



SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO GLEANERS' SOUP ARRIVING IN HAITI

Spring 2016



Newsletter

How Are We Doing So Far?

To date, we have distributed over **1.6 million** servings of dehydrated product *internationally* to Haiti, Cuba, Guinea, Bosnia, Zambia and *domestically* to local schools, Walpole Island and Mishkeegogamang (a First Nations Reserve in Northern Ontario). Our next major international shipment of 250,000 servings is destined for Mauritania. When the Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) reached out to us recently and described the urgent need in this African country, we knew we needed to help.

The World Food Program recently published these alarming facts about hunger in Mauritania:

Mauritania is a food deficit country, meaning that it does not produce enough food for the population to live on. It depends on imports for around 70% of its cereal needs.

Although Mauritania is a huge country – over 1,000,000 sq. kms. – over 80% of the country's land surface is desert. Less than 4% of the land is arable.

Nearly 10% of children under five suffer from acute malnutrition.

About 25% of Mauritians live on less than \$1.25 US per day

In 2015, WFP aimed to assist more than 638,120 people living with food insecurity, including over 143,015 children under five, and over 22,495 pregnant and nursing mothers suffering from acute malnutrition.

Mauritania hosts the largest number of Malian refugees. As of March 31, 2015, over 52,000 refugees are living in Mbera refugee camp.



Save the Date!

Sat. April 2, 2016
Annual General Meeting
2:00 p.m.

Come learn more about our organization – where we've been and where we're headed. All members of SWO Gleaners are able to vote so become a member today!



Sat. April 23, 2016
 Colasanti's Tropical Gardens
 Doors Open – 6pm
 Chicken/Pasta 6:30-7:30
 Entertainment by
 Bob Gabriele & Dan Woods
 Live Auction & Raffle
 Adults - \$35
 Children (4-12) - \$15
 Under 3 – Free
 Tickets Available at
 SWO Gleaners
For Information call
519-326-7687

Thanksgiving Soup Luncheon



SWO Gleaners 1st Annual Thanksgiving Soup luncheon was a tremendous success. A heartfelt "Thank You" to all of the volunteers who helped to make the event a memorable one. Over 80 guests (including volunteers, local dignitaries and community partners) enjoyed samplings of our soup all lovingly prepared by our volunteers & staff. We hope to make this an annual event.



Pictured above left: Volunteers & guests at 1st Annual Thanksgiving Soup. Picture above Centre: Gleaners Award Winners Ben Neufeld, Peter Fehr and Kevin Bayley. Pictured Right: Rotary Club of Leamington cheque presentation to Southwestern Ontario Gleaners.

Holiday Volunteer Appreciation Gathering



Held in December, our 2nd annual holiday gathering was a hit! With over 50 guests in attendance, this event was the perfect opportunity for volunteers, staff and board members to jumpstart the holiday season, celebrate achievements, enjoy the delicious appetizers & desserts and listen to holiday music by Mike Binder. Congratulations to volunteers Ben Neufeld, Peter Fehr and Kevin Bayley who were each presented with an award for outstanding service and dedication. Way to go gentlemen! You are making a positive difference!



Rotary/Gleaners' New Year's Eve Gala



2015 was a year of many "firsts" for the Southwestern Ontario Gleaners. When our friends at the Rotary Club of Leamington asked us to partner in a New Year's Eve event which would see all proceeds benefiting our mission, we at the Gleaners knew it was an offer we could not refuse.



With over 113 guests in attendance, the evening was a wonderful testament to the generosity of our community and the true benefits of partnership.

We wish to extend a heartfelt thanks to the Rotary Club of Leamington, the event sponsors, those who purchased tickets and to the many volunteers who made the event the success it was - raising an astounding \$9,500 for the Gleaners. Below is a photo of SWO Gleaners' Treasurer Tina Quiring accepting cheque from the Rotary Club of Leamington.



