



"Jesus traveled through all the towns and villages of that area,... teaching the Good News about the Kingdom. And he healed every kind of disease and illness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them. He said to his disciples, 'The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields.'" **MATTHEW 9:35-38**



## Assistant Manager Profile



Rick Batenburg

**Rick Batenburg** was hired by NCG as a part time Assistant Manager in March. His role is to assist Pete Wierenga, our General Manager in managing the day to day operations of working with our volunteers, equipment and produce. As a board we were pleased in the growth in available produce and volunteers that led to this need after 3 months of operations. We know that Rick and Pete do an excellent job of managing the facilities, produce, and production. We know this because we hear it from and see it in our enthusiastic volunteers.

### 1. What first attracted you to work at NCG as a volunteer?

*After retirement, I was looking for a place to volunteer and someone I knew suggested going to the Gleaners. I liked the mission of diverting food waste to use as hunger relief. And the other volunteers were great to work with.*

### 2. What fact or observation about NCG stands out in your mind as Assistant Manager? What is your favourite part of the day here?

*The fact that we are using all this food that would otherwise be thrown out to, instead, provide for people in need. When the volunteers come in and see the interactions between people who are happy to be there.*

### 3. How do you see that NCG is doing in fulfilling its mandate as an organization?

*We have a lot of willing people to do the work, a lot of produce being donated, and a lot of need in this world so I believe we are well on our way of fulfilling God's call to feed the hungry.*

### 4. Any observations on how NCG is maturing?

*It has been a learning experience for sure, but thankfully, with the support from many people, including other Gleaner operations, we are developing a model that is unique to us.*

### 5. Any final words or comments for our volunteers or those reading this newsletter?

*If you are looking for something that will bring you pride to be involved, that does good works, that gives you an opportunity to interact with people, or just to keep your hands busy - the Gleaners is a great place to spend a morning!*

# Christmas Hours

**CLOSED DEC. 23RD - JAN. 3RD**

*Production resumes Monday, January 6, 2020*

## Distributor Report: Speroway

**For over 10 years**, Speroway has been in Haiti to strengthen the quality of nutrition, education and health care. This year Haiti has been challenged with a poor economy and political unrest. Food prices have skyrocketed.



In the Pignon area, they supply NCG dehydrated food to supplement meals for over 1000 children in the local Christian Grade School. For many, this is their main meal of the day. This school provides them with good nutrition, education and biblical teaching.

On the weekends, NCG food is also distributed through the local churches. It has been an answer to prayer for them. When they pray, "Give us this day our daily bread," they do not pray with their cupboards well stocked.

The dried fruit and vegetables that you help provide, is having a positive effect as a blessing on the lives of these needy brothers and sisters in the Lord, as well as being a witness for their neighbours.

Speroway is pleased to have Niagara Christian Gleaners as a partner.

## Board Report

**It is so good to see** the Niagara Christian Gleaners maturing as a ministry in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. It has been a year now since the first volunteers came and sorted the produce for the first load that went into the dryer.

That first batch has already done its work of providing nutrition to some needy person, along with the gospel message.

We thank you for your support of this work, whether as a volunteer, a produce supplier, transporter, committee member, financial provider, or by upholding us in prayer.

Being that this is our first year, we are happy to report that our expenses have kept in line with our anticipated costs. Financial giving so far this year has been meeting our expenses. Please consider a donation to NCG as we approach our year end. Since our cost of production is 10 cents per serving, a donation of \$100 will provide 1,000 servings of nutrition to those in need.

Join us in continuing to pray for our distribution partners as they work to meet both the needs of the body and the soul of the recipients.



## PRE-AUTHORIZED DEBIT FORM FOR NIAGARA CHRISTIAN GLEANERS

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

Prov \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Donation Information:** Monthly Donation Pledge: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Donation taken each 15th day starting \_\_\_\_\_ Month \_\_\_\_\_

**Authorization:** I/we hereby authorize you to debit my/our account each month in the amount shown above and for such amount to be payable to Niagara Christian Gleaners. Your treatment of each payment shall be the same as if I/we had personally issued a cheque authorizing you to pay as indicated and to debit my/our account accordingly. This authorization may be cancelled at any time upon written notice by me/us.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Authorized Signatory \_\_\_\_\_ \*\*Please include a void cheque along with your form.



## General Manager's Report



Pete Wierenga

As I prepare this GM report we are getting close to our 1 year production anniversary. Last autumn, following our ribbon cutting and open house celebrations, we completed all the equipment setup and trials. The trialing of the equipment went better than expected and we were prepared to launch a regular production plan by December 1, 2019.

I was asked to consider some of last years' highlights and share them with our supporters via this newsletter. As I reflected back and flipped back through a year's worth of photos it became quite clear what truly is the real highlight of the mission of Niagara Christian Gleaners (NCG) - the people. Every aspect of the work we do and the goals of NCG are about touching lives in Christ's name. So, as I share some highlights - I'll do it through the lens of how we have impacted lives and the trust we needed in our faithful God who allowed us to have an amazing first year and the best start possible.

- An early photo shows a crew of 9 volunteers stopping for a coffee break - around them were 91 empty chairs in a mostly empty fellowship room. I'm sure they couldn't imagine the day when we would be overfilled in our fellowship room. We've had that reality often in this past year.



- Dryer trials, which mostly meant setting up programs and hoping for the best! Now we are operating our dryer with a much greater sense of confidence and expectant results.



- The first tractor trailer load of produce arriving from the Holland Marsh - to the many truckloads that followed. We were so blessed to have food donors who understood what we were about and were ready to support us with their surplus produce. By the end of this year we will have intercepted over 1.5 million pounds of nutritious produce that otherwise would have been thrown out!

- Additional equipment being added along the way and put in service such as the tray washer/sanitizer, spare dicer, semi-automatic bag sealer, our own tow-motor, etc. All of these things helping make things run as smooth as possible.

- The groups that came to check us out - many lending a hand as they volunteered their time. We've had secondary and elementary school classes, Bible Study Groups, 4-H Clubs, Corporate Team Building events, GEMS and Cadet groups, Church Youth Groups, Senior's



Groups, Women's groups, etc - all coming to be a part of something very special at NCG.

- Our community showing how much they love us through their support. The family fun and excitement of our Strawberry Social that continues to raise the profile of NCG. Our spring fundraising dinners which help cover the operating costs of NCG. These 2 events are beautiful ways of connecting our community to the mission of NCG.



- Our distribution partners who helped us get our food aid to many different locations where the need is so great. We've been able to ship food to some of our challenged Northern Ontario communities, to a men's street ministry in Hamilton, and to developing countries such as Haiti, Zambia, and Eswatini.

- Our growing list of volunteers who generously give of their time. What a joy to do this together and demonstrate the body of Christ at work in His kingdom. One year in and we already have an amazing pool of individuals who are dedicated, energetic and love to be of service. It warms my heart every day when I witness first hand the unity of believers.



I could go on sharing more amazing highlights from this past year, but I believe I've given you a snapshot of something pretty special happening at NCG. If you'd like to learn more, I'd encourage you to come spend a morning with us - I promise that you will be blessed by the experience.

Praising God from whom all blessings flow!

• SAVE THE DATE •

## Fundraising

## DINNERS

FRIDAY, MARCH 27 & SATURDAY, MARCH 28

Watch for sign up details early 2020!