



OCTOBER 2021

# NEWSLETTER



## — PETE'S PEN —

**Gratitude. That single word likely best captures the many aspects that make up Niagara Christian Gleaners as a mission seeking to honour God in all we do. When we reflect on all that has gone on and continues to happen at the Gleaners, our hearts are touched with gratitude. It's much more than a feeling of gratitude; rather it's our response of gratitude that is bearing fruit in all the places that NCG is touching.**

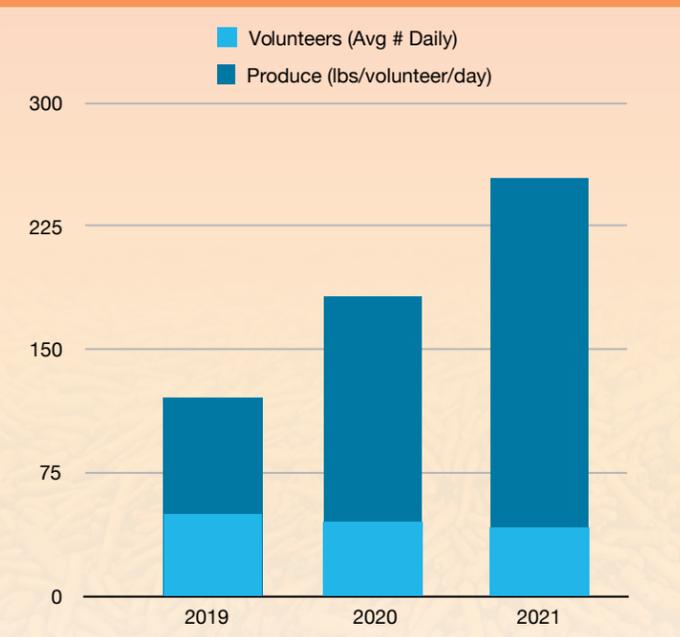


We couldn't be more thankful for the generous produce donors for thinking of the Gleaners with their surplus produce. As of 1

September 2021 we have surpassed the total production numbers of all of 2020! More than 1.6 million pounds of fresh produce has come to us for processing. Remarkably - the bountiful "harvest" season is still ahead of us. When I connect with our grower, distributor and transportation partners, they too are grateful for the Gleaners as a viable option to do meaningful things with their surplus, especially if their only option may be to discard it. The truth is that our growers love what they do; growing food, and it's disappointing when market conditions or other factors limit their distribution avenues. Their hearts are warmed when I tell them exactly where their food is going on the global scene and the people who are being blessed by it. In many ways the growers are the real givers and the Gleaners

are here to help make it happen.

NCG is forever grateful for our amazing volunteers who generously give of their time in order to bless others. What's remarkably clear is that they definitely see their participation at the Gleaners as a way to respond in gratitude. They see serving in this way as a selfless offering of praise and they would also admit to the fact that they leave feeling like the ones being most blessed by the volunteer experience at NCG. When they work the extraordinary amount of



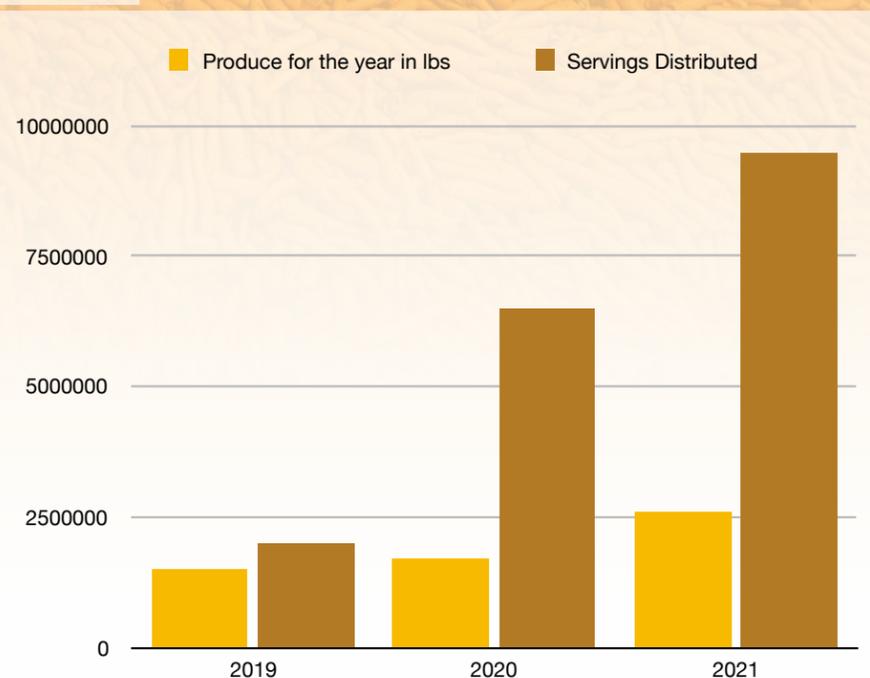
a difference in hurting people's lives. From Venezuelan refugees in Columbia, to Haiti earthquake victims, to tuberculosis and HIV sufferers in Africa, to orphans in Guatemala, to stocking shelves in our local food banks - all are receiving the life giving nourishment of food for hungry bodies and the life-giving, life-changing nourishment of the gospel. For NCG and the missionaries and churches we support, the two are rarely separated as we look for ways to make a difference in a hurting world.

