



FALL 2025

NEWSLETTER



PETE'S PEN

As summer at Niagara Christian Gleaners (NCG) comes to a close, we wish all our younger volunteers a wonderful start to the new school year. We are deeply grateful for the contributions they make and the energy they bring to our busy production days. NCG remains a place where people of all ages and abilities can find meaningful ways to serve—a unique attribute of the Gleaners which we never take for granted.

Over the past few months, we have been blessed to ship a record amount of food aid—more than 6.5 million servings in the last quarter alone. Countries such as Eswatini, Honduras, Romania, Ukraine, Pakistan, and even communities here in Canada have benefited from this support. Sometimes our food aid strengthens ongoing nutrition programs; at other times it addresses urgent crises. In every case, we are thankful for trusted distribution partners who

serve as the “boots on the ground,” wisely sharing both the food and the gospel of Jesus Christ in places where the needs are greatest.

Since production began in 2018, NCG has prepared nearly 70 million servings of food aid! Along the way, we’ve learned much about the complexities of international food distribution. Every shipment presents unique challenges. Importing and exporting food often involves bureaucratic hurdles, and unfortunately, even in regions where hunger is most severe, government processes can delay—or even prevent—aid from reaching those in need. When this happens, we adapt accordingly, seeking alternate partners and destinations to ensure the food helps people in need.

Behind each shipment is the dedication of our hardworking loading crews. Most of our food is packed into uninsulated, unrefrigerated 40-foot sea containers—the most economical way to reach distant destinations. To maximize efficiency, many loads are hand-packed floor to ceiling, allowing us to ship 2,220 cases (1.2 million servings) per container.

At times, pallets must be used, reducing the load to 1,680 cases, but still representing a tremendous amount of food. Once loaded, containers travel by truck to a rail yard, move onward to ports in Montreal or New Jersey, then spend a month or more at sea before arriving at their destination. From there, they are transferred once again to trucks for final delivery. Occasionally our partners may request a shipment by air. Although a more costly approach, there are some airlines who provide discounted air freight rates for humanitarian aid shipments. When this happens, we need to take a different approach for loading. Understandably, the airlines are ultimately concerned about weight and so each pallet must have identical weights for even loading. Essentially, we take direction from our distribution partners as the burden of freight costs is covered by them.

At NCG, food dehydration and preparation are only a part of a much larger puzzle. We rely on the generosity of supporters, the commitment of volunteers, the partnership of growers, and the dedication of our transportation and distribution networks. Together, we remain focused on God's calling:



"He has shown you what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." — Micah 6:8

BOARD REPORT

The Autumn season is upon us, our hot dry summer has moved on. You would think that being in the service of dehydrating food, we would be good with hot and dry, but truth be told, I am enjoying the change.

This summer has been busy at NCG. We have maintained high volunteer hours and have been blessed with plenty of folks willing to share of their time in supporting us as well as those they are working with. Thank you so much for your help and your service to NCG as well as all the other organizations involved in this ministry.

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VOLUNTEER VOICES

"I started volunteering when the facility opened. When I come it's usually a Tuesday or Wednesday in the cutting room. I also volunteer for the Strawberry Socials."



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We need your help!

Most of our young volunteers are back in school and the food keeps coming! Sign up as a volunteer on our web site!



DEDICATED DONOR

Mountainview Orchards

Mountainview Orchards has been donating apples to Niagara Christian Gleaners since they opened in 2018.

They are a local farm in Beamsville, Ontario, operating 40 acres of apples and 10 acres of peaches and nectarines.

Mountainview Orchards - a first-generation farm - was started as a family run business in 1980 by Peter and Margaret Feenstra, and it is still that today. The home farm is 20 acres with many other parcels being rented to grow more produce. They originally marketed to the Food Terminal in Toronto, but now they only sell to retail markets. In 2002, their son Richard, along with his wife Laura, bought another farm and then partnered up in 2010 with the home farm. They have been incorporated since 2019. John, another son, along with his wife Sarah, have since bought the home farm from Peter and Margaret.

Peter and Margaret had an opportunity to go to Africa in January 2025 for 10 days. Peter quoted, "It was a real privilege for my wife and I to go as growers and witness first-hand the impact dried produce makes in the lives of so many. Not only does it feed the hungry physically, but more importantly it feeds their souls with the hope we have in Christ."

As far as unusable product, Richard and John said there is none because it is used for hard cider and regular apple cider. They are very willing and love to help out Niagara Christian Gleaners.



Mountainview Orchards first learned about NCG through friends of their congregation, the Dielemans, who had gone very often to Ontario Christian Gleaners in Cambridge. Peter Feenstra was on the procurement committee looking for donators to give to NCG and this is how Mountainview Orchards started to give their produce. The deal is, when Pete Wierenga needs their produce, he calls them, and there they are! When asked what partnering with Niagara Christian Gleaners meant for Mountainview Orchards, Richard and John said, "It is assuring to recognize what Christ has given us, to have the opportunity to share with others, and to see it so warmly received in far away countries."



Eswatini - The Luke Commission

As we celebrate our suppliers at this time – Dedicated Donor – we are thankful for the Mountainview Orchards crew. They generously donate in product, as well as time. Pete Feenstra is also an integral member of our board. Many thanks to them, as well as all the other food supply sources that so willingly participate in our ministry. We would be nowhere if not for the strong and ready source of food that we work with.

As you may well know, this past July we have decided to carry on with the purchase of our third – yes, you read that right, our third commercial dryer from Nyle Dryers. We embarked on a fundraising project, took this next step in faith and obedience as an act of love for our neighbour, and in short order have already been blessed with over \$300,000 in donations. Your support is so greatly appreciated. We continue to see God’s hand in this work and are humbled that all our efforts are so blessed. We hope to see the equipment in October or November, so we are excited to get to work on installing and using this new tool. We have had this third unit in our plans pretty much from the beginning. It will allow us to properly backup the mechanical operation of the existing two units. It will ensure we are responsible to our volunteers in keeping a process of at least two units operating at all times, and it will give us some added capacity and flexibility, if we so desire.

Let’s together keep NCG, our dedicated employees, countless volunteers, food suppliers, and many other

supporters in our prayers. We are all so blessed and thankful that our Lord has lifted this ministry up, has received our efforts as worship to him, and has given us the opportunity to serve those involved.

In his Service
Jack Smit NCG
Board Chairman

VOLUNTEER VOICES

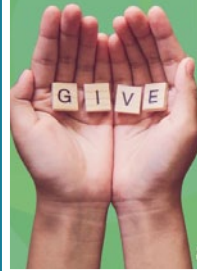
“I started from the beginning when it opened. I work there Mon, Wed, Fri and am flexible to switch days. I help others and do the coffee. My Favourite part is the fellowship.”

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



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YOUR DONATION MAKES AN IMPACT!

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

3 WAYS TO GIVE:

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E-TRANSFER

givingncc@gmail.com

CHEQUE BY MAIL

TO: Niagara Christian Gleaners