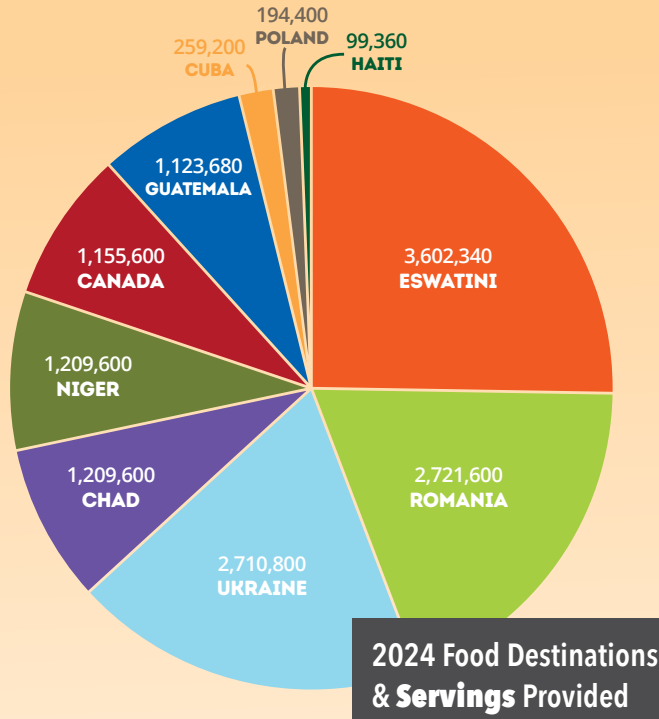


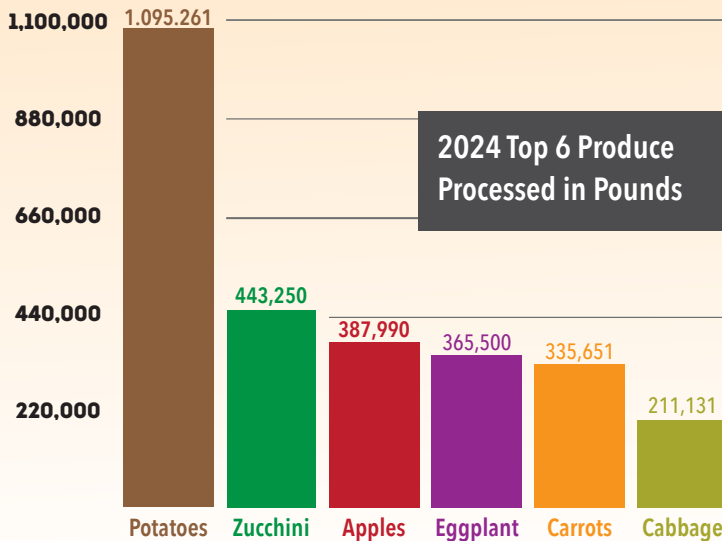


SPRING 2025

# NEWSLETTER



2024 Food Destinations & Servings Provided



2024 Top 6 Produce Processed in Pounds

Additional produce in order of lbs:

Turnips, Peppers, Rutabaga, Pears, Beets, Parsnips, Sweet Potatoes, Asparagus, Cauliflower, Onions.

## PETE'S PEN

2024 finished strong at Niagara Christian Gleaners (NCG), and we were once again humbled by the countless lives that are being impacted through this ministry.

A record **1,635,631 kg** (3,605,950 lbs) of fresh food was processed at NCG in 2024. This translated into 14.2 million servings of food aid which landed in 10 different countries, including Canada. None of this could have been accomplished without the blessings of God and the hard work of our army of dedicated volunteers. In fact, over **68,000 volunteer hours** were needed in 2024 to transform all this great, fresh produce into life giving nourishment for those who need it most. It is abundantly clear that the success of NCG is dependent on the strong and collaborative efforts of our stakeholders. Our volunteers, financial supporters, produce suppliers, and distribution and transportation partners have integral and valuable roles to play as they contribute to the common goals of NCG. As General Manager, I personally have a unique vantage point which allows me to see and experience the selfless and generous giving which makes NCG thrive. It warms my heart when we consider the simple fact that the Lord accomplishes all He desires with only a word. The truth is, He does not need our help for anything, and yet in His infinite wisdom and mighty ways, He sees fit to use Niagara Christian Gleaners, and everyone connected to NCG, to advance His kingdom.

