

Okanagan Gleaners

507 No. 3 Road
Oliver, BC V0H 1T1

www.okanagangleaners.com
okgmanager@gmail.com
Telephone: 250-498-8859

OKANAGAN GLEANERS

— HELPING TO FEED THE HUNGRY OF THE WORLD IN JESUS' NAME —



Summer 2018 Edition

Get outdoors more often. Volunteer at Gleaners in the a.m. and enjoy the sunny Okanagan for the rest of the day. It's good for the body and soul.

2018 Soup Mix Destinations

It may be too early to learn where all of the product is being shipped this year, but here's what we know so far: Colombia, Guatemala, Belize, Ukraine, Lesotho, Swaziland, Ghana and Haiti are already scheduled to receive Gleaners soup mix in 2018.

Two shipments of 2,649,600 servings have already been sent to Food for the Hungry Canada, which are destined for Guatemala. One shipment of 633,600 servings and 577 bags of dried apple chips has also been sent to Partners For Others for their work in Africa. And the first of three shipments has been sent to Canadian Food For Children, with 129,600 servings of soup and 2,016 bags of apple chips.

Future shipments to the other countries listed (and possibly more) are still in the works.

A Bowl of Soup Can Help in Many Ways

Once the bags of Okanagan Gleaners soup mix leave the plant in Oliver, their destiny is in the hands of others. Humanitarian aid organizations and mission groups decide where the soup is needed most, and they are shipped abroad by land, air and sea to these destinations. We put our trust in others and our faith in God to fulfill our goal of helping to feed the hungry of the world.

When these organizations request our soup mix, they tell us where it will be sent and often who it will benefit. Whether it is supporting ongoing programs or responding to new circumstances, there are a variety of ways in which the soup mix is being used.

Environmental disasters, political turmoil, war and famine often necessitate the need for humanitarian aid on a large scale. Countries such as Haiti, the Philippines, Fiji and even Puerto Rico all received Gleaners soup mix after devastating hurricanes. And shipments were recently sent to Ethiopia after experiencing its worst drought and famine in decades. Displaced peoples escaping conflict and migrants in search of a better life often end up in refugee camps, where bags of soup mix have been distributed to families with instructions on how to prepare it.

In poverty-stricken communities, we know that children often suffer the most. Soup mix is used in school nutrition programs around the world. It is difficult for kids to learn (or even stay awake in class) when they are hungry. Getting a nutritious meal every day encourages parents to send their children to school (and kids to attend), and it helps to facilitate learning and retention. Of course,

Gleaners soup mix is also being sent to many orphanages abroad, and it is utilized by some organizations to help combat hunger and malnutrition with child sponsorship programs. Other feeding initiatives target single mothers or families with younger kids.

Many countries impose additional burdens upon families by making them responsible for feeding relatives in prisons, rehab centres and even hospitals. Sometimes the elderly are left at the doorstep of convents when families can no longer afford to feed them. We have learned about how local organizations in Africa and Latin America are using Okanagan Gleaners soup mix to help keep these people fed and well-nourished.

And finally, weekly soup kitchens and a wide variety of outreach programs are using the soup mix to bring members of their community together to socialize, learn about the Bible, and acquire new skills to help them become more self-sufficient. It's wonderful to hear these stories and share them with our readers. And we'll have more stories to come. There really is no limit to how a simple bowl of soup can help improve the lives of many.



Okanagan Gleaners Prayer Requests

We ask that you would please join us in prayer for the following needs:

- A consistent year-round supply of fresh and frozen vegetables for our soup mix, especially during the off season (non-harvest months)
- Another safe, productive and fun summer volunteer season, with returning friends and new faces
- Okanagan Gleaners is looking for a treasurer and newsletter editor. Please see page 5 for more details about these volunteer positions
- After many years of service, our 5-ton truck has been causing lots of trouble due to breakdowns. Maybe it's time to replace this faithful servant. However, a used replacement unit would cost an estimated \$32,000



Spring 2018 Soup Mixing Results

Dip, shake and dump. Those words have rung out a number of times at the Oliver plant since April. And now we have just completed the second of two soup mixing sessions at Okanagan Gleaners. Thanks to the gracious hand of God, the support of local and short-distance growers, and the hundreds of volunteers who come to Gleaners every year, we were able to package 83,592 bags of soup mix (or 8,359,200 servings of soup) this year. Added to our running total since production began in 1996, that's 107,364,200 servings!

