Shahlam and his cousin, Tamin Yeamin, in Dhobaura Upazila, Mymensingh District, Bangladesh. (MCC photo/Colin Vandenberg)
“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: “You shall love your neighbour as yourself.”

Matthew 22:37–39 (NRSV)
We at MCC are filled with gratitude and awe as we reflect on the past year. We are thankful for our homes in Canada that are so often graced with peace, security and abundance. But we recognize that millions of people around the world do not enjoy this same reality.

Thank you for partnering with us to compassionately serve these neighbours to ensure that “home” is a better place in more than 50 countries.

RELIEF: While conflict persists in Syria, MCC continues to work in the region where we have served for 23 years. Since 2012, MCC has sent more than 60 shipments of hygiene items, blankets and other supplies. These small gifts have made homes throughout the region safer and healthier.

In Canada, our refugee resettlement program helped hundreds of groups across the country welcome more than 1,100 refugees — including many from Syria and Iraq — to our communities. We are so pleased to be a small part of their journey to a new home.

DEVELOPMENT: MCC launched a three-year project in Afghanistan focused on improving the health of mothers, newborns and young children. We are incredibly grateful that this work will be supported by a $9.3-million grant from the Canadian government.

And although we retired the “Global Family” name in 2016, MCC’s education projects are still going strong. For example, our Zimbabwe Matabeleland South school improvement plan benefits nearly 800 children and their teachers. Your support repairs school buildings, purchases local classroom supplies, and provides school fees and uniforms for children in need.

PEACE: MCC continues to advocate for safe and secure homes for both Palestinians and Israelis, recognizing that followers of Jesus are called to love all people.

As I transition out of the role of executive director this September, my prayer for each home, whether near or far, reflects the vision of Isaiah 32:16-18: “Then justice will dwell in the wilderness, and righteousness abide in the fruitful field. The effect of righteousness will be peace, and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever. My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places.” (NRSV)

In Christ’s peace,

Don Peters, Executive Director
MCC Canada

“MCC Canada board members
Peggy Snyder (Chair), CCAL*
Walter Thiessen (Vice-Chair), Eastern Canada
Scott Siemens (Treasurer), Member-at-Large
Erica Fehr (Secretary), CCAL
Peter Voite, MCC British Columbia
Kris Peters, MCC Alberta
Peter Guenther, MCC Saskatchewan
Ernie Wiens, MCC Manitoba
Margaret Armanatides, MCC Ontario
Maggie Berger, CCAL
Andrew Scanlan, CCAL
Paul Gilbert, Member-at-Large
David Chow, Member-at-Large

*Canadian Council of Anabaptist Leaders

“Refugee Assistance:” While the global refugee crisis reached the highest level since WWII, we helped sponsor 175 refugees this past year together with churches and community groups. Our refugee office in Vancouver assisted an additional 85 refugee claimants who arrived seeking sanctuary.

HOMENESS IN OUR COMMUNITIES:
With the homeless count on the rise, we were pleased to have helped 107 people retain or gain access to housing. We assisted approximately 300 people each month with weekly community meals and other practical needs. We also provided overnight shelter for 20 people during the extreme weather crisis until a church stepped forward with 40 beds.

INDIGENOUS RELATIONS:” In the wake of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission where Indigenous people shared heart-breaking stories of the residential schools, we drafted an official MCC response and invited our churches on the journey. We held an educational session together with indigenous elders and 71 attendees where we invited churches to build relations with indigenous people in their community.

A Place to Belong

W e all need a place to belong, a home of some kind… a place that is safe and warm, with food in the cupboard and hearts that embrace us. As followers of Christ we are called to care for our neighbours, to welcome the stranger, and to even love our enemies.

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Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), a worldwide ministry of Anabaptist churches, shares God’s love and compassion for all in the name of Christ by responding to basic human needs and working for peace and justice. MCC envisions communities worldwide in right relationship with God, one another and creation.

Areas of focus

1. Caring for the lives and futures of uprooted and other vulnerable people.
2. Providing water, food and shelter first in times of hunger, disaster and conflict, then education and ways to earn income.
3. Working with churches and communities to prevent violence and promote peace and justice.
4. Investing in opportunities for young people to serve in Canada, the U.S. and around the world.
5. Serving with humility and in partnership to meet local needs with local solutions.

