After receiving their winterization materials, the people of Bhasbhase village in Dhading District, Nepal, hike back up the mountain to their homes that were damaged in the April 25, 2015, earthquake. They received the supplies from the MCC partner Sansthagat Bikas Sanjal.
A year of welcoming the stranger

And let us provoke one another on to love and good deeds. - Hebrews 10:24

Dear Friends of MCC Alberta …

Welcome to the work of MCC in Alberta, Canada, and around the world; it involves thousands of volunteers and donors, hundreds of staff, boards, and over 500 partner organizations in about 54 countries. MCC is the work of people around the world who care about other people, who understand the call of Christ to look out for each other, and who go out of their way for each other.

This year, four things probably stand out in Alberta: our work continued in Thrift Shops, all programs and fundraising… 1) we are in a recession, donations were down and we didn’t quite make budget. 2) participation was way up as many groups, churches and families sponsored Syrian refugees coming to Alberta. Since June 2015, MCC Alberta has sponsored almost 1000 refugees. 3) a major renovations project is nearing completion in Calgary, adding space for MMI, for MCC, and for the Calgary Thrift Shop, 4) involving young people in MCC.

We are thankful to God and to the many people of Alberta, Mennonites and others, who make the work of MCC possible.

Abe Janzen, Executive Director, MCC Alberta

Thank you!

Your generous support throughout the year allows MCC to continue its work around the world—both locally and internationally. MCC Alberta is one part of a global, nonprofit organization that strives to share God’s love and compassion for all through relief, development and peace.

We're grateful you've chosen to make a difference in the world through MCC, as you give, serve, advocate and pray. Here is a brief snapshot of how MCC puts your dollars to work.

Mennonite Central Committee by the numbers

MCC Alberta's dollars at work
$5.5 million

MCC Alberta's donation sources
$5.7 million

MCC's dollars at work*
$86.6 million

MCC's funding sources*
$82.7 million

*Based on the combined budgets of the MCCs in Canada and the U.S. for the year ended March 31, 2016. MCC Canada’s annual report will be available in September 2016 at mcccanada.ca

*Based on the combined budgets of the MCCs in Canada and the U.S. for the year ended March 31, 2016. MCC Canada also budgeted to use $3.9 million of reserve funds during Fiscal Year 2016.
The auction at the relief sale is always a lively event, and brings in thousands of dollars for MCC’s international ministries. (MCC photo)

Sold!

Relief sales in Alberta

Since relief sales began in Alberta in 1975, hundreds of thousands of dollars have been raised for the ministry of MCC.

Alberta’s method of running relief sales is unique, with the venue rotating between Didsbury, Coaldale, and Sherwood Park. Because MCC’s supporters are spread across Alberta, this gives larger numbers of people the opportunity to volunteer, attend, donate items, or support the sale in other ways.

The MCC Alberta Relief Sale is one of about 40 sales running across North America annually.

Donated items turn into funds that support education, food, water, agricultural training, disaster response, and more...

Ways to help

1. Support the MCC Relief Sale
2. Make a relief or hygiene kit
3. Volunteer at the Material Resources Centre
4. Sew kit bags
5. Make a blanket for overseas distribution
6. Become a monthly donor
7. Join the work and learn tour to Kenya

Donate to MCC’s relief work
mcccanada.ca/relief

HIGHLIGHTS*

implemented
33 projects to respond to the crisis in Syria and Iraq

supported
3,499 families in Syria through monthly cash assistance

provided winter home heating for
465 displaced families in Ukraine

Distributed winter supplies to
1,284 families living in temporary shelters in Nepal

distributed seeds to farming families affected by drought in Nicaragua

restocked goat herds of
198 drought-affected households in Ethiopia

Warmth for the winter

Delivering supplies to earthquake zone in Nepal

On April 25, 2015, Sudarshan Chepang and his family huddled inside their home as it collapsed around them. Now the family lives in a temporary shelter of tarps, sheet metal and salvaged material. “We know it will be cold, but where else can we go?” Chepang says.

In December, working with partner Sansthagat Bikas Sanjal, MCC provided Chepang’s family with winter jackets, blankets, tarps and mattresses. Across Nepal, MCC provided winter supplies to about 1,200 households.

