

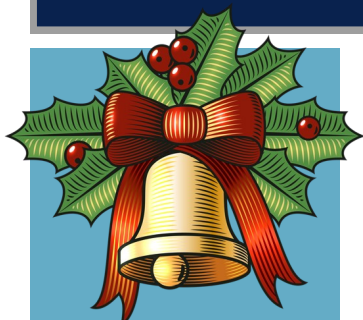
Okanagan Gleaners

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 —



Winter 2017 Edition

Shipments to East Ukraine

At the end of last year, Partners For Others sent a 40' shipping container full of medicine, supplies, equipment and food to war-torn Eastern Ukraine, which included boxes of Okanagan Gleaners soup mix. Due to the success of the first shipment, they started preparing a second container during the summer to be sent to the same area. Below are 3 videos produced by Hope TV which followed distribution of the supplies:

Video 1: The Hospital

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kcUGG2tVunE>

Video 2: Zhovanka Village

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BLrThFvIKRE>

Video 3: Undeniable Happiness

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dpXMUS7-yso>

Soup Kids Photos and an Update From CFFC

We recently received an update from Canadian Food for Children (CFFC) with a summary of where they shipped Okanagan Gleaners soup mix in 2017 and some accompanying photos of individual recipients. CFFC has been one of the principal distributors of our product for many years, with multiple shipments leaving their Mississauga warehouse every month bound for missions and humanitarian aid projects abroad. The society has a local chapter in Penticton, which receives the boxes of soup mix from our Oliver plant and sends it to their Ontario headquarters with other relief supplies that have been collected and donated in the area.



The Gleaners soup mix was distributed in many shipments throughout the year to at least eight different countries, with a total of 3-10 individual missions operating in each location. El Salvador, Sierra Leone and Honduras received the most shipments from CFFC in 2017, with Guatemala, Haiti, Tanzania, Ghana and Dominica also listed in their summary. In addition, Zambia, Malawi, Peru and Liberia may have also received soup mix this year. The pictures of children on this page were taken in 2016 and 2017.

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)
- Financial assistance to order the following supplies for soup mixing:

\$9,050 for 100,000 bags to package the soup mix and \$11,850 + taxes for 7,900 boxes used for shipping
- 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
- A safe and productive volunteer season through the winter months
- Okanagan Gleaners is looking for a new treasurer. If you are interested or know anyone who might be a good fit in this volunteer position, please see page 4 for more details



"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change."

— JAMES 1 : 17 —

First Gleaners Fall Fair Was a Success

On September 16th, Okanagan Gleaners invited the community to come see who we are and what we do at our first ever Fall Fair and Open House. Luckily, the weather cooperated and plenty of people showed up. Between 12:00 to 4:00pm an estimated 350 to 450 visitors stopped by, including many families.

Overall, we received positive feedback from everyone we spoke to, and most first-time visitors were surprised at the scope of the Gleaners operation. Many locals also expressed interest in coming back to volunteer in the future. Kids really seemed to enjoy the scavenger hunt and creative activities, while the adults listened to live music and toured the plant. The silent auction was well supported and we received generous donations at the gates. And with apron, food and t-shirt sales, the Fall Fair raised over \$4,500 towards creating our nutritious soup mix.



We were very fortunate that so many people came to the event, and we hope that everyone had a great time and learned more about Okanagan Gleaners in the process. Planning the Fall Fair required a considerable effort and there are many groups that we would like to thank, including the Gathering Committee and Board of Directors, and all of the volunteers who contributed their time and enthusiasm to help out at the event. We would also like to thank local businesses, churches and individuals who supported us by donating items for the silent auction, displaying our posters, and spreading the word to family and friends. Several newspapers, websites, visitor centres and radio stations also helped to promote the Fall Fair and we are grateful for their interest and assistance.

Thank you to everyone who came, and to those who prayed for a successful day. We hope that you will come back and see us again soon. Moving forward, our hope is to host a Fall Fair at Gleaners every second year.

OKANAGAN GLEANERS

would like to wish all of our friends and supporters a very joyful Christmas

*May you rejoice in the blessings
of His love this Christmas season
and throughout the New Year*

From the President's Desk

This has been an excellent year for Okanagan Gleaners in a number of different ways. We have had a consistent supply of volunteers throughout 2017, as well as a continuous supply of fruit and vegetables – mostly from local sources. Both of these factors have made it possible to keep our dryer running two loads a day for a good part of the year. And with Peace Country Gleaners in La Crete, Alberta providing us with more barley and split peas than ever before, this should allow us to produce between 8-9 million servings of soup when we package it up in April 2018. That's very exciting for all of us when we think about how many more hungry people will be able to be fed around the world! As always, we are incredibly grateful for all of the support we have received to accomplish this task.

