



Summer 2015



Newsletter

OUR VOLUNTEERS HARD AT WORK PACKAGING SOUP MIX FOR DISTRIBUTION

Our Partners...Helping Us Make a Difference...

Soup for Mishkeegogamang



Vern Toews, Paul Burston and his volunteer team

We are so incredibly proud to be working with Paul Burston and his team from Hillside Community Church (Tottenham, Ontario) to bring hunger relief to the Mishkeegogamang Ojibway Nation residents. The community of nearly 1,000 is located 500 kms. northwest of Thunder Bay. For the last 10 years, because of the community's low levels of livability. Paul and his team have been delivering truckloads of donated essential goods to the community. Very recently, Paul reached out to us. We were happy to help! In mid-July, we loaded up Paul's truck with 250 boxes of soup mix (150,000 servings) to be delivered to Mishkeegogamang.

Enable Haiti



Jim Scott and children from orphanage in Haiti

When it was brought to our attention that Mr. Jim Scott, President of Windsor based company Ground Effects and founder of the charitable organization "Enable Haiti" was in need of food for his upcoming shipment, we were happy to help. Their mission is to empower the people of Haiti to improve their lives by providing necessary and immediate aid, assistance, and support - specific to those who require it with the objective of self-sustainability. We partnered with Mr. Scott and provided "Enable Haiti" with 300,000 servings of our soup mix to be shipped to Haiti in mid-summer 2015.

Guinea, West Africa

As indicated in February's newsletter, we were privileged to receive a visit from Lizette Lavoie, a Missionary working in Guinea, West Africa. She runs the "Crisis Orphanage" there. We partnered with Lizette and Gregory Drive Alliance Church in Chatham to ship 40,000 servings of dehydrated vegetables and apple snacks to aid the "Crisis Orphanage" there. In a recent phone conversation, Lizette informed Gleaners' Board Chairman Vern Toews, that thanks to our contribution, the children are "well fed".



SWO Gleaners' team loading shipment for Guinea, West Africa.

2015 Spring Fundraiser



Volunteers Sharon & Moira selling drink tickets

Our 3rd Annual Spring Fundraiser with over 400 guests in attendance, was a huge success! Held on April 11th at Colasanti's, the event was a wonderful evening of fun, laughter, awesome food and excellent entertainment. A huge thank you to everyone who made the evening possible. Before you know it, plans will be under way for our 4th Annual Fundraiser. If you would like to help out next year, please let Amy know. She will be sure to include you in the first planning meeting.



Bob Gabriele & Dan Wood (above) provided the entertainment for the evening.



Fundraiser guests smiling for the camera...

Just a Thought...

Not enough time to volunteer, but you'd like to help? Why not consider dropping off a can of coffee or some baked goods to the Gleaners? We would be so grateful!

We Welcome Tour Groups



The North Simcoe Crop & Soil Improvement Association touring our operation.

We would love for you to bring your community or church group, family or friends to visit us at the Southwestern Ontario Gleaners and we know that you will leave excited about the work that is happening here. A tour begins in our community room where information is given about the Gleaners. While touring the facility, you will see volunteers preparing, processing and drying the produce. Our volunteers love to share stories about the work they are doing. The tour concludes with a question and answer session. To book a tour, call Amy at 519-326-7687.



We had a nice visit from the folks at the Ontario Student Nutrition Program (above) Thanks for all that you do to ensure our local youth don't go hungry! We were happy to help!



Volunteer David Groh was pleasantly surprised when his family from out of town paid him a visit at the Gleaners. We were happy to show them around!

Thumbs Up!



"Thumbs up" for 1 Million servings packaged.

Great News Everyone!!! On Friday, June 12, we reached a remarkable milestone - 1 MILLION soup servings packaged. Thank you to our amazing volunteers, produce donors and funding donors. Without your support, none of this would be possible. Together we are reducing hunger and waste.

A Visit from Minister of Public Works & Government Services



We are so pleased to have been visited by MP Dave VanKesteren and Minister of Public Works & Government Services Diane Finley. They were very impressed with our operation and extremely interested in our efforts to relieve hunger locally and internationally. Thank you to a few of our community partners (the VON, the MCC and Chatham's Gregory Drive Alliance Church) for joining us.



Please "Like" our Facebook page and encourage your friends to do the same. Watch for regular updates, good news stories, and information on our community partners. Please "share" our news.

Meet the SWO Gleaners Board of Directors



*Vern Toews, Board Chair
Fund Development Chair*



Dennis Dick, Director



*Peter Fiss, Vice Chair,
Production Chair*



*Steve Tultz, Director
& Fund Development
Committee Member*



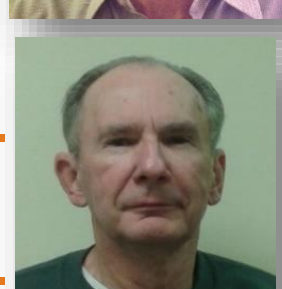
*Carol Sawatzky,
Finance Chair*



*Phil Farbota,
Director*



*Tina Quiring, Treasurer &
Event Committee Chair*



*Jake Martens,
Director & Production
Team Member*



*Leasa Barkovsky,
Director & Event
Committee Member*



*Production Team (left to right):
Diane Watts; Lisa Kimball-Wigfield,
Production Manager; Volunteers
Andre Lalonde, Co-Assistant
Production Manager; Kevin Bayley &
Jaycee Sova-Ford*

A Word from Chair of the Board Vern Toews....