Now we have blankets and [our children] will be warm. — Sudarshan Chepang

MCC Canada

Sudarshan Chepang, his wife Jamnua Chepang, and one of their two children.

For more on our relief work, visit mcccanada.ca/relief

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mcccanada.ca/relief

*As of January 2016
Calvin Elias and Ryan Wolfe with Abe Janzen. The cyclists met up with MCC Alberta staff when they travelled through Airdrie.

Riding for Guatemala
$30,000 raised for food security

Ryan Wolfe and his brother-in-law, Calvin Elias, set out on a five-day 700+ km bicycle ride in support of Fundamaya, an MCC food security project in Guatemala. The ride began in Jasper, continued near Banff and Calgary, and finished in Edmonton.

Fundamaya seeks to help young, Guatemalan farmers gain access to land and to traditional agricultural knowledge - both have been harder to come by due to civil war and the challenges of the global economy. This then improves the local community, agriculturally and financially.

The dedication and drive of these two young men was obvious as they braved mountain passes, busy highways and torrential rain to reach their goal! They raised just over $30,000!

Ways to help
1. Donate to MCC’s education, health or livelihood projects
2. Shop at Ten Thousand Villages
3. Support your local MCC Thrift Shop
4. Cycle or run to raise funds for MCC’s development work.

Fundamaya seeks to help young, Guatemalan, small holder farmers gain access to land and agricultural knowledge.

Nourishing gardens in Mozambique
Sand dams provide water during dry season

In the village of Maule Maule, Mozambique, the rainy season lasts for only a few months, and families struggle to find enough water to sustain gardens. In 2013, a sand dam changed that for Henrique Cubonera Mbondo and his family. The dam, built in partnership with the Christian Council of Mozambique, provides water for 75 families during the dry season.

Mbondo has enough vegetables to feed his family, and a way to earn income. “I can sell vegetables to buy oil and maybe buy goats. I feel secure,” he says.

Ways to help
1. Donate to MCC’s education, health or livelihood projects
2. Shop at Ten Thousand Villages
3. Support your local MCC Thrift Shop
4. Cycle or run to raise funds for MCC’s development work.

Learn more about how sand dams work mcccanada.ca/stories/water-life-mcc-sand-dams

Now I don’t have to go to the bush and find firewood to sell.
— Henrique Cubonera Mbondo

HIGHLIGHTS*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enabled</th>
<th>134 disadvantaged Roma children in Serbia to continue elementary school</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Helped</td>
<td>45 families in Palestine to establish home gardens &amp; produce vegetables</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ran</td>
<td>177 literacy classes for women in Afghanistan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provided</td>
<td>tailoring training for 126 students in Cambodia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constructed</td>
<td>wells and latrines for 9 communities in Nigeria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Achieved</td>
<td>95% elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS at the Mengo Hospital in Uganda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provided</td>
<td>access to safe water for 6,000 people in Mozambique</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*As of January 2016

Learn more about MCC’s development projects mcccanada.ca/development

Henrique Cubonera Mbondo’s garden provides both food for his family and income.
Planting Peace
Finding common ground
Every two years, young people from Canada and abroad come to Alberta for two weeks of cross-cultural and inter-faith learning. Coordinated by MCC Alberta, Planting Peace is designed to equip and encourage 10 international and 10 local young people to promote peace in their home communities. Together, through shared experiences, they learn about breaking barriers and talking across boundaries. Participants take part in sessions led by skilled peacebuilders, share stories, and explore local and global issues.

At Planting Peace 2015, Kenyan facilitator Joseph Kiranto explained that tension or violence can arise when we bring different cultures, faiths, and backgrounds together. When we find common ground among us, peace has a chance.

Ways to help
1. Expand your world by becoming an IVEP host family
2. Be challenged and changed through SALT
3. Volunteer with Circles of Support and Accountability
4. Pray for a peaceful resolution to the conflict in Syria
5. Join Planting Peace 2017
6. Follow the MCC Ottawa Office blog

When we find common ground among us, peace has a chance.
— Joseph Kiranto

HIGHLIGHTS*
developed religious freedom & conflict resolution curriculum for students in Iraq

 taught 1,568 teenagers in Bolivia how to protect themselves from abuse and sexual violence

 helped 30 ex-prisoners in Ukraine reintegrate into society and restore relationships with family

 reduced violence against people with albinism in Tanzania

 increased awareness of trauma for 537 people from conflict-affected communities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

 organized summer peace camp for 30 young adults from Northeast Asia

In the midst of violence
Peace training for students in Honduras
Chamelecón, Honduras can sometimes feel like a war zone. Gangs take over schools at night, and people are shot at for catching a bus in the wrong place.

