

BOARD REPORT

When production was started just over 2 years ago, a steady supply of produce and a need for daily volunteers were some of the big questions facing us. And the Lord provided plenty of both: produce and volunteers. In the spring of 2020, when production had to be limited due to Covid, we wondered if we would have to sit idle, and when production resumed, how many volunteers would be able and willing to resume the processing, yet our production ended up over 20% from the year before, even with a limit being placed on our daily volunteer numbers!

When we built the NCG facility, it was planned with lots of floor space for long term growth. What a blessing that has turned out to be, since we had the space to maintain "social distancing" while still being able to do our work. In December, the board had to respond to the fact that our current produce drier was maxed out, running 120 hours a week. Our volunteers kept pressing us with, "We want to do more," "The need is so great," "When will we expand" and "Let us not limit our service because..." In response, the board requested donations of \$300,000 for a second dryer, which was quickly raised, and the drier was ordered. The second dryer is expected to be operational by Mid April, with the footings for it already in place (it will be installed outside to keep our floor space maximized.)

We were able to keep our expenses for 2020 well within budget, with our income exceeding all our expenses. We are so thankful for the provisions of the past year, for our food producers, our financial supporters, our volunteers, our mission partners in distribution and our committees. The Lord has used us all to further the work of His kingdom. He deserves all the praise!

Arthur Struyk
Chairman

NCG 2020 FINANCIALS AND 2021 BUDGET

	2020 Budget	2020 Actual	2021 Budget
Income	to nearest \$1,000	unaudited	
43000 · Donations	\$400,000	\$649,000	\$368,000
Total	\$400,000	\$339,000	\$368,000
Operating Expenses			
60000 · Advertising and Promotion	\$35,000	\$4,700	\$35,000
Office, Insurance, Professional fees	\$24,000	\$19,400	\$17,300
66010 · Salary and Employment Costs	\$120,000	\$104,200	\$123,500
Packaging, Supplies, Maintenance	\$90,000	\$84,000	\$83,000
Contracted Services, Freight	\$20,000	\$4,000	\$4,500
68000 · Taxes - Property	\$25,000	\$25,200	\$26,000
Telephone, Travel, Training	\$5,000	\$5,900	\$4,900
Utilities	\$54,000	\$48,500	\$66,500
Miscellaneous	\$27,000	\$0	\$23,300
Operations Total	\$400,000	\$295,900	\$384,000

Capital Drier #2 Campaign (Not Budgeted) 2020-2021
Income \$310,000

From the FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

At this time of year we are usually bustling around preparing for our Fundraising dinner. With the current situation with Covid-19 and restrictions, we have decided it would be best to cancel our dinners again for this year. It doesn't seem likely that in 6 weeks we would be able to host an event with 350 people sitting down to dinner together, two nights in a row.

Therefore we humbly request your continued support both in prayer and financially. We have received an amazing response to raise the funds for the new dryer. But the ongoing costs to run NCG are a reality and we covet your support.

PRE-AUTHORIZED DEBIT FORM FOR NIAGARA CHRISTIAN GLEANERS

Name _____ Address _____ City _____

Prov _____ Postal Code _____ Phone (____) _____ Email _____

Donation Information: Monthly Donation Pledge: \$ _____ Donation taken each 15th day starting _____

Authorization: I/we hereby authorize you to debit my/our account each month in the amount shown above and for such amount to be payable to Niagara Christian Gleaners. Your treatment of each payment shall be the same as if I/we had personally issued a cheque authorizing you to pay as indicated and to debit my/our account accordingly. This authorization may be cancelled at any time upon written notice by me/us.

Date _____ Authorized Signatory _____ **Please include a void cheque along with your form.



