

Grant Name	Providing Food and the Gospel to Starving People - Mercy Meals of Colorado Springs
Mission/Project Summary	This grant will be used to purchase the rice, soy flour, dried veggies, and vitamin packets and the bags and boxes necessary to pack Mercy Meals. The supplies are purchased through Orphan Grain Train (OGT), an RSO in Norfolk, NE. OGT picks up our finished boxes and distributes them both nationally and internationally to people in need. OGT shipments are met with Christian volunteers who proclaim the Gospel in addition to distributing good and other necessities.
Project Description and Details	<p>Mercy Meals are packaged using a scientifically designed formula that allows the malnourished to thrive. Each meal bag contains six meals. Meals are usually cooked and served to those in feeding lines or in orphanages. Occasionally, the uncooked packaged meals are sent home with families. Each package is carefully weighted to be 380 grams. Then it is sealed and packed 36 to a box. We average about 10 boxes per session. Meals we have packaged have been sent to the Republic of Georgia, Liberia, Zambia, Madagascar, the Navajo Nation, Louisiana, North Carolina, and other places we don't know about.</p> <p>We want to include all the LCMS churches in the area. Currently we have volunteers from Immanuel, Holy Cross, Redeemer, Rock of Ages, and Resurrection Lutheran Churches in Colorado Springs that work twice monthly, with some volunteers from local Catholic churches. Volunteers from Faith Lutheran, Woodland Park come once monthly. We have equipment to run two lines using the kitchen and the Fellowship Hall of Immanuel. Each line requires six to nine workers. We have two sessions on the second and fourth Mondays of the month, from 9:30-11:30 am and 1:30-3:30 pm. Each session begins with a prayer of thanksgiving for workers, for compassion on the hungry and starving people of the world, and for a blessing on our endeavors to feed them with food and the Gospel. Each session also has a coffee break for fellowship.</p>
The recipient must be affiliated with one of the following. Please select the one that applies to this request:	Registered Service Organization (RSO)
Amount requested:	\$8,000
Project Goals and Objectives	<p>Jesus, in His earthly ministry, showed compassion to the hungry. The account of the feeding of five thousand, where Jesus commanded His disciples to feed the crowds and then miraculously multiplied the bread and fish is recorded in all four Gospels (Matthew 14:13-21, Mark 6:32-44, Luke 9:10-17, and John 6:1-13). In His sermon on the Last Judgment, Jesus says feeding the hungry is equivalent to feeding Him. He also requires His followers to make disciples and teach the Good News of salvation in Jesus (Matthew 28:19-20).</p> <p>Orphan Grain Train delivers the Mercy Meals packaged by Mercy Meals of Colorado Springs to Christian organizations for distribution. These organizations present the Gospel to the people receiving the meals, providing food that endures to eternal life. Thousands of children die every day all over the world from starvation or hunger related diseases. Mercy Meals and the Gospel are delivered to many locations throughout the world to feed the bodies and souls of hungry and starving people.</p>

Mercy Meals of Colorado Springs relies mainly on donations and possible grants to purchase materials and supplies to package meals. Individuals, local LWML groups, churches, and other church groups have donated to Mercy Meals of Colorado Springs. It is included in Immanuel Lutheran Church's budget at \$9,000. However, the number of boxes the volunteers produce continues to increase, outpacing the amount of donations received to package Mercy Meals. The cost of supplies, purchased through OGT, continues to increase, as have all food costs nationally. An order of supplies for two months work runs close to \$8,000. Because of this, we had to cut back our work from every week to twice a month.

All donations and expenditures are processed and recorded in Immanuel's accounting system by the financial secretary and the elected treasurer in collaboration with the the director of Mercy Meals of Colorado Springs. Involving the church officers and accounting system assures accountability of income and expenditures.

Budget Outline and Financial Plan

Supplies for two months:	
100 25# bags of rice	\$1175.00
40 25# bags of soy flour	1000.00
4 boxes vitamin packets	576.00
4 boxes dehydrated veggies	382.00
120 OGT boxes	151.20
1 roll shrink wrap	14.00
2 boxes Mercy Meals bags	282.00
Total for two months	\$3580.20
Total for one year	\$21,481.20

In 2024, \$14,630 was donated to Mercy Meals. So far in 2025, \$11,770 was donated.

Expenses vary, since we typically order more than the minimum to avoid running short. In 2024, expenses were \$12,692.49. In 2025, \$19,218.70 was spent.

Our hope is with this grant we may be able to go back to packing every week.

Additional Comments or Information

Should this proposal be included in those being sent to the delegates for their vote, we can provide photos.