



## Next Steps for Tanja Gschwend

If you have booked a stay at **Gleanings** in the past five years, you have probably talked to Tanja. She served faithfully in the bookings department from 2014-2019, scheduling volunteers and groups, assigning rooms, sending information, corresponding over phone and email, and helping with changes and cancellations.

Tanja did a DTS at **Gleanings** in 2012, then became a mission builder, then summer staff for three months in 2013. Soon she joined full-time staff and began working as soup plant assistant before settling into the bookings department in the **Gleanings** front office.



“Obviously I’ve learned a lot, but one of the biggest lessons I learned in the past five years was not to take myself too seriously,” Tanja said. “I really feel **Gleanings** makes space for people to learn things—space to mess up and then get back on track. I’ve learned to apologize but then let my mistakes go, doing what I can to fix things but then not beat myself up about it. I would say my favorite thing about **Gleanings** is the connections, the relationships you make with people,” Tanja said. “You can feel so close to people in just a week. People from all walks of life—**Gleanings** unites us.”

We will truly miss Tanja, but we are so proud and excited for the next season in her life. We send her off with blessings and much love!

*“that the coming generation might know— even children yet to be born— to arise and tell their children, that they should put their confidence in God” Psalm 78:6-7*

## Summer Staff Spotlight: Anna Rivera



Anna Rivera has lived in Guatemala for three and a half years now, after growing up at Gleanings as a staff kid from age 6-13, from 2007-2016. Her parents, Eric and Lisa Rivera, obeyed God’s call to move to Guatemala almost four years ago to distribute **Gleanings** food to desperate people. Anna’s life changed tremendously as she began her teen years in Antigua at an international/bilingual school.

It was during a recent visit back to **Gleanings** that Anna realized she was old enough to join summer staff—not only did she notice, but so did everyone who talked to her. Even her mom mentioned the idea, and Anna began to consider if it was in God’s will for her to come back to California for the summer. She decided to do it.

“It’s been really good,” Anna said. “My favorite part about summer staff is hearing people’s testimonies and getting to know people better.”

Anna’s INSTEAD testimony is Desired Instead of Unwanted. “I have felt unwanted before—in all settings. It’s a feeling that was always there. That’s why I want others to feel welcomed and appreciated. If I see someone that’s alone, I’ll go see if they are OK. I don’t like seeing people who are alone.”

Anna is excited to walk forward into God’s call in her life. God showed her the direction will be something with performing arts. We have been blessed to have Anna living out her calling as she sings on the worship team during chapel. It is a privilege to watch Anna grow from a six-year-old child on staff to a strong Christian young woman on summer staff.

# “Thank You” From South Africa



*Grace Container Ministry* and *Gleanings for the Hungry* are impacting KwaZuluNatal, South Africa by partnering with local ministries to provide food to families, children, the elderly, and cancer and hospice patients. Like most of the townships in South Africa, especially in KZN, communities are challenged with poverty, teen pregnancy, and child-led homes. Children must care for themselves and other children in the absence of parents or adult caregivers.

*Siyakhula Early Childhood Development Centre* currently enrolls 140 children, ages 18 months to 5 years old. Feeding is one of their biggest problems, as school fees don't cover much of the needs of the children they look after. “We are humbled and blessed to be able to partner with you to help children like these.” A group of children said, “Thank you for sending the food. Because you sent the food, we can attend school and not have to scavenge in the dump for our food.”



Widespread rains and flooding in the spring of 2019 caused damage to homes, buildings, roads and structures. People are living in houses with no water or electricity, and some homes are damaged beyond repair. Workers from *Jesus to the Needy* met people at the end of a road where the bridge was washed out, to bring help. Without the *Gleanings* soup mix, shoes, and clothing they supplied, the children wouldn't be able to go to school and the families wouldn't eat.

*Grace Container Ministries* also gives food to *Highway Hospice*, which provides care for people with advanced, incurable diseases, including HIV. This helps them to take care of patients at no cost to the patients or their families.

We value your prayers for these precious people and *Grace Container Ministries*, as they feed the hungry and share the Word of God and the love of Jesus in KZN, South Africa.

## DIRECTORS CORNER



Dear Gleanings Family,

Here we are at the end of our summer program and I'm trying to pick a favorite moment to share with you. As *Gleanings* has grown the amount and variety of work we do has also grown. Working with the peaches is like coming back to our roots for three months. I can just imagine when Wally our founder got the call to feed the hungry and was praying and seeking for a product to ship out to a starving world. God provided fruit through farmers and packers right here in the Central Valley. For 37 years we have been supplied with all the fruit we can handle every single summer. Standing at the fruit line, watching kids and adults alike being committed to do what it takes to dry the donated fruit, fills me with excitement about our call to bring God's kingdom to this world. Our part is to bring blessing to the hungry, and we are doing it with joy.

I hope you feel as blessed as I do!

*Fritz Meier*