MARCH 2021

NEWSLETTER

PETE'S PEN

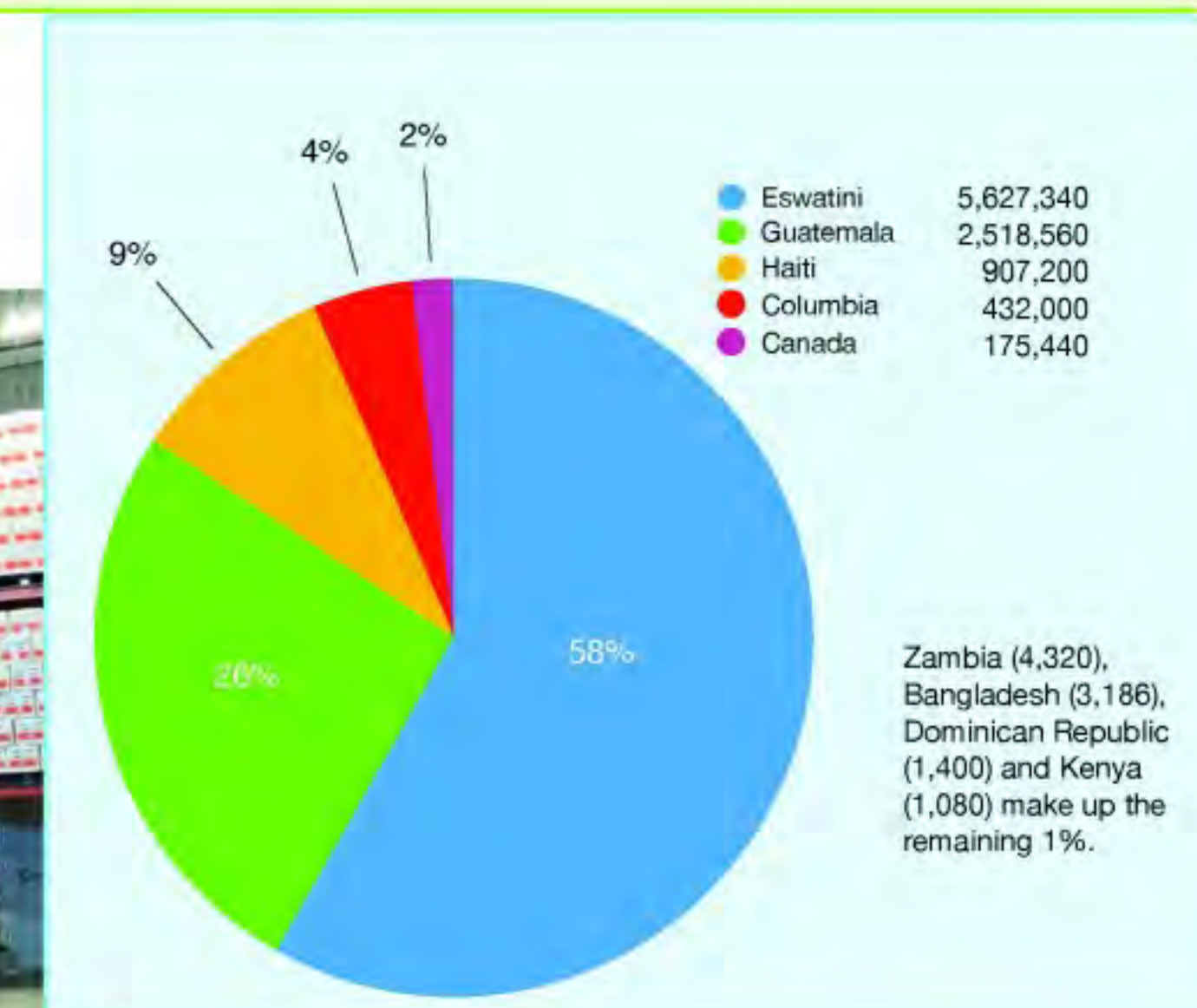
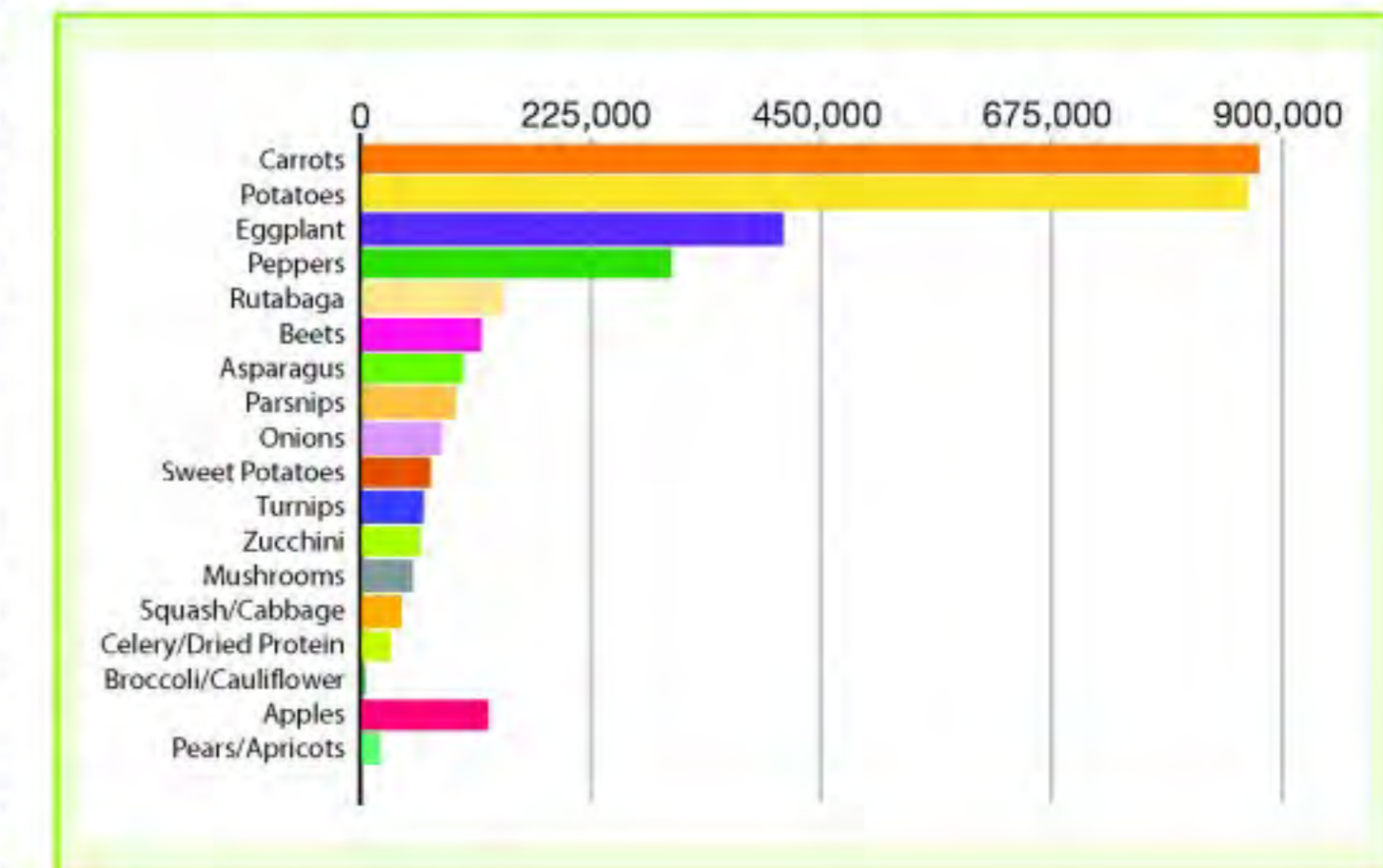


