



SUMMER 2022

NEWSLETTER



PETE'S PEN

At Niagara Christian Gleaners (NCG) we can't stop being amazed at what God is doing in this mission and the lives that are being touched by what is being accomplished. The matter of food security for many in the world continues to be a real and growing challenge. Comparably, Canada as a country, ranks in the top 10 in all the world for stable, available, and yes, affordable food. It's this inequality and imbalance that NCG seeks to affect by sharing dried food aid for those who need it most.

It was just over a year ago that we commissioned our 2nd commercial dehydrator to help us respond to what we were experiencing - that is prepared produce that was waiting for dryer time. The decision to add dryer capacity was the right decision to meet the immediate operational restrictions at NCG. Shortly after the dryer project, our Board of Directors appointed an adhoc Long Term Planning Committee (LTPC) to examine things more thoroughly, and present some strategies to address possible *(continued on next page)*

FREE
FAMILY
FUN



Strawberry SOCIAL

SATURDAY, JUNE 25

Niagara Christian Gleaners is once again hosting a
Walk-Through and Strawberry Social.

YOU'RE INVITED TO COME VISIT OUR FACILITIES and learn more about the mission of NCG - which is to curb food waste and bless others across the globe with our surplus produce - all in Christ's name. We'll be happy to be your host and we will be serving up

**COMPLIMENTARY STRAWBERRIES AND
ICE CREAM FOR OUR GUESTS.**

SATURDAY, 25 JUNE 2022/ 1-4 PM.
6251 Spring Creek Rd, Smithville, Ontario L0R 2A0.

Sharing Our Blessings

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long term opportunities and challenges. The LTPC came back to the Board with a recommendation to extend our warehouse to the East by approximately 5,000 sq ft of building with a 2,500 sq ft second floor mezzanine. The team identified some key operational goals that the expansion plan will address. I'm pleased to share some of the thoughts and discernment that went into each of these key areas.

SAFETY:

Thankfully, to date, we have been spared any serious injury or mishaps among our staff and volunteers. Having said that, the team identified some safety enhancements that could only be realized by adding more work space. Currently we have multiple things happening in close proximity to each other. With increased floor area we will have more clearly defined work spaces that cover specified tasks vs multiple tasks. Simply put - we are presently often working in rather "crowded" conditions that will be made safer.

HOLDING ROOM CAPACITY:

When our current plant was built we simply matched a "same sized" holding room to the single dryer we had. This sealed room is there to "hold" dried produce once it comes out of our dryers.

Without this room, and with Ontario's high humidity conditions, there is a tendency for the product to "rehydrate" before we are able to get it to the packaging lines. Our expansion will more than double our holding room to match the output of our 2 dryers.



COOLER CAPACITY:

This item alone was identified as one of our most pressing needs. The planned expansion will add 2 larger coolers to help us manage our incoming produce in a much more efficient manner. Presently, we rely on our one cooler as well as Refrigerated Trailers to store our incoming produce donations. The trailers have been a good temporary solution. By nearly tripling our cooler capacity, we will be able to manage produce better on a "first in" and "first out" basis, and buffer our produce supply. Our grower partners often work in a world of immediacy. We want to provide a solution to their surplus as it happens.

EFFICIENCY:

Another significant improvement will be the addition of a second floor mezzanine that will hold more than 150 pallets of dried food aid, up from our current 37 pallet racking. Our goal is to have the ability to hold a sustainable level of dried food inventory comprised of the many different produce types, so that our aid packages can be more balanced throughout the year with a greater range of food varieties.