This increase creates a need for significantly more storage space for both dried and packaged product, so over the next few months we will be discussing and investigating options to accomplish this. In terms of our site plans, we have now removed the old #2 dryer, as running it was causing complications with the new one. Its removal has given us more working room inside, and once this space has been refurbished, we will have a much larger area for cooling and scraping, which is necessary in order to run the new dryer as frequently as possible. Many thanks to everyone who worked so hard to get that old dryer out.

Okanagan Gleaners has also been working hard to increase its profile within the community this year, first by inviting members of the Oliver Chamber of Commerce for a tour and presentation, and also by hosting a successful Fall Fair on September 16th, with lots of activities, live music, food and plant tours for local residents and visitors. The most frequent comment we heard was that many people had no idea about the scale of our operation. We believe that Gleaners received lots of new commitment – in volunteers and donations – as a result of these two events.

As we move into the Christmas season, we would like to remind everyone that we have new Christmas gift cards available from the plant (more information can be found to the right). We hope that all of our friends of Okanagan Gleaners are able to spend some time with their loved ones during this time of year, and never lose sight that "Jesus is the reason for the season" – despite what the world would have you believe. May you all be blessed for your support of Gleaners, and we pray that your support will continue in 2018, both as volunteers and donors.

Wishing you all a merry and blessed Christmas,
Bill Saul, *President*



Christmas Gift Cards Available

With Okanagan Gleaners gift cards, you can help feed the hungry of the world with nutritious soup mix. Purchase a gift card this November or December and make a donation on behalf of your family or friends. You choose the amount, you write the message, you deliver the card. Order early if you are planning to mail the cards or if you require them to be mailed to you. Tax receipts are available for donations over \$20.00.

There are two different Christmas gift card designs to choose from this season. To order one or more cards by phone, please contact Jane at 250-535-1424 or Carolyn at 250-498-3671 and allow time for delivery. Or you may purchase them in person at the plant in Oliver.



Sock Drive Donations and Sorting

In early November, donation barrels were placed in over 40 banks, churches and businesses throughout the region for the Okanagan Gleaners 22nd Annual Sock Campaign. The final date for donations is Sunday, November 26th. If you are interested in contributing new or knitted clothing for orphans in Eastern Europe, please bring them to the location nearest you or drop them off at the plant in Oliver. We typically receive an abundance of socks, scarves and toques, but we also really need new children's shoes, sweaters, mittens, underwear and blankets as well. In 2016, we received 9,763 items and we hope to surpass that amount this year with your generous support. Please get involved. We are assured in Scripture that caring for orphans is close to God's heart and we thank you for participating in this ministry.

If you are interested in helping us sort and box the clothing after it has been collected, we are meeting on Saturday, December 2nd at Park Drive Church in Oliver (located at 6570 Park Drive). The sorting will begin at 8:30am and continue until completed. Please mark your calendar and plan to arrive early. Boxes will then be delivered to Eastern Europe by a local charity, "The Least of These" (which is based in Oliver). See you there!

Gleaners Blips and Bites

Here is a rundown of important dates and information to keep in mind:

PLANT CLOSURE DATES – CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

Please be advised that Okanagan Gleaners will be shutting down all production activities at the Oliver plant from December 22, 2017 until January 2, 2018 for maintenance during the Holidays. The final day of production will be December 21st, and the plant will re-open January 3rd.

SOUP MIXING SEASON BEGINS – APRIL 2018

The next newsletter won't be out until the second half of March, so we wanted to inform you now that soup mixing will once again commence in the Spring, with a starting date already set for Tuesday, April 10, 2018. Due to an increase in product being sent from Peace Country Gleaners, we estimate that it could take until May 5th to complete. Mixing starts at 8:30am and runs until 2:30pm (Tuesday through Saturday), with a hearty lunch provided. If you would like to be a part of this annual event for one or more days, please mark your calendars and come join the fun. Remember to book early if you want to reserve an RV site. See you then!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – TREASURER NEEDED

Okanagan Gleaners is currently looking for someone with financial experience to take on the role as treasurer. 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. If you know of anyone who might be interested in this position, please spread the word and help us find the right individual. Contact Jane at 250-535-1424 for more details.

OKANAGAN GLEANERS – TAX RECEIPTS FOR 2017

Just a reminder that donations to be included in this taxation year must be received by December 31st. Thank-you for supporting Gleaners.



Okanagan Gleaners Society

Winter 2017 Newsletter

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Taylor Knight

CONTRIBUTORS & ASSISTANCE:

Bill Saul, George Bruneau, Gloria Vargas, Greg Masson, Dianne Knight, Ray Brosseuk 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 plant.

DONATIONS:

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

BY PHONE: Single or monthly donations by credit card or Direct Deposit from your bank account can be arranged by calling: 250-492-6545 or 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.