When it was proposed that we should invest in a larger food dryer a couple of years ago, the idea was to increase the number of soup servings that Gleaners is able to provide. With the new dryer already in operation for 18 months, this year's increase is 34 percent higher than the 2017 soup production total.

We would also like to send a sincere thank-you to Peace Country Gleaners in LaCrete, Alberta for their extended efforts and generosity which has contributed to this increase. Keep planting and drying carrots, potatoes, beets, pot barley and split peas.

Just imagine how many people around the world will be able to eat because of the efforts that volunteers and supporters of Okanagan Gleaners have contributed during the past year. Well done, everyone!



Okanagan Gleaners continues to be blessed . . . so we can bless others. This spring, an 8-inch by 16-foot grain auger found a home at Gleaners. This piece of equipment is used to offload the shipments of split peas and barley that come from Peace Country Gleaners. By having this equipment we were able to offload the Super B trains of product in less than two hours – a process which has taken up to eight hours in the past. This is one area of product receiving and storage that continues to improve. Keep your eyes peeled for other advances in product procurement that will make the job so much better and functional for our volunteers. See photos of "auger action" below.



A "Suitcase Soup Mix" Update

Well, here we are. Summer is upon us and a new year is well under way at Gleaners.

This is an update from 2017 about the latest delivery of soup mix to Baja California – and unexpectedly to four orphanages in Tijuana. Hearing that I was in town, Pastor Phil from the Community Church in San Diego called to tell me that one of the pastors who sponsors the orphanages would be very thankful for any soup mix that we could contribute to their needs.

After a street feeding for the homeless with my longtime friend, Pastor Sister Sophie

Grayson, I was delighted to give Gleaners soup mix to two pastors from the Lily of the Valleys Orphanages in Tijuana. Also happy to receive soup mix, the Second Chance Ministry in Vicente Guerrero is a ladies home for women in need, many of whom are single moms.

Mexico is a place that has been very dear to my heart for 14 years. May the Lord continue to lead and direct where these "suitcase soup mixes" should go!

In Christ's love,
Peggy Cumberbatch

**"May the God of hope fill
you with all joy & peace
as you trust in Him,
so that you may overflow
with hope by the power
of the Holy Spirit."**

– ROMANS 15 : 13 –

From the President's Desk

During the week following our A.G.M. on May 12th, Greg Masson, Jane Marcelet and I met with other food drying groups from across Canada. This organization of groups currently identifies itself as Dried With Love. I have been meeting formally with them for about a year (but on video conference), and the purpose of this recent gathering was to meet face-to-face in a week of site visits and symposium discussions regarding opportunities we might have for the future as a more defined organization with a shared mission. We visited Okanagan Gleaners (our site), North Okanagan Valley Gleaners and Fraser Valley Gleaners. For many of the other four groups involved, this was their first opportunity to view production at the Gleaners facilities in western Canada.

There were many good discussions regarding similarities and differences, as well as the potential benefits of operating as a more unified Canadian organization which could share production, sourcing and distribution strategies nationally. With that in mind, the final day was spent working on a mission statement for this national organization, as well as our common values. Once all of the Boards have been made aware and approved of these statements, we will be working on the next steps and goals, both short-term and long-term, for the Dried With Love organization. However, none of this work takes away from the autonomy and value of the local groups. And as Okanagan Gleaners, the work that we do and the donors who support us can be rightfully joyful in the knowledge that we have supplied more than 100 million servings of soup to the hungry of the world since 1996. A tremendous accomplishment! God continues to bless our efforts as we do His will and always look to Him in prayer.