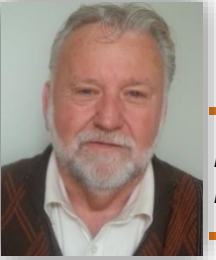
SWO Gleaners' Board of Directors



Vern Toews, Board Chair, Fund Development Chair



Tina Quiring, Treasurer



Peter Fiss, Vice Chair, Production Chair



Dennis Dick, Director



Carol Sawatzky, Finance Chair



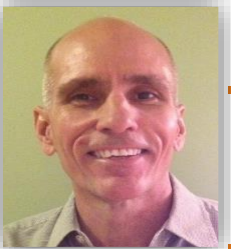
Steve Tultz, Director



Leasa Barkovsky, Director



Jake Martens, Director



Phil Farbota, Distribution Chair



Board Chairman Vern Toews travelled to Mishkeegogamang in January 2016. He is pictured here with school representative discussing potential soup recipes.

A Message from Board Chair Vern Toews...

With the arrival of Spring, we are now processing the remainder of last year's crop. We anticipate an abundance of new crop of non-marketable onions, potatoes, carrots, peppers, squash and beans for our vegetable soup mix as well as apples for dehydrated fruit snacks.

2015 was very successful in that we donated many meals to hungry people in countries around the world and have started to develop a recipe of vegetable soup mix for the First Nations communities in Northern Ontario and food banks locally.

Also in 2015, we were able to significantly expand our corporate donor base to further stabilize and sustain our financial situation. For this we are truly grateful.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to thank our members, donors, committees, Gleaners' staff and of course our wonderful volunteers who continue to inspire us.

I trust that we will be able to continue to build a broad base of community support, so we are able to further our mandate of converting non-marketable produce to feed hungry people internationally and locally.

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.

Global Hunger - We've got our work cut out for us...

According to World Food Program....

- Some 795 million in the world do not have enough food to lead a healthy active life. This is 1 in 9 people on earth.
- 98% of the world's undernourished people live in developing countries
- Sub-Saharan Africa is the region with the highest prevalence of hunger. 1 in 4 is undernourished.
- Poor nutrition causes 45% of deaths in children under age 5 – 3.1 million children each year.
- 1 in 6 - roughly 100 million in developing countries is underweight.
- 66 million primary school age children attend classes hungry across developing world with 23 million in Africa alone.
- 896 million people in developing countries live on \$1.90 a day or less.

Community Groups Volunteering Their Time...



Pictured above: Volunteers from St. Clair College, Thames Campus; Tecumseh United Church and 401 Truck Source

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.

Contact:

*Southwestern Ontario Gleaners
40 Industrial Rd.
Leamington, Ontario N8H 4W4*

Hours:

*Monday to Friday
8:00 am – 4:30 pm*

Call:

519-326-SOUP (7687)

E-mail:

swogleaners@gmail.com

Website:

www.swogleaners.org

Recipient	Distribution/Partner	Dehydrated Product
<i>Local Schools</i>	<i>V.O.N.</i>	<i>50,000 servings apple snacks</i>
<i>Haiti</i>	<i>MCC, Ground Effects, Thermo Energy</i>	<i>762,000 servings soup</i>
<i>Guinea, West Africa</i>	<i>Gregory Dr. Alliance</i>	<i>40,000 servings soup/apple snacks</i>
<i>Bosnia</i>	<i>MCC</i>	<i>215,000 servings soup</i>
<i>Zambia</i>	<i>Beautiful Feet Ministries</i>	<i>90,000 servings soup</i>
<i>Mishkeegogamang</i>	<i>Hillside Community Church</i>	<i>150,000 servings soup/apples</i>
<i>Windsor Youth Centre</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>2,400 servings soup</i>
<i>Cuba</i>	<i>World Serve Ministries</i>	<i>210,000 servings soup</i>
<i>Multiple Countries</i>	<i>Canadian Food For Children</i>	<i>133,200 servings of soup</i>
<i>Walpole Island Food Bank</i>	<i>Walpole Island Social Services</i>	<i>1,800 servings</i>

**Total Servings Distributed -1,654,400
With approx. 1 Million servings in warehouse to be distributed. (Stats as of March 2016)**

