



FALL 2024

NEWSLETTER



PETE'S PEN

The changing seasons are something we are acutely aware of at Niagara Christian Gleaners for a number of reasons. Most noticeable may be the makeup of our volunteers. We are blessed to have an influx of younger volunteers who lend a hand during the summer months.

Understandably, these volunteers have headed back to school to resume their studies. We love all our volunteers, and many come to the Gleaners faithfully. We are thankful for those people who come multiple times in a week and for others who may have tagged a particular day of the week as their "Gleaner Day." Either way, we are thankful for all our volunteers, each who are valued for the contribution they make to this amazing ministry. Our volunteers have a lot of "skin in the game" at NCG. We love hearing about their experience at the Gleaners. In fact, our Promotions Team has been encouraging them to write a brief note on what serving at the Gleaners means to them.

In future newsletters they hope to share some under the caption **"VOLUNTEER VOICES."** I've read a few submissions already, and it warms my heart when I read things like: *"I started nearly 4 years ago. I like knowing that together we can help people across the world. People at the Gleaners accept me as I am and help me to grow. They are my family."* and *"I began serving at the Gleaners in August 2021. I love the social interaction, and I like knowing that the work we do blesses others."*

If you haven't come to check us out for yourself, I encourage you to stop by on a weekday morning and get a glimpse of what the Lord

is doing through NCG. We would love to show you around and share a coffee with you.

The availability of produce changes with the seasons as well. It's harvest time for most of the Ontario fruit and vegetable growers. It is nice to receive and work with good quality, fresh produce. Receiving a greater variety of produce types, available only during the fall season, helps us deliver more diversified loads of dehydrated food aid when the time comes for shipping. On that note, we have been able to share an extraordinary amount of food aid over the last number of months. NCG has been able to send out nearly 11 million servings of food

aid so far this year! Some of the hard-pressed countries who have received our nutritious food aid this year are Chad, Cuba, Eswatini, Guatemala, Haiti, Poland, Romania, and Ukraine. We are thankful for our faithful Christian distribution partners in these countries who ensure that the food is received by those who struggle the most with food security. We are also thankful for some local food banks in our own Niagara Region who have been able to share our products. Our partners have been generous with our food, which is nutrition for a hungry body, all the while being generous with

the gospel message, which is food for a hungry soul. Our work at the Gleaners will not be done until the Lord returns and completes his work of restoration. Until then, we are called to have the right spirit as we seek to be a conduit of mercy in a hurting, hungry world. May we heed the instruction given to us in Colossians 3, *"Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness and patience."*

PW



FARM TO FAMINE THANKSGIVING WEEKEND



HELP 'GLEAN' THE APPLE ORCHARD CLEAN!

Tall Post Craft Cider in Hamilton has a surplus of apples coming up in their orchards and they want them to go to Niagara Christian Gleaners. That's why we need your help. Come out and give back by helping pick the apples. Families are welcome for this free fun-filled event rain or shine. Help out for the day or a couple hours.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 12, 9AM-NOON
DRINKS AND SNACKS WILL BE AVAILABLE

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT AARON POST

905-351-7611

tallpostcraftcider@gmail.com

DEDICATED DONOR

STREEF PRODUCE LTD.



For over 5 years, Streef Produce Ltd. has donated an abundant amount of surplus vegetables to Niagara Christian Gleaners. If their produce doesn't have a "home" to go to, a quick call to NCG will make sure it's got one! Streef Produce, located in Princeton, Oxford County (in the heart of Ontario) is our featured Dedicated Donor.

Streef Produce started out as a family business 40 years ago with approximately 7 acres and has grown to over 2,400 acres featuring "crops our customers need when they need them." They not only grow their own vegetables, but they have built a strong relationship with other farmers in the area. Their focus is "local Ontario-grown produce, as much as possible." Another large aspect of the business is importing from farms in other parts of North America. You know they have grown when their facilities can store up to 12 million potatoes in a climate-controlled environment!

