

## Mission Grant Spotlight



# Pack it up and ship it out!

The past year has been such a blessing for the Houston branch of Orphan Grain Train (OGT). Thirty-three receiving days were held to collect donations, and seven packing days were held, in which the donations were sorted and packed by over 100 volunteers. OGT Houston currently operates out of two shipping containers that house over 1,300 boxes filled with clothing, blankets, shoes and hygiene kits ready to be transported to those in need around the world.

The mission of OGT is also carried out by delivering goods to multiple local charities. A number of those charities include Legacy Ranch (emergency foster shelter for children), Gonzales; Pasadena Community Ministries and Medical Bridges, Pasadena; Immanuel Lutheran

Church, Mercedes; Valley Baptist Retreat, Mission; LINC (street ministry), Austin; and Trinity Lutheran Church (homeless ministry), Houston. These efforts are possible because of the love and support from the LWML Texas District.

In 2022, OGT Houston was awarded a \$25,000 LWML Texas District mission grant which has funded the purchase of supplies, including boxes, tape and labels used during the receiving and packing events.

In addition, the mission grant has also funded freight to deliver the collected donations to the charities. The shipping containers and a storage unit were also made possible through the grant.

Your mite donations have made a big impact on OGT Houston. In

addition to the blessings of the mission grant, OGT Houston is also thankful for the outpouring of support from LWML groups throughout the Texas District. The generous donations of hand-crafted blankets, quilts and numerous clothing items have been a blessing to many people around the state. As a volunteer-led organization, OGT depends on the support of the community and they are extremely grateful for the blessings bestowed on them by the LWML Texas District.

Exciting things are coming in 2024! OGT Houston will begin construction of a Servant Center warehouse in Pasadena, which will allow for expanded efforts. Thank you to the LWML for your continued support and prayers!



## LWML Texas District 43rd Biennial Convention

- June 13–15, 2024
- Omni Hotel Corpus Christi

"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works."

### GOAL

Hold fast in Christ, our source of hope, living out our faith without wavering.

### OBJECTIVE

Attendees will:

- ▶ Be strengthened in faith through worship and fellowship.
- ▶ Honor God by showing love to one another.
- ▶ Witness boldly, anchored in Christ.

**Table Talk**  *Grab a cup of coffee or tea, and let us visit a moment.*

Here we are in February 2024! January was indeed full of tasks and preparation for the LWML Presidents Assembly; the District Executive Committee and Board of Directors meetings for February; the Assembly of Leaders (AOL) presentations; and of course, the 43rd Biennial Convention of the LWML Texas District.



**Frances Molitor**  
LWML Texas District President

There are exciting times on the way! First, mark June 13-15 on your calendar and plan on attending the convention in Corpus Christi. Bring as many with you as possible. All are welcome. Registration and convention information has gone out in a special edition of *The Lone Star Connection* and is also available at [lwmltxdist.org](http://lwmltxdist.org). Please contact your group or zone president if you need a paper copy of the convention information.




**Mite offerings**

must reach the financial secretary, Kathy Walther, by March 22 to be included in the current biennium totals.

Any mites received after that date will be used for the 2024–2026 biennium.

Mite offerings can be sent to:  
LWML Texas District  
Kathy Walther,  
Financial Secretary  
P.O. Box 124  
Giddings, TX 78942

**Scholarships available** 

Have you heard? The LWML Texas District Scholarship Endowment Fund Committee will award scholarships for the 2024–2025 school year for women studying to become full-time church workers. Eligibility requirements and the application can be found at [lwmltxdist.org](http://lwmltxdist.org). From the menu bar, click “Committees,” choose “Scholarships” from the drop-down menu, and download the application packet.

For more information, contact Melissa Houchin, Scholarship Committee chairman, at [scholarship@lwmltxdist.org](mailto:scholarship@lwmltxdist.org). Completed packets must be sent to Melissa by March 31.

Now that you know, share this wonderful opportunity with a female member in your Texas District congregation who is studying to become a full-time LCMS professional church worker at and LCMS college or university.

But don't stop your sharing there! Romans 10:14 reminds us:

How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in Him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?

As we enter into this season of Lent, keep sharing the joy of the birth of Jesus, and His perfect life; His death on the cross to pay for the sins of the world; His resurrection that first Easter morning declaring victory over sin, death and the devil; His ascension into heaven to prepare a place for us; and His promised return.

Let everyone hear the Good News!



Donna Hughes, a member of Bethlehem, Palestine, is a volunteer of volunteers. She has served on many LWML boards and committees and has held many offices.

She is currently serving as secretary of the church council, is on the Evangelism Committee, and holds the offices of archivist/historian for the East Texas Zone and secretary of the Willing Workers of Bethlehem. A Sunday school teacher for many years, Donna volunteers each week at the Montalba Library, delivers Meals on Wheels, helps restock food items to four Blessing Boxes around town, and serves



at the Stock Pot of Palestine, a soup kitchen for the needy.

Donna thinks LWML members are “the neatest bunch of ladies who with joy serve together.” The fellowship, reaching out with smiles, and words of encouragement are very special to her.

Donna was invited to join LWML in the early 1970s by loving and faithful ladies of Bethlehem. Helen Hulcy, Inez Dupont, Ruby Gruetzner, Gertrude Gerken and Adell Lawson were her early mentors.

According to Sharon Mills, East Texas Zone president, Donna “truly serves the Lord with gladness and joy. I am blessed to call her my friend.”

The LWML Texas District is blessed to call her the Heart of the LWML.