At our A.G.M., one of our "new" Board members, Bob Ellis, spoke about the vision which he and others had when they started Okanagan Gleaners in 1994. He also talked about changes that have taken place in many areas of our operation over the years, but was very gratified to see that the mission and passion of "feeding the hungry of the world in Christ's name" had never changed. We appreciate everyone who was able to attend our A.G.M. this year, and as the new Board, we thank all of our volunteers who so faithfully work to support all that we plan and do. May this coming year bring even more people who desire to be part of Okanagan Gleaners, and may God continue to find us faithful as we serve Him here.

In His service,

Bill Saul, *President*

Summerland Social Justice Fair

Okanagan Gleaners was recently invited to participate in Summerland Secondary School's Fair Trade and Ethics Fair, held at Memorial Park on May 29th. The event was the brainchild of student Kaitlyn Nightingale, and conceived as a project for her Social Justice class. However, many other students, representatives, and "socially responsible" vendors also participated in the four-hour fair.

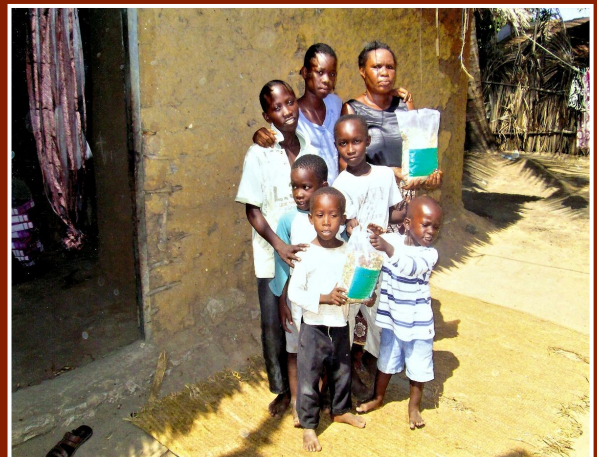
It was fun to meet old friends of Okanagan Gleaners at the event who remembered their own mothers and fathers knitting hats and chopping vegetables, as well as new people who did not know about our organization and its mission to help feed the hungry. The students were very enthused and thought the Gleaners were "a great idea."

In September, two of the teachers at the school are hoping to bring their students down to Gleaners for a morning to volunteer at the plant, tour the facility, and learn about utilizing surplus vegetables to make a nutritious soup mix.

Fall Fair Scavenger Hunt Sheets

Are you planning to visit Okanagan Gleaners this summer with your kids? We have quite a few scavenger hunt sheets left over from our Fall Fair last year, and all of the clues (except one) are still hidden around the property. Pick up a clue sheet and search for the answers – solo or as a team.

EVERY BAG OF OKANAGAN GLEANERS SOUP MIX HAS ITS OWN STORY.

