

GLEANINGS

North Okanagan Valley Gleaners Society

Aid to Ukraine

On April 4 and 5 we shipped two 40 ft containers to Ukraine for The Master's Foundation. One contained clothing and soup mix and the other, all soup. In total 2,529,600 servings of food were sent.

The following was written by Stan Walrich in the most recent newsletter of The Master's Foundation.

Just a brief month ago I was on a flight returning from Ukraine. I was somewhat weary, exhausted due to the meetings, visiting Livchisti orphanage, extensive travel and numerous errands that needed to be taken care of. I also met and spoke with several of our workers/pastors who are distributing clothing and the dried soup mix we sent earlier. My heart was heavy with concern as I reminisced over their stories, all very similar. The conditions brought on by the war in Eastern Ukraine continue to intensify having serious ramifications on the whole country, affecting all; from adults to children, with children being affected the most. The needs in the ATO zone are tremendous and according to Social Services, the needs outside the zone are just as great, if not greater.

.... next page

Note: ATO = Anti-Terrorist Operation Zone, the regions of Donetsk and Luhansk under Russian control, as well as Crimea, shown in red



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Notes

Dates to Remember

The plant will be closed on Victoria Day, Monday, May 22nd.

Our AGM will be held on Saturday, May 27th, at our Lavington plant. The plant will be operating 8:00-11:30. Everyone is welcome to volunteer or tour. Lunch at 12:00. Meeting at 1:00.

Expansion Projects

Over the past few months an addition has been added to the lunchroom at the plant, to increase our seating capacity. This also gave us the opportunity to increase two storage areas. An expansion into the third unit of our store building is also underway, boosting our capacity.



*Volunteers Serving God by
 Serving the Poor*
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(250) 558-5872 plant / 549-1123 store

Produce Comes In, Soup Goes Out

It is amazing how God provides!

The Ukraine story in this newsletter is one example and we have our own too. Last week we were expecting to get about 2,000 lbs of potatoes and expecting that to be the last of the season. But we got 10 times that amount in two truckloads!

Last Thursday I was planning to send out a message that Friday or the following Monday we would shut down production, as we would be out of produce. Then came the potatoes. But even more amazing was a phone call that came in after everyone else had left for the day.

The Central Okanagan Food Bank had received a very large amount of fresh produce from a closing business. They couldn't possibly use it all and couldn't store it for more than a few days.

I quickly accepted all that they had to offer and made arrangements that we would send them fresh root vegetables later in the year when we have abundant supplies. With this agreement made, I arranged for the produce to be trucked to our plant on Monday. We received 20 pallets with 17,400 lbs of fresh and very useable vegetables.

This week our volunteers have been very busy processing these vegetables and filling our dryers. As I told them, "No layoff notices!"

As of this week we have taken in over 418,000 lbs of vegetables for the year. — Harold Sellers 🌍

Production Manager

Unfortunately Brian Unrau has left as our Production Manager to accept a job up north. He is missed and we are looking for a new Production Manager. If you know of an enthusiastic individual who would find a job at our plant to be a good fit, have him/her contact us. 🌍

Ukraine continued...

The stress on individuals and families, the dire straits of the elderly, the orphans, the children and the homeless is impossible to articulate, but it is very real! The basic needs of shelter, safety and food simply do not exist for hundreds of thousands.

My heart cried as I contemplated on how I could effectively put this need before our suppliers and faithful partners. Although the temperatures had warmed, there were so many people needing clothing, plus so many needing a meal. I thought I would approach North Okanagan Gleaners when I returned to the office. Hopefully they would consent to supply another container of soup mix as they had in the past.

Can you imagine my surprise? Shock is a better word! When I opened my email here's what it said...

Hello Stan:

Thank you for the Winter update letter that we received recently. Would you like another container of soup mix from us? We have lots on hand at present and would be very happy to see another container go to Ukraine. As well, we have over 200 boxes of new, knitted, toques, scarves, mitts, blankets, etc and many new winter coats. We'd be happy to supply those to you. Blessings, Harold Sellers, North Okanagan Valley Gleaners

I was overwhelmed! God answered before I could even ask Him. I was hoping for 1 container, but God arranged for 2 and with exactly what was needed! *"I will answer them before they even call to me. While they are still talking about their needs, I will go ahead and answer their prayers!"* Isaiah 65:24 (NLT) 🌍

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