CONCLUSION:

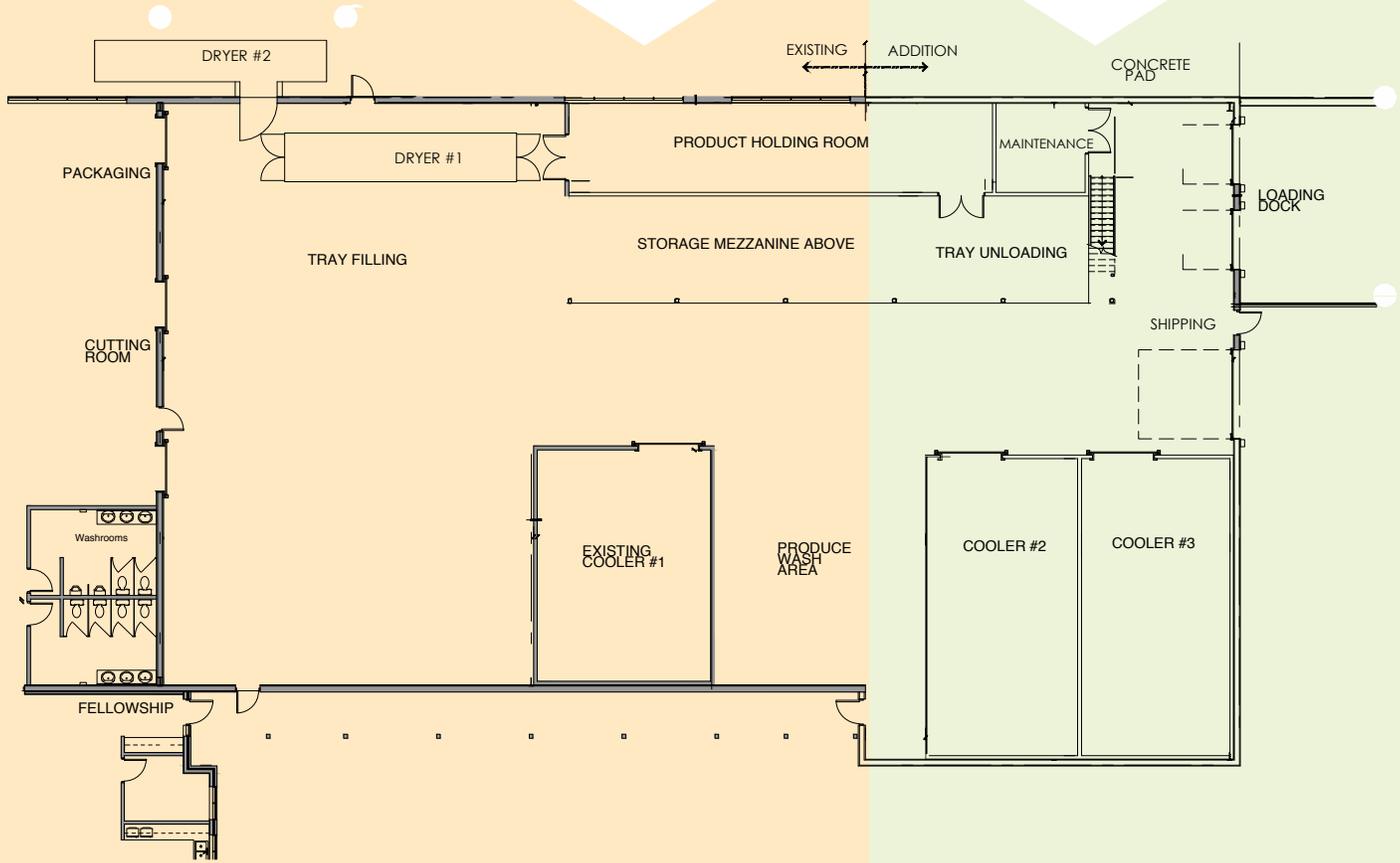
Although we may have only touched on a few key goals of the expansion project, we hope you've captured a piece of the vision that God has placed on the hearts of our Long Term Planning Team, our Board of Directors, and our Management Team. We invite you to get excited with us as we embark on this next significant chapter of NCG's God story! It continues to be exciting times at the Gleaners as we seek to steward wisely all that God has entrusted to us. All for His glory. PW

NEW BUILD RENDERING



EXISTING

ADDITION



Spring is usually the time when, here at the Gleaners, the quality of the produce that has been stored over the winter begins to decline a bit. However, to date, the quality supplied by our producers has been exceptional, allowing our volunteers to keep our driers working close to capacity. Very soon fresh asparagus, peppers, and eggplant will again add to the variety that we have to offer to our distribution network.