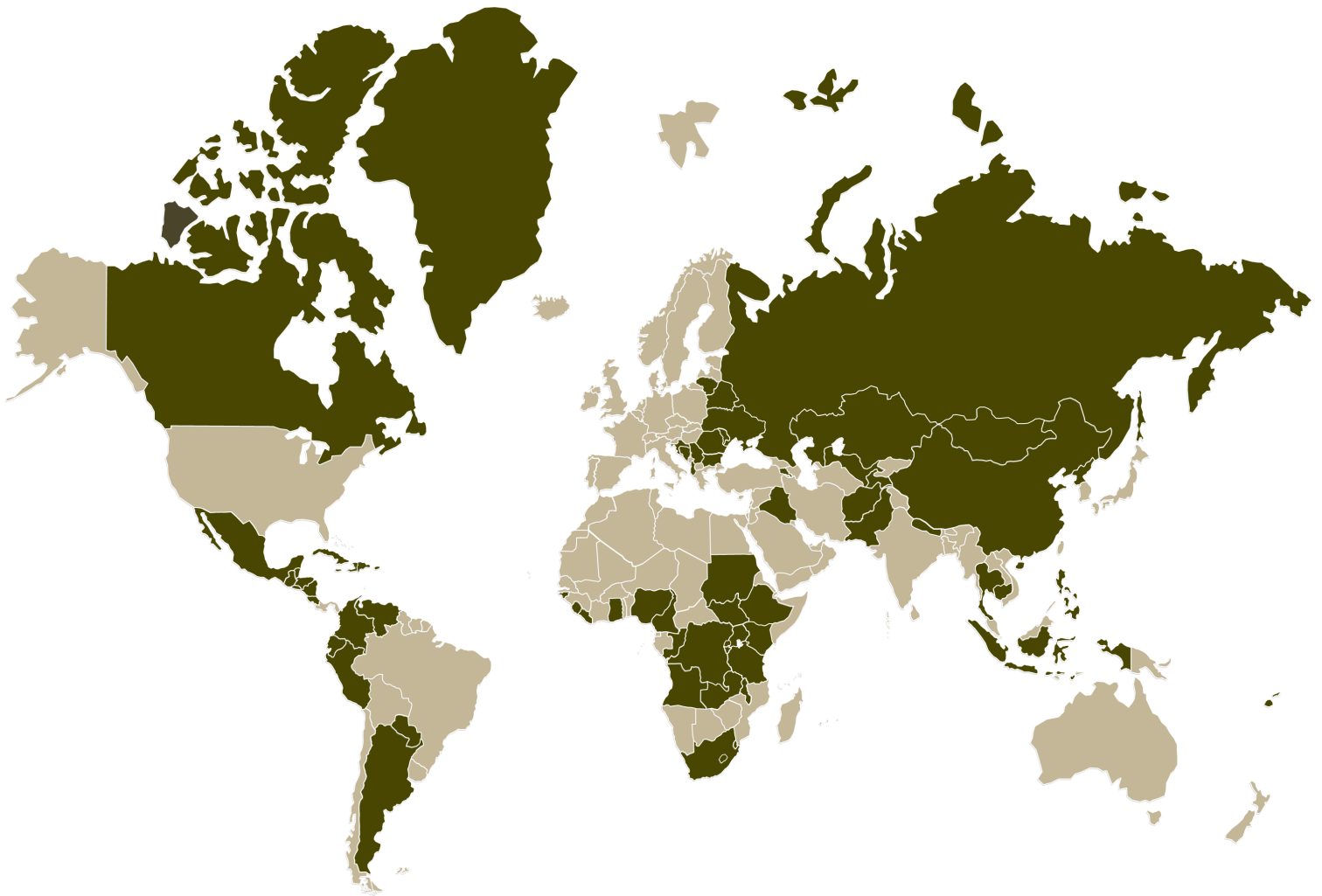


← GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION MAP →

Which Countries Received Okanagan Gleaners Soup Mix Between 1996 and 2018?

You may have noticed that our world map in the hallway of the Oliver plant hasn't been updated in quite a while. So we thought our readers might like to see where Okanagan Gleaners soup mix has traveled since production began in 1996 to the present. Although it is difficult to keep a record of every place that received soup mix during this time, we can confirm that our product has been shipped to at least 70 different countries during the past 23 years.

We are thrilled with this accomplishment and the continued support that our ministry has received over the years. Thank-you to all of the dedicated volunteers and donors, charities and humanitarian aid organizations, groups and individuals who have helped to make this possible. We couldn't do it without you!



NORTH AMERICA: Belize • Canada (Arctic) • Costa Rica • Cuba • Dominica • Dominican Republic • El Salvador • Greenland • Guatemala • Haiti • Honduras • Jamaica • Mexico • Nicaragua • USA (Puerto Rico)

SOUTH AMERICA: Argentina • Colombia • Ecuador • Paraguay • Peru • Venezuela

EUROPE: Albania • Belarus • Bosnia & Herzegovina • Bulgaria • Croatia • Lithuania • Moldova • Romania • Russia • Serbia • Ukraine