The mission of Niagara Christian Gleaners (NCG) seems to be an ever evolving story.

Without question we are being prompted to do all that we can to love our neighbours in the best ways possible and to do it in Christ's name. We've been blessed beyond words as an organization and our next steps are built on foundational strengths that only God is allowing. With the 2nd dryer project moving forward we anticipate increased food production and availability. This ultimately translates into more food aid for those who need it most - which is at the heart of our mission.

Our fall and winter production has not slowed down. Our food donor partners have blessed us with some amazing produce to work with and we have not experienced any food supply shortages. As our network of suppliers grows and matures it becomes somewhat easier to source produce that works best for our processes. Although we have only been in production for just over 2 years some of the numbers are both interesting and impressive.

Our incoming produce averages over 30,000 lbs per week and we are preparing over 90,000 servings a week as a result. To date we have prepared over 10 million servings and blessed 21 organizations in 9 different countries, including Canada. The following charts (graphs) provide some more detail that you may find interesting.



We've been concentrating on a few projects ahead of the new dryer arrival. Just recently we installed a pallet racking system in our warehouse to store our dried food products prior to shipping. This simple, but important solution, frees up valuable working space for our volunteers on the plant floor.

A typical morning can



be a bit chaotic with the different tasks being performed in some tight confines. We've also twinned our packaging line to handle more bags in a morning

if necessary. This includes a 2nd bag sealing machine for the extra food as well as a spare machine in case of breakdowns. Our current machine has sealed nearly 400,000 bags with no issues but we are not anticipating that to be true forever. We have also added an automatic box sealer which tapes our boxes of food closed both effortlessly and with consistent results. Special thanks to those tireless volunteers who have hand taped nearly 20,000 cases over the past 2 years - your job is done!

Hopefully our next newsletter highlights the commissioning of Dryer #2 at NCG. This will be another milestone step in the evolving story of NCG. As with any story there is always a theme. The theme behind NCG's story is how great our God is. We're humbled that He sees fit to include us in this important work and we give Him all glory and praise.