According to Nathan Streef, not only does NCG benefit from "about a 2% waste" but so does the Ontario Christian Gleaners and Mission to Haiti. Nathan explained that the company used to send crates and crates of sweet potatoes to NCG, but as a market for this product grew, to the demand for items such as sweet potato fries, the donations dropped quite a bit. "But," Nathan says, "when we do have an abundance

of any of our vegetables that we need to move quickly, I just make a call to Pete and ask if he can take it."

When asked what has partnering with NCG meant to their company, Nathan says they love knowing that the product is going to someone who can actually use it.

"If it's got a blemish on it and no one wants it, it's probably on only 5% of the vegetable-the other 95% of it is perfectly fine." he said. "We're glad to be a part of the Gleaners. Pete just called us 'out of the blue' about 5 years ago, and we've been involved ever since."

Thank you Streef Produce for your dedication to NCG! We'll always find a "home" for your produce!

If you want to know more about Streef Produce, check them out on their website or Facebook and Instagram pages.



VOLUNTEER VOICES

"A few years ago, pre-Covid, when Samaritan's Purse left Ontario, we needed a new way to serve as a family. My favourite part is seeing where the food goes and that lots stays here (in Canada) for our needs. The people are so fun and dedicated."

BOARD REPORT

"Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ." 1 Corinthians 12:12

I opened our recent board meeting with this verse. I find it so relevant and so fitting for this wonderful ministry we call Niagara Christian Gleaners, I thought I could share it in our newsletter as well. We are one body in Christ – and yet we are so many different parts; none really any more important than the next – all partaking in a process to share our gifts and talents with God's children who are in need.

When I joined the Gleaners, I did not really understand the scope of this mission. I've come to realize that God has blessed this mission by stirring the hearts of many volunteers who find joy and purpose in a simple morning (or evening) of service. They come to use their talents, give of their time and energy, and share in fellowship, while working alongside others that have the same purpose, each one building the other up. Keep in mind, these folks come from many different communities, some with or without a church affiliation. We happily continue to bless each other by working together. This is 1 Corinthians 12:12 in living, breathing form.

We, as a group, are really just a part of the greater body whose goal is to provide food worldwide. You have likely heard the names Barnabas Aid, Global Aid Network, Wells of Hope, The Luke Commission, and Samaritan's Purse. These organizations bless us through their willingness to help us in our distribution work. They are also a blessing to the people who receive this product, people that we may only see in pictures.

We feel confident knowing that our ministry partners are doing a great job working through the logistics and stumbling blocks that come with delivering our product. Let's keep them all in our prayers as they help us serve in this ministry.

There are also those that support us in other ways. I'd like to take this opportunity to highlight an organization that helps both Niagara Christian Gleaners as well as all our supporters. Christian Stewardship Services (CSS) has recently agreed to add us to their list of supported charities. You may have seen an ad in our newsletter promoting the services that CSS offers. We, as a board, are excited to partner with them and trust that Marinus Koole (a fellow gleaner) will be there to help you in any way he can.

On behalf of the board at NCG, I want to thank you for your work and for your prayers. Indeed, we are all a part of one body, and together with Christ as our head, we can serve in this blessed ministry.

In His Service,

**Jack Smit
NCG Board Chairman**



CSS MAKES GIVING EASIER

CHRISTIAN Stewardship SERVICES

Estate, Will and Planned Giving

Niagara Christian Gleaners is partnered with Christian Stewardship Services to provide confidential advice and service without obligation or cost.

Contact CSS today:
800.267.8890 ext. 217 or admin@CSSservices.ca

YOUR DONATION MAKES AN IMPACT!

As a non-profit organization, we rely on donations from people just like you.

3 WAYS TO GIVE:

DONATE ONLINE

niagaragleaners.org/donate

E-TRANSFER

givingncc@gmail.com

CHEQUE BY MAIL

TO: Niagara Christian Gleaners