercy Meals have been making some excitement for us:

Thanks to the generous gift from the ND LLL, we have recently been able to purchase some new equipment. With the added equipment, we will be able to run 3 assembly lines simultaneously which will help us to accommodate larger groups and improve our production.

We are also considering a new method for obtaining our product in larger quantities with less frequent shipments. There are some advantages to this new method, but we need to be sure we have adequate

storage and pest control before we commit to the new system. Please keep these concerns in your prayers as we think about doing what is best.



**Crew that packed in Ellendale**

If you have an interest in inviting Mercy Meals to come to your church or community group for a speaking engagement or a packing event, you can contact Andrea Eckstein at [andrea.eckstein100@gmail.com](mailto:andrea.eckstein100@gmail.com) or call 701-658-9057 for more information.

**Kids writing notes to include with the meals at the Litchville packing event.**



As always, thank you to all of you who have supported us with your prayers and monetary gifts. May God continue to bless our endeavors as we seek to serve others through this mission outreach.

The generous will themselves be blessed for they share their food with the poor.

Proverbs 22:9

In Christ,

Andrea Eckstein

Mercy Meals of North Dakota

For more information visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/MercyMealsofNorthDakota/>



**P.S. They have had a couple sealers break down now. If you'd like to give toward new ones that would be much appreciated!! Then they can continue with more than one line while packing!**



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**North Dakota Branch  
PO Box 1546  
Jamestown, ND 58402-1546**

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### **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. Sometimes that character expresses itself as a word well spoken, sometimes as a bandage well applied, and sometimes as a child well fed.

### **What is Orphan Grain Train?**

Orphan Grain Train is a Christian volunteer network that shares personal and material resources with needy people in America and around the world. 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.

**Visit [www.ogt.org/nd](http://www.ogt.org/nd)**

### **ND Branch Warehouse**

103 4<sup>th</sup> Ave SE

Jamestown, ND 58401

**Open**

Mondays and Saturdays 9am-12noon

**CLOSED OVER THE THANKSGIVING  
WEEKEND**

**Check the website for Christmas/New Year  
openings/closings.**