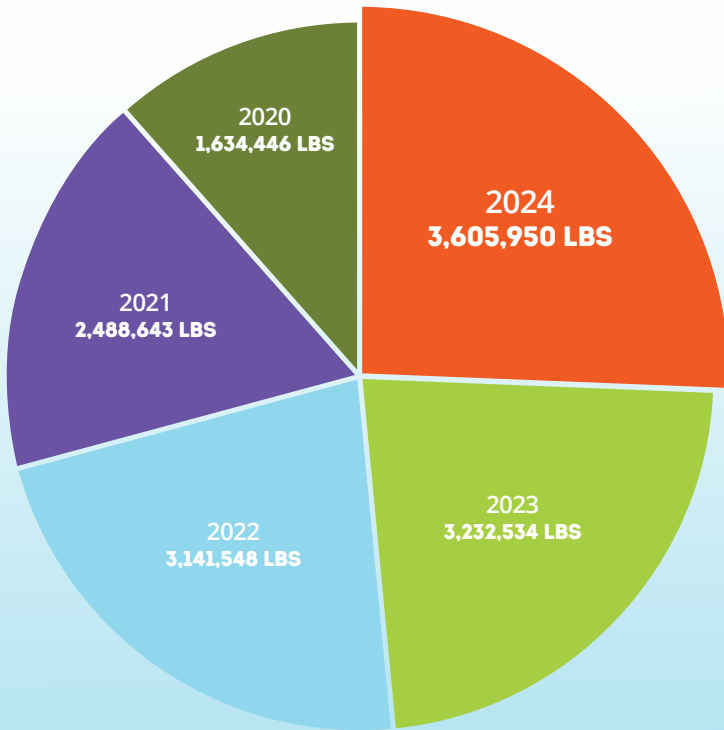
**"Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen"** Ephesians 3:20-21

PW



# CHEERFUL CHOPPERS

## VOLUNTEER PROFILE



Total Product Processed  
Per year 2020-2024

## MAJOR DISTRIBUTION PARTNERS

THE LUKE COMMISSION

SAMARITAN'S PURSE

BARNABUS AID

GLOBAL AID NETWORK

WAREHOUSE OF HOPE

WELLS OF HOPE

**What's so beautiful about volunteering at the NCG is that there is a job for everyone....even if you hardly ever or have never stepped in the front door!**

For some time, a very special group of ladies from Centennial Park Baptist Church in Grimsby, Ontario, has supplied baked goods for the volunteers to enjoy during their morning coffee break.

In 2022, one of the ladies from the church tried volunteering for a few weeks but was unable to continue due to health reasons. However, while at the Gleaners for those few weeks she noticed that the volunteers really enjoyed the homemade cookies, cakes, and squares that were supplied. She thought, "Well, I like baking, and that's something that I can contribute to the Gleaners." It was during Covid when a lot of things were still closed, and she knew people in her church needed something to do. She put a little blurb in the church bulletin to ask people to donate baked goods for the Gleaners. The response was wonderful! 9 people said they would like to help either by baking or donating.

Each lady agreed that the work at the Gleaners was an important ministry, so they were happy to help.

*One woman said, "There's a lot I can't do, but I like to bake, so that's something I CAN do for all those hard-working volunteers." Another stated, "I'm a great believer in knowing you can do something that doesn't take up a lot of time (baking, volunteering) and together we can accomplish a lot."*

As they learned more and more about the Gleaners (some even took the open house tour) and the work being done there, they "told others about it every chance we could!"