With the increased productivity of this year, we have been able to support our regular commitments, as well as provide food for Ukraine. Two more shipments for Ukraine are expected to go out shortly. We are thankful to our partners who specialize in the transportation of goods to where there is need; that they ensure not only the safe passage, but that the food arrives at its destination and reaches the people it was intended for. In many parts of the world, and even in our own country, this can be a challenge. We have been considering a shipment to Malawi, but this is on hold for now due to the uncertainty of the food reaching the people for whom it is intended.

The lifting of mask mandates in late March was welcomed by many of our volunteers. We can thank God for His protection and guidance and that we could work through most of this restrictive period of

BOARD REPORT

the past 2+ years. As the Covid pandemic continues to ease, we look forward to welcoming back past volunteers. We are always looking for more volunteers to join in our festive work environment.

In this issue, you will find the floorplan and an overview of our anticipated expansion planned for 2023, D.V. Our capital campaign committee is working out the details of the expansion and for the raising of funds for this endeavour. We anticipate the project cost to be \$1.2 million. Please consider supporting our goal to be able to provide even more for those in need of food. The campaign will be launched later this summer.

We also look forward to meeting many of you, our supporters and volunteers at our Strawberry Social on June 25th. An opportune time for fellowship and to share of the blessings we receive daily. This will also be a great time to get to know the Niagara Christian Gleaners close up.

'Every good and perfect gift is from above...' James 1
On behalf of the board,
Arthur Struyk
Chairman

CHEERFUL CHOPPERS • VOLUNTEER PROFILE

BILL AND REGINA WAGTER



He is busy at work, sitting quietly in the corner putting labels on the bags that will soon be filled with dried vegetables.

The dried vegetables will soon be shipped in a container that will take many, many weeks to arrive at a far-away destination.

The container will finally be opened and the boxes that hold the bags of dried vegetables will be distributed to communities that desperately need food.

A child, holding a worn-out bowl, will stand in line for quite a while before receiving tasty, rehydrated vegetables, possibly mixed with a bit of rice or beans.

And that child will be satisfied, even if it's just for this one day.

The man who sits quietly in the corner putting labels on the bags is doing a job that is... well... something that he can do. With several fingers lost to farming accidents years ago, it's hard for him to grasp a knife and chop the vegetables at the tables with the others. And because of a bad hip, he uses a cane to steady himself. It's hard for him to participate at the dicing machine or to help where standing for long periods of time is required.

So he sits quietly in the corner putting labels on the bags that soon will be filled with dehydrated vegetables. This man, who has a big heart for missions, may be reflecting about his many trips with his wife to far-away places like Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Africa. He had helped in communities that needed help; that needed the hands and feet of Jesus' mission. He remembers opening his wallet generously, (like so many volunteers at NCG) to help with so many causes and organizations that needed the funds to carry out their mission. He answered that call out of an abundance of the blessings that he had received. See, that's the thing about many of the volunteers who help at the Gleaners, just like the man who sits quietly in the corner putting labels on bags. They all know that whatever they are doing there (or Guatemala or Africa), they know it's important work that needs to be done. No job is too small, and each job is just as important as the next. There's that unique, unified common goal of doing what can be done for our fellow brothers and sisters around the world.

Even if it's sitting quietly in the corner putting labels on the bags that will soon be filled with dehydrated vegetables that will be made into a meal for the child who's holding their worn-out bowl.

Thank you Bill, for your dedication to NCG! You, along with so many other volunteers are making a difference.

"....whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

YOUR DONATION MAKES AN IMPACT!

As a non-profit organization, we rely on donations from people just like you.

3 WAYS TO GIVE:

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niagaragleaners.org/donate

E-TRANSFER

givingncg@gmail.com

CHEQUE BY MAIL

TO: Niagara Christian Gleaners