



SPRING 2026

NEWSLETTER

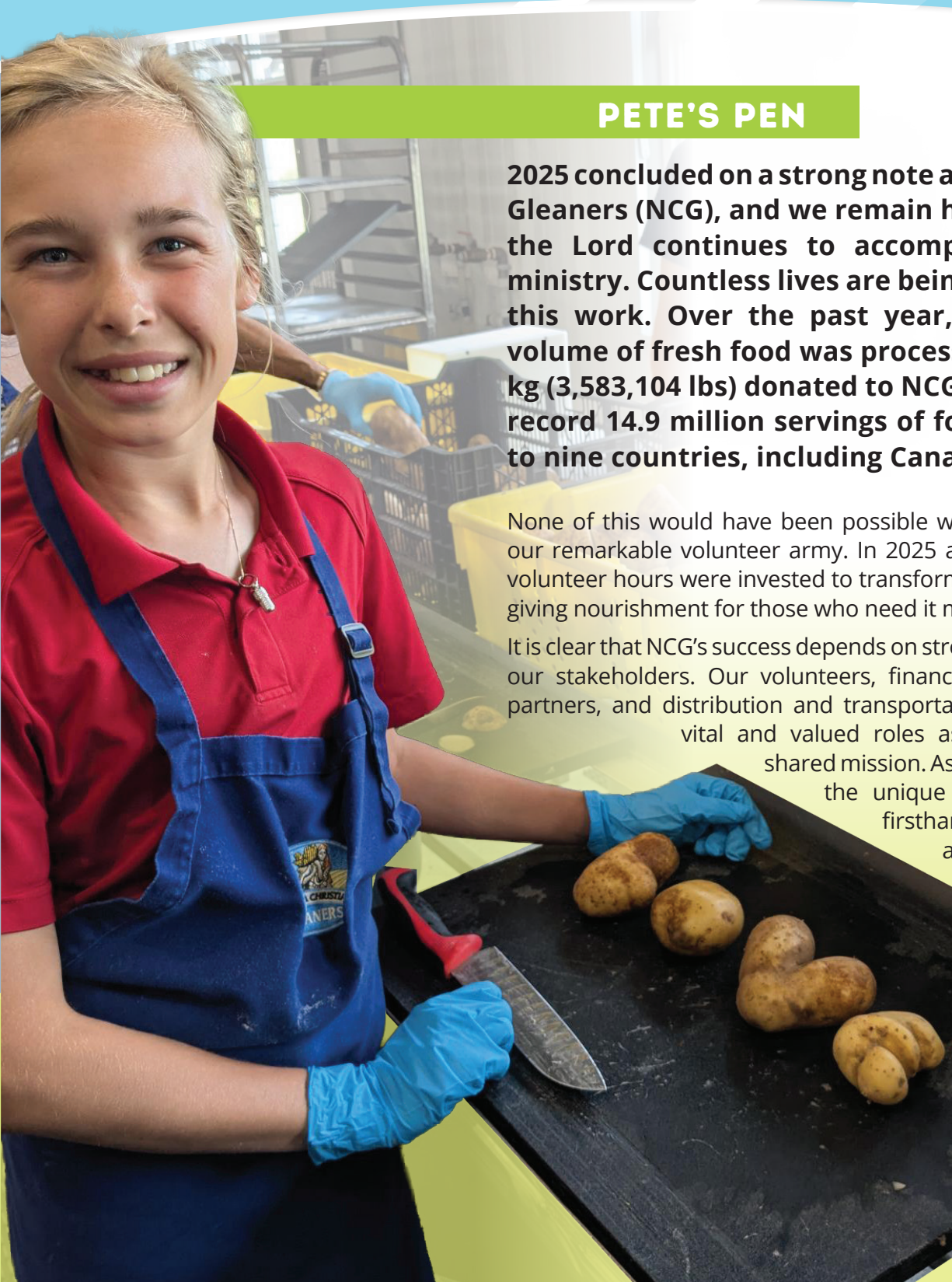
PETE'S PEN

2025 concluded on a strong note at Niagara Christian Gleaners (NCG), and we remain humbled by all that the Lord continues to accomplish through this ministry. Countless lives are being touched through this work. Over the past year, an extraordinary volume of fresh food was processed, with 1,625,268 kg (3,583,104 lbs) donated to NCG. This resulted in a record 14.9 million servings of food aid distributed to nine countries, including Canada.

None of this would have been possible without the dedication of our remarkable volunteer army. In 2025 alone, more than 65,000 volunteer hours were invested to transform fresh produce into life-giving nourishment for those who need it most.

It is clear that NCG's success depends on strong collaboration among our stakeholders. Our volunteers, financial supporters, produce partners, and distribution and transportation partners each play vital and valued roles as we work toward our shared mission. As General Manager, I have the unique privilege of witnessing firsthand the selfless generosity and commitment that allows NCG to continue to flourish.

Our ministry is clearly multifaceted, yet it is easy to become focused primarily on the food itself. In doing so, the fellowship, sense of community, and local life impact can sometimes be overlooked or taken for granted.



From time to time, however, we receive meaningful reminders of how God is using NCG to draw people to Himself.

Recently, I learned of a new believer who had arrived in Canada from China and came to faith in Christ. She has since received the sacrament of baptism at one of our local supporting churches. In her testimony, she spoke beautifully about her journey of faith and specifically mentioned the role NCG played along the way. It was a powerful reminder that God is using NCG not only to provide food, but also as a place where He is calling his people to Himself — all for His glory.

Below is a portion of this young woman's testimony.

