



FALL 2026

NEWSLETTER

PETE'S PEN

Dear Friends and Supporters,

We have had a wonderful summer at Niagara Christian Gleaners (NCG), and as the cooler autumn air sets in, it truly feels like harvest time across Ontario! This season always serves as a powerful reminder of God's abundance and the privilege we have in sharing that bounty with others.

We are deeply grateful for the incredible, faithful support of our produce partners. Week after week, local farmers and suppliers generously donate their surplus fresh and frozen fruits and vegetables. What might otherwise go to waste is transformed inside our facility into nutritious, shelf-stable dehydrated food aid. Because of these gifts, we are able to ship healthy, life-saving food aid to communities facing

severe food insecurity all over the world. So far in 2026, working alongside our trusted international distribution partners, NCG food aid containers have safely landed in eight different countries. Countries such as Cuba, Eswatini, Guatemala, Moldova, Sierra Leone, Venezuela, and Ukraine, have all received much needed food from NCG so far this year.

As a volunteer-driven organization, we rely on a



Sharing Our Blessings

NIAGARAGLEANERS.ORG • 905.359.5028



dedicated “army” of volunteers to process, package, and ship tons of fresh produce each week. NCG is a unique and vibrant place to serve. Each day brings a wide variety of hands-on tasks suited for all ages and physical abilities. Whether it’s washing produce, trimming fruits and vegetables, layering trays for dehydration, scraping dried food, packaging finished products, or loading trucks, every single role plays a critical part in getting food to those in need.

One of our favorite highlights at NCG is hosting group team-building opportunities. Many local businesses and corporations take a refreshing step away from their daily work routines to join us in order to give back to the community. These opportunities aren’t just for corporate people! When you stop to think about it, almost all of us belong to a “team” of some kind. Are you part of a local sports league, a pickleball group, a golf foursome, a choir, or a weekly Bible study? We would love to welcome your group to the Gleaners for a morning of serving side-by-side. I can assure you that your group will leave inspired, connected, and blessed by the experience.

If your group isn’t quite ready for a full volunteer shift, we warmly invite you to stop by for a tour. We are always excited about introducing the Gleaners to those who may be interested and curious about what is going on at Niagara Christian Gleaners.

Additionally, I welcome invitations to speak at local churches, schools, congregational meetings, and community and business groups. It is always a joy to share stories and photos highlighting all that the Lord is accomplishing through this ministry.

If you would like to bring a team, schedule a facility tour, or arrange a presentation for your congregation or organization, please reach out to me directly. We look forward to connecting with you!



Pete Wierenga

General Manager, Niagara Christian Gleaners
generalmanager@niagaragleaners.org

TEAMWORK

AT NIAGARA CHRISTIAN GLEANERS

Group Team-Building Mornings

Are you part of a group?

- local sports team
- pickleball group or golf foursome
- choir or community band
- weekly Bible study or group church
- local business/corporation

Become closer, leave inspired and deeply blessed by the experience

BOOK NOW

905-359-5028

info@niagaragleaners.org

Break out of your routine and do something that truly matters!



VOLUNTEER VOICES

“A beautiful time of Christian fellowship as a senior meeting many grade school and high school classmates.”

DEDICATED DONOR ZWAAGSTRA TRUCKING LTD.



Niagara Christian Gleaners has been blessed over the years by corporate partners who generously provide goods and services at no cost to the Gleaners. One of these dedicated, behind-the-scenes supporters is Zwaagstra Trucking Ltd.

Since 2019, John Zwaagstra and his team have regularly volunteered their trucking services to transport fresh produce donations from growers all over Southern Ontario.

Founded in 1995 with just a single truck, Zwaagstra Trucking Ltd. has grown significantly over the years. Today, their fleet includes more than 20 trucks, alongside a large inventory of dry freight and refrigerated trailers, serving clients across Canada and the United States. Despite this growth, it remains a true family business. John and Kristine's son-in-law, Jason VanEgmond, now manages much of the company's day-to-day operations.

Zwaagstra's partnership is invaluable to Niagara Christian Gleaners. The company typically transports one to two loads of produce per week for the Gleaners.

Occasionally, it has been three loads in a single week, amounting to more than 150,000 lbs. of fresh food landing at NCG's docks within the span of a few days. Their drivers routinely haul full trailer loads of carrots, potatoes, turnips, cauliflower, and beets from growers as far away as Bradford, Ontario.

John, Kristine, and Jason remain incredibly humble about their vital role in our mission. As John shares:

"We have been blessed over the years in business, and it is a joy to be a part of something as impactful and meaningful as the Gleaners. God receives the glory."

Thank you, Zwaagstra Trucking Ltd., for everything you do. Your generosity helps us make a tangible difference in a hurting and hungry world.



BOARD REPORT

At our last fundraising dinner, I offered up a verbal picture of the amount of produce we have been privileged to work with over the years at NCG - over 70 million servings - a humbling figure. I was reminded, though, by our speaker that evening, that it was better to not think of our "servings" as merely food but rather as the people, the children, and the families we have "served" - well over 70 million! Indeed, God is good to allow us to actively partake in this mission.

We are so blessed with folks that openly share produce with us, that transport produce to us, and that handle the produce in its various steps in our facility. We are also blessed with partners that help get our produce where it is so desperately needed.

Truthfully, as a board, we have had a bit of a quiet summer season, but that means we have also had a time to bathe our mission in prayer, looking for direction to see where our Lord may be leading us. We are blessed to see such active participation and such passion and love to serve.

God's hand of abundance is all around us. Ephesians 3:20-21 says, "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen."

As always, please join me in lifting Niagara Christian Gleaners up in prayer. Prayers of thankfulness, prayers of support and prayers that acknowledge the Lord's blessing in this mission. It is his ministry indeed.

In His Service
Jack Smit
NCG Board Chair



**Include Niagara Christian Gleaners
in your estate plans
while also caring
for the people and
causes you love.**

YOUR LEGACY
CAN KEEP MAKING A
DIFFERENCE FOR
GENERATIONS TO COME.

Through Christian Stewardship Services (CSS), you can receive trusted guidance to explore planned giving options that align with your wishes and values.

Find out more, call CSS for a **FREE** estate planning session.
800-267-8890 ext 217 | info@CSSservices.ca

VOLUNTEER VOICES

"A very lovely place to work with God's people. Before I came, I felt tired. When I left, I felt lots of joy. Gleaners is a wonderful place to meet all Christians from different churches." - Jasmine Zhou

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

givingnccg@gmail.com

CHEQUE BY MAIL

TO: Niagara Christian Gleaners