AFRICA: Angola • Burundi • Cameroon • Congo (both countries) • Ethiopia • Ghana • Guinea Bissau • Kenya • Lesotho • Liberia • Malawi • Nigeria • Rwanda • Sierra Leone • South Africa • Sudan • Swaziland • Tanzania • Uganda • Zambia

ASIA: Afghanistan • Armenia • Cambodia • China • Indonesia • Iraq • Kazakhstan • Mongolia • Nepal • North Korea • Pakistan • Philippines • Russia (Chechnya) • Tajikistan • Thailand • Uzbekistan

AUSTRALIA & PACIFIC ISLANDS: Fiji • Solomon Islands (and other South Pacific nations)

Volunteers Positions Available

Okanagan Gleaners needs your help to fill the following roles as soon as possible. Please spread the word and help us find the right people.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR – STARTING NEXT ISSUE

After four years, our current newsletter editor is stepping down. If you (or anyone you know) are interested in taking on this role, please contact Okanagan Gleaners by phone at 250-498-8859 or e-mail at okgmanager@gmail.com. We need to find someone on short notice for the September 2018 edition. Previous newsletter experience is not essential, although good computer skills and some familiarity with desktop publishing software (such as Microsoft Publisher) is helpful. The newsletter editor is responsible for producing four issues a year, and also attending meetings of the Gathering Committee. If you have a passion for writing and creativity, or would like to get more involved, please contact us today.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – TREASURER NEEDED

A new treasurer is still needed for Okanagan Gleaners. This is a part-time volunteer position, which oversees all financial and accounting procedures for the organization, as well as sitting on the Board of Directors and participating in Board activities. It may not be glamorous, but the treasurer has one of the most important roles at Gleaners. If you're good with numbers, enjoy record-keeping, and have a keen knowledge of tax regulations, we need your help and expertise to keep the operation running smoothly. Please contact Jane at 250-535-1424.

NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTED AT A.G.M.

Thank-you to everyone who came out to the Annual General Meeting in May. Our returning Board of Directors include Bill Saul (President), Mark Price (Vice President), Jane Marcelet (Interim Treasurer) and Carolyn Ellis. The newly elected Board members are Wendy Freeman, Bob Ellis and Les Clarke.



Photo above: On April 20th, 2018 Okanagan Gleaners was presented with a certificate by Terry Schafer of the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS) for "outstanding service to humankind". It was a beautiful spring day outside the plant, surrounded by blossoms and soup mixing volunteers.



Photo at right: Young girl in Ghana, West Africa with a bag of Okanagan Gleaners soup mix. Photos on pages 3 and 5 from Canadian Food for Children. Website: www.canadianfoodforchildren.net

Okanagan Gleaners Society

Summer 2018 Newsletter

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Taylor Knight

CONTRIBUTORS & ASSISTANCE:

Bill Saul, Greg Masson, Dianne Knight, Peggy Cumberbatch, Ray Brosseuk, Carolyn Ellis and Taylor Knight

How You Can Get Involved

Okanagan Gleaners Society is powered by volunteers and funded by donations. We couldn't do what we do without the generous help of our many supporters from near and far. There are several ways in which you can get directly involved.

VOLUNTEERING:

We are always looking for volunteers at Gleaners to help with the production of vegetables for our soup mix. Whether you live nearby or are passing through the Okanagan, we can sure use your help.

Skilled volunteers and experienced trades people are also encouraged to contact Gleaners. There is never any shortage of work to be done around the Oliver plant.

DONATIONS:

Regular donations help Gleaners to meet its monthly operating expenses and fund necessary improvements to the facility.

BY PHONE: Single or recurring monthly donations can be arranged by credit card or Direct Deposit from your bank account by calling Gleaners at 250-498-8859

BY MAIL: Cheque and money order donations can be mailed directly to the Okanagan Gleaners Society at:
507 No. 3 Road, Oliver, BC V0H 1T1

BY INTERNET: Donations can be made securely via CanadaHelps by following the Donate link on our website at:
www.okanagangleaners.com

Thank-you for your continued support.