"Before I came to Canada, I connected with Judy online through BroadFocus, a program online connecting international students with Christian people. She later introduced me to Jesus and became my spiritual

mom. Shortly after I arrived in St. Catharines, I started volunteering at Niagara Christian Gleaners. I also began attending a church on the university campus. I was amazed by what I saw at the Gleaners! Most of the volunteers were retired and could have been relaxing in Florida enjoying the sunshine! But instead they drove all the way to Smithville to prepare potatoes to serve to people they will likely never meet. That kind of love was completely different from what I had grown up seeing, where people mainly focused on their own family and friends. I was also completely touched by how genuine and caring people were! They created a safe space for me to learn about God, and answer all my dumb questions. Looking back I realize it was God chasing after me, loving me first and sending people into my life as messengers of His grace."

PW



VOLUNTEER VOICES

"I started 3.5 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. You are my family."



CHEERFUL CHOPPERS

VOLUNTEER PROFILE - KIARA WIEBE

It is so amazing to find out where our volunteers come from! In this edition, we interviewed one of our volunteers, who was only with us for a short time.

Kiara Wiebe is 20 years old and comes all the way from Idaho. She is involved with a volunteer program through the church she attends, Church of God in Christ Mennonite. Their church partners with Christian Public Service Canada to provide volunteer opportunities for their Christian youth across North America. Girls who are 19 years old and older may apply to be a part of this 6-month volunteer opportunity. Kiara has been in Ontario since September and plans to be back in Idaho at the end of February. She is very thankful to have been able to experience the life of volunteering at Niagara Christian Gleaners. Every Monday and Thursday morning, she is at the Gleaners. She loves the surroundings here and has met many very nice people as well as shared meals in the homes of people who have invited her. Kiara is so impressed with how much God is mentioned while talking and working with everyone. She appreciates the leadership roles of the Manager, General Manager, and other support staff at NCG. They are always willing to help and are easy to approach when you have questions. It has been a great place to learn! The program Kiara, along with three other girls, is in, not only volunteers at the Gleaners, but also at Juravinski Hospital, Hamilton General Hospital, and Shalom Manor. They also provide a meal every Monday evening at The Mark Preece Family House. Kiara is a grade 5 and 6 teacher, helps in her family restaurant, and works in a greenhouse. Her hobbies include baking, pottery, reading, and being active. She feels blessed to have been a part of Niagara Christian Gleaners for the past 6 months.

In order to accommodate the program, Christian Public Service has purchased a house in Stoney Creek to accommodate a set of house parents and

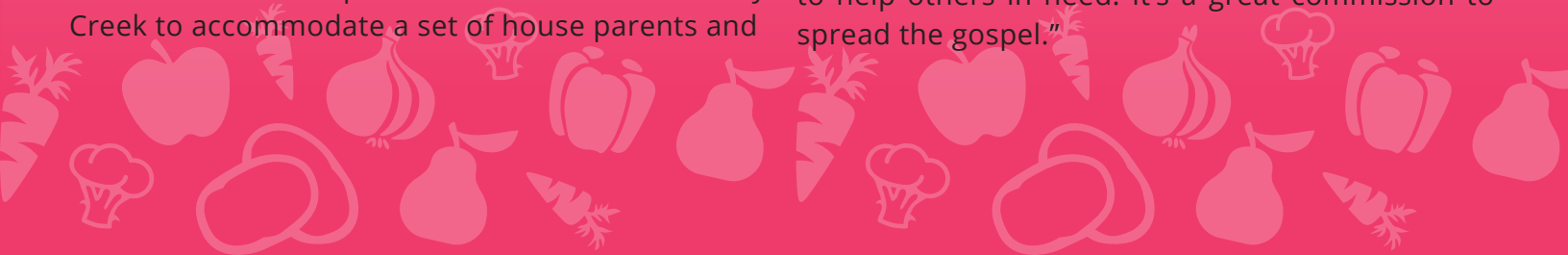


Left to right: Ralph Mulder, Kiara Wiebe and Klaas Zeldenrust

have several units all across Canada. Just as the girls have to apply to the program, so do the house parents. The church supports the house parents and the girls and provides a car for them to get around. If the girls are interested in sightseeing or attending weekend events, the house parents take them. The house parents are thankful to be a part of this chapter in the girls' lives at Niagara Christian Gleaners.

In view of how he feels about helping others around the globe with food aid and meals, he says,

"It's our God given duty to help others; this is a small part we can do. We need to be God's children, to help others in need. It's a great commission to spread the gospel."



BOARD REPORT

The winter season is coming to an end. Warmth is creeping around the corner, which means a new growing season is heading our way. We look forward to God's blessing of abundant sources of food and continued support from you and our volunteers, that so happily serve the Lord in this mission.

We, as a Board, are pleased to be able to report that all is moving along well. We continue to be blessed in many ways, and it is truly humbling to witness this in every facet of this ministry. Thank you to all of you for your financial and physical support.

In keeping with the idea that we have seen so much growth, an abundance in the past years, and have been able to realize God's plans for us, we are now beginning to work toward some future plans. We ask ourselves, "How do we continue to be faithful to this ministry as it continues to grow and serve our Father in Heaven?"

Long term planning can often be a daunting, and yet exciting, proposal. We continue to covet your prayers as we head down this road. The Lord has been so good to us, and we look forward to seeing how He will use us all at Niagara Christian Gleaners as we continue to feed the hungry, bless our local growers and volunteers, and share Christ's love with everyone.

*In His Service
Jack Smit
NCG Board Chair*



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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@CSservices.ca



VOLUNTEER VOICES

"May/24 is when I started. Nice people - very friendly. You can be sure of God's blessings."

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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CHEQUE BY MAIL

TO: Niagara Christian Gleaners