

Written by Wauneta Breeze  
Thursday, 20 December 2012 17:21 -

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**Rogan Einspahr with Wauneta Roller Mills donated his time and forklift to load the eight pallets of packaged food on an Orphan Grain Train truck for Mercy Meals of Southwest Nebraska Wednesday, Dec. 12. The group also received a shipment of food products and packaging materials which they will use to prepare 60,000 or more meals for starving people throughout the world.**

**By Sheri Hink**

**The Wauneta Breeze**

Mercy Meals of Southwest Nebraska has reason to celebrate this Christmas as they shipped off their first full shipment of meals packaged for hungry people throughout the world.

The organization, which was incorporated on Sept. 17, 2012, shipped 57,600 meals last Wednesday, Dec. 12 through the Orphan Grain Train.

The meals were packaged by volunteers from Imperial, Hayes Center, Palisade, Hamlet,

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Wauneta, McCook, Sun City, Ariz., and South Wales, United Kingdom.

The pride and appreciation the group holds for its many volunteers is clear in the group's voices when they speak about what has been accomplished in two short months.

The 57,600 meals equated to eight pallets of boxes headed to people in need across the globe and here at home in the United States. Rogan Einspahr with Wauneta Roller Mills donated his time and forklift to move the food on and off the truck.

Volunteers make packages consisting of a mixture of rice, dried vegetables, soy mix and chicken flavoring. The soy mix gives the meals protein and the chicken flavoring is enriched with vitamins and nutrients.

The organization also received a new shipment of these ingredients on Wednesday, enough to package another 60,000 or more meals.

Their last shipment included some overflow, allowing them to package a total of 60,600 meals to date.

### **Recent fundraiser**

The group hosted a bake sale and silent auction fundraiser last Saturday, Dec. 15 and received overwhelming support from the community at the event.

They received over \$3,700 from the silent auction, bake sale and donations and an additional donation of \$944 from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

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The money raised at the fundraiser will be used to cover operating expenses.

### **Opportunities to give back**

With their stock shipped and shelves refilled there is still need for more volunteers to package meals and financial donations to purchase food and supplies to package meals.

Those interested in volunteering can contact Elaine Haarberg at 308-394-5771, Jan Coone at 308-394-5388 or Annette Long at 308-883-2052. Volunteers can also sign up at the group's website at [www.mercymealsofsouthwestnebraska.org](http://www.mercymealsofsouthwestnebraska.org).

Donations can be sent to Mercy Meals at P.O. Box 474, Wauneta, Neb. 69045.