Finally we are grateful to the Lord for ordaining the work of the Gleaners. His face has truly shone on the work on NCG and lives, both here and abroad, have been touched by this unique ministry. We acknowledge that all glory and praise are His and we continue to follow His leading.

*"And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." 2 Corinthians 9:8.*

good, fresh produce that comes to us, I believe it humbly speaks to them of the incredible food-rich country that we live in. Being able to share our surplus with someone else who needs it most will always touch the hearts of our volunteers.

The people who are blessed by the food are grateful. We know from the reports, pictures, videos and testimonies from our distribution partners that our food shipments are making



## CHEERFUL CHOPPERS • VOLUNTEER PROFILES

INTERVIEW WITH PAT VANDERWIJER



When Pat VanderWier first learned about the Niagara Christian Gleaners at her church, it was right at the beginning of the vision a few key people in the Niagara area had about starting up a place that could salvage nutritious produce that would otherwise be wasted because of its "wrong" shape or size. Pat says, "Sending this food product to feed hungry people around the globe is a joy to be a part of." She adds, "It was amazing how the community stood behind their vision and donations kept coming in, eventually funding the whole project. Once it was up and running, a few of us friends decided to visit NCG one morning and that was the start."

Describing the misshapen or slightly bruised produce, Pat reflects so beautifully: "I believe God grows produce this way so that it can land on the plate of a hungry child somewhere."

At this point in time, Pat volunteers once a week and enjoys any one of the tasks happening; whether it's chopping at tables, loading diced produce on trays to go in the dryer or putting the dried produce into bags to be ready for shipping. She says, "Manager Pete (our modern-

day Boaz) gets the final say on what everyone's doing and it all runs smoothly!" It's definitely the highlight in her week, Pat says, and some of her family and grandkids have joined her during the summer months.

Pat enjoys the positive atmosphere at NCG. "The choppers have been aptly labelled 'Cheerful Choppers' and the "Cheerfulness" trickles down the line at every station. Volunteers truly enjoy their morning here and several come more than once a week. Although they come from various communities, churches, backgrounds and generations they all serve together in harmony, in a fun-charged atmosphere with a common purpose," Pat observes.

Pat is excited to be part of the team at NCG, joining the board and the promotion committee this past January of 2021. She is impressed how dedicated board, management and committee members are to NCG. She is learning that everything that goes on at NCG is bathed in prayer and thanksgiving to God. She is also learning how professional and responsible those in overseeing NCG are; accomplishing their roles well.

Pat's advice to those thinking of joining NCG to volunteer: "New volunteers are always welcome at NCG! First you will be given a full tour of the facility and see how it functions. The work is easy and no special skills are required. You will meet new and old friends. You will be a blessing and be blessed in helping out. Come join us!"

### A MORNING SPENT VOLUNTEERING AT THE GLEANERS LOOKS LIKE...



# BOARD REPORT

**This summer season has been one of great productivity at the Gleaners. The teamwork between the volunteers, suppliers and management is so evident, and the 60% increase in food for the needy over last year is the result. The installation of a second drier in the spring has made this increase from our abundance possible.**

In November, we will have completed our 3rd year of production. Each year has provided opportunities of food, volunteers, fellowship and teamwork that has surpassed the year before. To tell you the truth, as board members, it is continually impressed upon us that this is the Lord's work, providing in all areas far beyond our expectations.

As a board, our goals to date have been fairly short term, not looking more than a year ahead. We proceeded to do our work from the direction the Lord was providing us from season to season. The support and direction given by our committees and their members has also been instrumental in supplying the needed input of an effective organization. The time has now come to consider what our long term agenda should be. We are called to be diligent, while at the same time knowing that times and events are in God's hands, and thus, we also need to be flexible.

A long term planning committee has been initiated, consisting of volunteers, management, and board representatives. They will bring a proposal for the board's consideration by the end of this year. As decisions are made on long term considerations, we will keep you informed.

We thank you for your prayerful support, your financial giving, your produce and logistics support, and the giving of your time when you volunteer. Our needs are being provided for in every avenue.

Here at NCG, we have room for more volunteers, and the opportunity to help is open to you. Some of the tasks available are coffee time prep, produce washer operator, dicing machine operator, vegetable cutting, tray loading and unloading, forklift operation, packaging of dried product, and labelling of product. A variety of tasks to suit your interests and make use of your talents. Note that current covid protocols are in place. Do you at times get all bent out of shape by life's circumstances, the limitations of a covid affected society, or just have a desire to participate in a useful activity? So often, I hear from our volunteers how much they look forward to their weekly or monthly time participating at the Gleaners. For them it is often an oasis for a few hours from the cares of the world, a time to expand your horizons, while at the same time providing benefit to a hurting world.

We are all given opportunities to let our light shine in this world. Our goal at NCG is that the Light may shine brightly while we process, dry and supply nutritious food to a hungry world.

On behalf of the board,  
Arthur Struyk  
Chairman

**NIAGARA CHRISTIAN GLEANERS** EST. 2018

*Sharing Our*  
**BLESSINGS**

• DRYING SURPLUS PRODUCE FOR THE HUNGRY •

**SUPPORT**

**VOLUNTEER**

**Located in:**  
**SMITHVILLE, ON**  
Corner of Thompson Rd.  
& Spring Creek Rd.

**NIAGARAGLEANERS.ORG**

**905.359.5028**

## 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.*

**SMITHVILLE INDUSTRIAL PARK, 6251 SPRING CREEK RD, P.O. BOX 361, SMITHVILLE, ON L0R 2A0**