To help build peace, MCC supports a program run by Proyecto Paz y Justicia (Peace and Justice Project), part of the Evangelical Mennonite Church in Honduras.

Volunteers teach students about respect, forgiveness and conflict resolution to help them deal with the violence around them.

We never closed the door as the church. To the contrary we worked harder and more.
— Merelyn Amaya

Though many have fled the community, project coordinator Merelyn Amaya has stayed. “We never closed the door as the church. To the contrary we worked harder and more,” she says. “God gave us the hope that this will stop.”

Learn more about the peace project in Honduras mcccanada.ca/honduras-peace

Merelyn Amaya is a coordinator for the MCC-supported peace program in Chamelecón, Honduras that teaches conflict resolution to students.
Thrift gives back
Supporting relief, development and peacebuilding by volunteering at an MCC Thrift shop

When asked why she and her 19-year old son Willy volunteer in the Taber MCC Thrift Shop, Agatha Reimer said, “MCC helps in so many places around the world. I like that we can be a part of it all from here in Taber.”

Agatha and Willy have been volunteering since before the store opened in 2009. Agatha sorts clothing and trains other volunteers while Willy helps with receiving items, recycling, and sorting books and CDs. Willy, who has a learning disability, enjoys seeing all the things people bring in. “This shop is full of treasures and you meet new people all the time. Volunteering helps build lifelong friendships.”

More recently, the Reimer family’s connection to MCC deepened as Agatha’s daughter, Paulina, spent a year in Jordan with MCC’s SALT program in 2014-15. “Mum,” Paulina wrote from Jordan, “you don’t know how much the work you do there in Taber means over here.”

Learn more about MCC Thrift shops
thrift.mcccanada.ca

Albertans volunteering overseas

Service workers
1. Shantelle Binnette - Lebanon
2. Stacey Brandsma - Zambia
3. Daniel Christie - Colombia
4. Rebecca Davies - South Africa
5. Sharon Philips - DR Congo
6. Wendy Martin - Laos
7. Loralee Williams - Burkina Faso

SALTers
1. Marie Dening - Vietnam
2. Nichola Pope - Israel/Palestine
3. Dexter Volkman - Jordan

Volunteer with SALT
Serving and Learning Together

Kara Hee-won Shin works with an MCC partner on peacebuilding projects in Kenya. One of the projects involves trauma healing for students who survived a 2015 attack at their college. “I have been astonished by their resilience,” she says. When asked about her SALT experience, Shin says; “If you want to look at the world through the eyes of strangers who welcome you…this is a safe place for you to come and do so.”

Serve.mcccanada.ca
A wedding for Brian and Reem

Two Winnipeg churches organized a wedding celebration for Syrian refugees.

When Brian Darweesh and Reem Younes got married, they were living as refugees in Lebanon fleeing violence in Syria and a threat on Darweesh’s life. There was no white dress and no party.

A little over a year later the couple had another wedding in Winnipeg. Though most of their family and friends were a world away, the church was full with people from the congregations that sponsored the couple through MCC’s sponsorship agreement.

“We do it because we love people and we feel that this is what God calls us to do: to reach out, to welcome the stranger, to be hospitable, to share what we have,” says Heidi Reimer from the settlement committee at Douglas Mennonite Church.

It’s clear that Darweesh and Younes are becoming part of the community that pitched in to plan the celebration. As Younes said to everyone at the reception, “even if my family is not here, really you are my family.”

Learn more about refugees
mcccanada.ca/refugees

When strangers become friends

In response to the refugee crisis the world is facing, MCC Alberta has processed over 919 files this past year.

When MCC Alberta’s Executive Director Abe Janzen returned from a trip to the Middle East in late 2014, he was concerned about the growing refugee crisis in the region. In response, he and Orlando Vasquez began making contacts with people groups in Alberta who had families in need of help.