Blessings to you all, PW

CRYING THE BLUES..... WALKING IN THE LIGHT

The past year has been a time of testing for the whole world. It has been a time of testing for rulers, politicians, business owners, house wives, children, workers, and most every person living on this planet. It is interesting to observe the variety of ways that people are handling the challenges the Covid 19 pandemic has thrust upon them. I have little interest in repeating the continuous news cycle and opinions of the day in this regard. But, if you are a Bible believer, you will know that this pandemic has been visited upon the earth for positive reasons. One purpose is to be a litmus test of who we really are, and also to show what we are made of. It is a test to see how firm the foundation is that you have built your house on. It is an opportunity to see how the Light that you have been given will shine in the darkness.

How have you dealt with the questions raised in your mind over this past year? You have observed the response of your leaders, your fellow workers, and your neighbours in reaction to the pandemic, and have seen evidence of their strengths and weaknesses exposed for all to see. What have your neighbours seen in your response to the challenges of the past year? How have you dealt with the strengths and weaknesses that were exposed in your life! We can trust and know that this opportunity has been given to help us grow in faith, hope and love through the fruits of the Spirit. We also know this pandemic will be used to bring many more people to know Him.

As representatives of the Niagara Christian Gleaners, both individually and as a body, we are thankful for this opportunity to be a light in this dark world, and to help show the way to the Light, our Lord Jesus Christ. That is the ultimate goal we have in "sharing from our abundance with those in need."

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." Matt. 5:14, 16

"God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. If we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin." 1 John 1:5,7

CHEERFUL CHOPPERS • VOLUNTEER PROFILES

INTERVIEW WITH SANDY HILTON & WENDY HOLLINSHEAD



Sandy Hilton (left) & Wendy Hollinshead (right)

What do two good friends, one retired and one semi-retired, do when they want to volunteer somewhere but there's a pandemic going on and there are restrictions to where you can volunteer? You head over to the Niagara Christian Gleaners every Friday morning, of course! Sandy Hilton and Wendy Hollinshead are this month's highlighted Cheerful Choppers (well, actually, one for this edition and one for the next edition of the Gleaners newsletter). Due to limited space, we wanted room for both of their full interviews. Thanks ladies for taking time to answer emails and texts for this interview! This month we will hear about Sandy's involvement with the NCG. Thank you Sandy for your time and dedication to the Gleaners!

How did you first learn of NCG? When/how did you decide you would like to become a regular volunteer there?

Sandy: My friend Wendy told me about NCG and gave me

an article from the Grimsby News well over a year ago. I thought it would be a great volunteering opportunity but didn't get here until October of 2020. It was difficult to find places to volunteer with Covid restrictions, so I was pleased to learn that NCG was an essential service and was allowed to operate.

What do you do at The Gleaners and what do you like best about volunteering there?

Sandy: I work in the cutting room; I enjoy chopping and trimming most veggies but found taking the wax off the big bulky rutabagas the trickiest! Being part of the team and the "synergy" that is produced with busy hands and grateful hearts is what I like best about being there. I enjoy the conversations that are taking place as we work and at coffee time. I have met some people at NCG previously, so it is nice to see familiar faces continuing to reach out and serve. The atmosphere is positive and cheerful; everyone wants to work hard as a team and I have found everyone friendly and helpful. I feel blessed to be part of an organization that is able to distribute food to those less fortunate. It feels like we are part of the solution, taking action where everyone's effort counts, and is appreciated. It is truly better to give than receive.

What do you notice/learn the most when talking to other volunteers at NCG? How is the leadership team doing in their roles, in your opinion?

Sandy: As others share their volunteer experiences, whether it be at NCG, their church or other organizations, I am reminded of the enormous need that is all around us. Sadly, poverty is everywhere and it is comforting to know that NCG supplies food to groups within Canada as well as developing countries. As for the leadership at NCG, I think Pete is the right person for the job! He has the unique ability to motivate and encourage while making the work seem like fun. I hear him saying, "Don't overthink it!", and smile while thinking, "That has never been a problem for me!". Pete is able to combine his great sense of humour with a genuine sincerity which is displayed through the sharing of Scripture and prayer.

Tell us a little about yourself- If you like, include family life, work, hobbies, etc.

Sandy: My husband, Frank, is retired and we live in Beamsville with our springer spaniels, Lacey and Maddy. I am presently in the process of semi-retiring from my Income Tax Preparation service in St. Catharines. We enjoy travelling and spending time outdoors. With Spring just around the corner, we look forward to getting busy with our yard work.