

## 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!