MCC is a sponsorship agreement holder with the Canadian government, which means MCC can facilitate groups who wish to sponsor refugees, providing assistance with paperwork and coordination, and acting as a liaison between the sponsoring group and the Canadian government.

MCC Alberta reached out to churches and many churches responded and applied to sponsor a family or more.

As well, collaboration between our Christian agency and Muslim agencies was very successful and many refugees were able to come to Canada as a result of this combined effort.

In September 2015, when the picture of young Allan Kurdi’s body lying on the beach in Turkey was picked up by the media, civil society became eager to respond to this crisis.

Almost 83 groups signed Memorandums of Understanding with MCC Alberta. These include churches, neighbourhoods, staff groups, friend groups, and other mixed groups.

As of March 2016, 365 refugees have arrived in Alberta, and an additional 554 are in process.

Learn more about the responsibilities of sponsoring churches
mcccanada.ca/media/resources/3443

submitted 1,157 refugee sponsorship applications in 2015 (compared to 113 in 2014)

welcomed 358 refugees to Canada in 2015

partnered with 130 churches and 88 community groups to bring refugees to Canada

added the equivalent of 7 staff in provincial offices to help with refugee resettlement work
Map represents the full picture of MCC's program for year ended March 31, 2016.
Note: Worker statistics are as of January 2016.

MCC Alberta staff

Executive Director
Abe Janzen
Associate Director
Orlando Vasquez (also Program Director)
Administrative Services
Anne Boehlig (Coordinator)
Elda Enns (Assistant)
Communications & Donor Relations
Rose Klassen (Director)
Angela Bennett (Communications & Events)
Financial Services
Ron Janz (Accountant)
Debra Raatz (Assistant)

Human Resources, Service & SALT
Ilana Friesen
Indigenous Neighbours
Allison Goerzen (co-coordinator; also Peace Assistant)
Jim Shantz (co-coordinator)
IVEP
Mary Lynn Retzlaff
Material Resources
Linda Dickinson
North Edmonton Ministry
Donna Entz
Peace & Youth
Thomas Coldwell

Refugee Resettlement
Jeremy Fehr (Coordinator)
Nicholas Pope (Assistant)
Restorative Justice
Moira Brownlee (Circles of Support and Accountability)
Laurie Bennie (Circles of Support and Accountability, Bowden, M2)
Trish Elgersma (Restorative Action for Transformation)
Darrel Heidebrecht (Restorative Action for Transformation)
Gord Hutchinson (Drumheller M2)
Peter Worsley (Reintegration Chaplain)

Services for Newcomers
George Epp (Coordinator)
Leora Epp (Mental Health Liaison)
Mary Klassen (Assistant)

Thrift Shops
Donna Ruparel (Coordinator)
April Hauck (Calgary Manager)

Restorative Action for Transformation
Marsha Shack (Edmonton Associate Manager)
Susi Peters (Taber Manager)
Ruth Vermeulen (Lethbridge Manager)

EMC = Evangelical Mennonite Church
MB = Mennonite Brethren
MCA = Mennonite Church Alberta
NWC = Northwest Conference

Board members

Kris Peters (MB)
Noreen Neufeldt (MCA)
Edwin Dening (co-opted)
Nancy Friesen (EMC)
Sandra Friesen-Peters (co-opted)
Connie Grove (co-opted)
Barb Heidebrecht (MCA)
Cindy Klassen (co-opted)
Juan Carlos Toro (NWC)
Ron Wiebe (EMC)
Rod Wilson (MB)
David Zentner (co-opted)
What is **Mennonite Central Committee**?

MCC is a charitable organization that partners with churches and community organizations worldwide to walk with people who are disadvantaged.

MCC supports activities that provide emergency assistance, reduce poverty and promote healthy communities, sustainable living and alternatives to violence.

It is a global ministry of Anabaptist churches in Canada and the U.S. which includes Mennonite and Brethren in Christ. MCC envisions communities in harmony with God, one another and creation.

Relief, development and peace in the name of Christ

Thuli Chepang participates in a food security program in Dhading district. She learned how to grow her own garden for her own consumption and for market.