Like others who drop off cookies and goodies at the Gleaners for the volunteers, there's no schedule or system about what to donate or

## VOLUNTEER VOICES

*"Love the Cookies"*

*"Love the cookies and jellied candy. Big thanks!"*

when to drop it off. Sometimes the ladies would get a call saying the fridge and freezer were looking a little empty, and could they supply some more baked goods? One of the women used her grandma's oatmeal chocolate chip recipe because "it makes a big batch, and that's perfect to send to the Gleaners."

Sometimes, baking isn't needed for a morning because "regular" volunteers bring in cake or special treats to share with the whole crew to celebrate their birthday. "It's a treat which is well received and is a blessing," says General Manager Pete.

Although the ladies from Centennial might not contribute as much as they used to for the Gleaners, we would like to thank them for all the baked goods they have supplied over the years. They may not have been Cheerful Choppers, but they certainly were Busy Bakers! It is truly appreciated, and may the Lord bless each of you. Ladies, you bake the world a better place!

Chip, Chip Hooray!

Ok, ok we'll stop....all good things must crumble to an end :)



## BOARD REPORT

**Hello Fellow Gleaners!**

**I am writing this note while looking out the window at a clean, clear white field of fresh snow. And while it is a bit cold, it looks so beautiful. In the open field, beautiful snow drifts are forming. But "drifts" on the mission field are not beautiful.**

In an effort to be responsible to both our mission and our supporters, the NCG board has had some discussion on something termed "mission drift." This term refers to the act of an organization "drifting" away from the original goals and intents of a ministry. It is common for organizations to unintentionally drift from their original plans and purposes due to various circumstances. While we don't have any fear or concern that we are experiencing this at NCG, we do feel it prudent and responsible to be proactive in guarding against mission drift by opening these discussions.

Our mission statement is triple tiered: (con'd back)



*Pictured are:*

*Heidi, Lynn, Verna, Lois and Martha  
Missing: Lorein, Evy, Beverly, Maureen*

*Feed the Hungry.  
Bless our Local Growers and Volunteers.  
Share Christ's Love with everyone.*

We are committed to our goals, and we will work diligently to stay focused on our purpose as we carry on in our day-to-day business. We find focus in something as simple as our name – Niagara Christian Gleaners. We make no apologies about what we believe and what we stand for.

Gleaning is a biblical concept in which God instructed farmers to leave a portion of their crops for the poor to gather. Niagara Christian Gleaners seeks to demonstrate Christ's love and grace by sharing the abundance of produce that we enjoy with those around the world who are in need.

This mission statement remains true and very important to us as a board. Personally, I find great comfort in knowing that our Lord and Father is watching over us. Isn't it true that we can often worry about the future? But in these times, God calls us to be still and know that He is almighty (Psalm 46). Being still is not sitting back and being inattentive to circumstances. This statement calls us to action. That action starts with knowing that God is in control, trusting him with the outcome, and worshipping him in our efforts. With that purpose in mind, we commit to serving Him at NCG.

Please join us, as we continue to bathe Niagara Christian Gleaners in our prayers. Pray that the Lord will bless us and allow us to continue to live with this mission in the forefront of our minds. Pray that He will help us to continue to "Feed the Hungry." Pray that He will help us "Bless our Local Growers and Volunteers" and that He alone will continue to strengthen us so that we can unashamedly "Share Christ's Love" with everyone around us.

We serve a risen Saviour. He is Christ our Lord. Blessings to you all, and we look forward to seeing you at our fundraising dinners on March 21 and 22.

**In His Service,  
Jack Smit  
NCG Board Chairman**



## VOLUNTEER VOICES

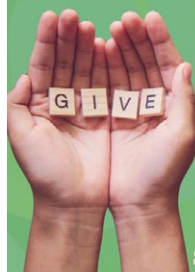
*"Everyone is always happy. It's a great place to volunteer. Pete & Ryan have great jokes. I started 2 years ago, mostly Fridays and Mondays. My favourite part is doing God's work in a great environment, knowing this will help others."*

## CSS MAKES GIVING EASIER



### 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](mailto: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](http://niagaragleaners.org/donate)

#### E-TRANSFER

[givingncc@gmail.com](mailto:givingncc@gmail.com)

#### CHEQUE BY MAIL

TO: Niagara Christian Gleaners