With the harvest season in full swing, we now have an abundance of non-marketable, onions, potatoes, carrots, beans, peppers, squash, & (later) Brussel sprouts for soup mix as well as apples for fruit snacks.

We have donated over 1 million servings to be distributed locally and internationally and expect to distribute another 1 million servings this year. We are very grateful for the tremendous community support that we have received and on behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to thank the members, committees, generous donors, Gleaners' staff and of course our wonderful volunteers.

As we continue to build a broad base of community support, we are able to further our mandate of converting non-marketable product to feed hungry people locally and internationally.

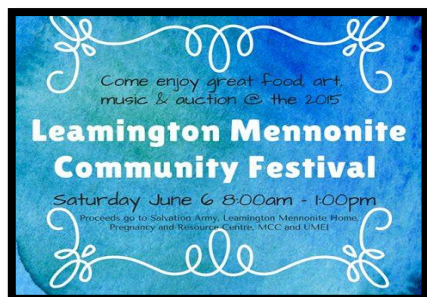
Making a Donation...

The Southwestern Ontario Gleaners is 100% donor driven. Your donation dollars help us to relieve hunger both locally and abroad by converting surplus produce into a nutritious soup mix. Funds donated are used to operate our facility. Donations can be made online through www.canadahelps.org or sent in the mail to: Southwestern Ontario Gleaners, 40 Industrial Rd. Leamington, ON. N8H 4W4. Tax receipts issued for all donations.

Gleaners "Out and About"

We've Been Busy!

When we're not in production Monday to Friday 8:30am to Noon, we can often be found at local community events like the ones listed below. Our participation at these community gatherings is great for public awareness & volunteer recruitment. If you know of upcoming events where you think we should be – call Amy at 519-326-SOUP.



Community Groups Volunteering Their Time...



Volunteers from First Lutheran Church Kingsville visit one Wednesday each month (see left)



Students from St. Clair College, Thames Campus (above) spent the day volunteering with us.



A heartfelt "Thank you!" to the staff of Alzheimer's Society of Windsor-Essex (above) for spending the morning volunteering at the Gleaners. Excellent team building opportunities here!

Volunteer Opportunities

Production: Monday through Friday, we need 30 volunteers/day (age 15 or older) to work on our production line from 8:30 am to 12 Noon. All necessary equipment such as aprons, knives, gloves & hair nets are provided.

Hosts & Hostesses: We feel it is very important that our volunteers enjoy their time with us. We want them to return! Hosts/Hostesses would prepare coffee, tea and sweet treats for volunteer break. Time commitment: 8:30 to 10:30 am. Choose a day (Mon thru Fri) that works for you.

Bakers: We supply baked goods for up to 30 volunteers on a daily basis so we need your help! Do you like to bake cookies, muffins, squares or pies? Come spend an afternoon baking in our kitchen. Let us know what ingredients you need and we'll make sure we're fully stocked.

Janitorial: We could use help with washing the floors/windows & bathrooms once or twice per week. If you or someone you know can help in this regard, we'd love to hear from you!

Bin Dumpers: Each afternoon, after a busy morning of slicing & dicing, we need one or two individuals who can dump 30-40 lb lugs of diced product into dehydrator. This job involves repetitive lifting – no need to visit the gym when you work one of these shifts.

Southwestern Ontario
Gleaners 40 Industrial Rd.
Leamington, Ontario N8H 4W4
Monday to Friday
8:00 am – 4:30 pm
519-326-SOUP (7687)
swogleaners@gmail.com
www.swogleaners.org

RECIPIENT	DISTRIBUTION PARTNER	DEHYDRATED PRODUCT
Local schools	V.O.N.	50,000 servings of apple snacks
North Korea	Mennonite Central Committee	210,000 servings of soup mix
Guinea, West Africa	Gregory Dr. Alliance Church	40,000 servings dehydrated vegetables and apple snacks
Bosnia	Mennonite Central Committee	215,000 servings of soup mix
Haiti	Ground Effects (Windsor)	300,000 servings of soup mix
Zambia	Beautiful Feet Ministries	90,000 servings of soup mix
Mishkeegogaman (First Nations Reserve Northern Ontario)	Hillside Community Church	150,000 servings soup mix & apple snacks
Servings Distributed: 1,055,000		Unpackaged Servings in Inventory: 600,000
Packaged Servings in Inventory: 175,000		Total Servings: 1,830,000

Serving Statistics as of July 31, 2015