MCC and partner Zakho Small Villages Project (ZSVP) staff climb the hill beside Dubardan, Iraq, where a new water tank and buried network of water pipes will replace the old system of ad-hoc, above-ground piping.

With support from MCC’s account at Canadian Foodgrains Bank, ZSVP helps families who are returning to their homes in small towns and villages of Iraq’s Ninewa governorate, which they fled in 2014 when the Islamic State group invaded the area. In Dubardan village, ZSVP is implementing a cash-for-work construction project that employs locals to construct a water network that connects each house in the village to a central source of potable water. (Photo/Joel Carillet)
RELIEF

In situations of conflict or disaster, MCC is there — providing funds for emergency food and shelter, as well as supplies such as MCC relief kits. We also support long-term recovery projects such as rebuilding homes, providing employment through food- and cash-for-work projects and helping people heal from trauma. In all our relief work, we partner with local communities to reduce conflict and meet their most important needs.

Why financial support and cash transfers?

In emergency situations, providing financial support such as vouchers and cash transfers allows people to prioritize their spending on what they need most. Their spending supports local markets and reduces the burden on communities that host people displaced by conflict and disasters.

Providing this type of support can also help empower women who might not otherwise have access to financial resources. In Syria, for example, the Syrian Orthodox Church provides monthly cash allowances which families use to help cover their food, shelter and medical needs.

EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE

An MCC project provided emergency food assistance for malnourished school children in Cueibet County, South Sudan. The project served a daily meal to 21,440 children in 52 schools to supplement the food received at home. Enrollment increased by nearly 300%, and teachers said the children were able to concentrate and learn better in class.

In South Sudan, MCC provided emergency food assistance for malnourished school children. The project served a daily meal to 21,440 children in 52 schools to supplement the food received at home.

EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE

MCC’s Zakho Small Villages Project provided 32 months of emergency food baskets to 1,000 internally displaced Iraqi families. In October 2016, 99% of families reported an acceptable level of food consumption thanks to the assistance MCC was able to give.

With partner ANADES, MCC worked with nine communities in El Salvador to better prepare them for emergencies and train them in disaster prevention. Activities like planting trees and grasses to lessen the risk of landslides will help reduce the vulnerability of these communities to natural hazards.

“‘We could touch the love in the things they gave us. This love fed us. It wasn’t just words.’”

— Andriy Chaus of Nikopol, Ukraine, expressing his thanks for the assistance he received through MCC partner New Life Charitable Fund

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Blankets shipped</th>
<th>Relief kits shipped</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>South Sudan</td>
<td>FY2015 44,142</td>
<td>FY2016 14,507</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>FY2016 12,241</td>
<td>FY2017 10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Salvador</td>
<td>FY2015 14,507</td>
<td>FY2016 10,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 94,519 people received emergency food assistance
- 25,834 people received locally purchased clothing, bedding, kitchen utensils and other materials
- 10,335 people received heaters and/or heating fuel for cold weather
- 4,510 people received financial support and cash transfers
- In FY2015, 14,507 blankets were shipped to South Sudan, with 12,241 relief kits.
- In FY2016, 14,507 blankets were shipped to Iraq, with 10,000 relief kits.
- In FY2017, 12,241 blankets were shipped to El Salvador, with 10,000 relief kits.

Valentina Inskirveliy receives MCC relief including canned meat, hygiene kits, and blankets from MCC partner Care and Mercy Regional Charity Fund (CMZ), in Zhytomyr, Ukraine. MCC is partnering with CMZ to provide humanitarian assistance including canned meat, blankets, and kits to internally displaced persons (IDPs) and other vulnerable people. Through an MCC emergency response project, CMZ helped IDPs cover the cost of heating for the winter. (MCC photo/Colin Vandenberg)
MCC's health work focuses on improving the health and well-being of vulnerable people, including: teaching prevention of HIV and other communicable diseases; providing emotional care and practical supplies for people living with HIV and AIDS; improving access to clean water and sanitation and hygiene facilities; working with mothers to promote healthy lifestyles and nutrition practices in their families; responding to gender-based violence; and working with communities who have experienced trauma.

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

MCC's projects in the area of health align with several UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which countries around the world have pledged to work toward.

- SDG #3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
- SDG #6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

> Go to mcccanada.ca/development-goals for more information and to see how MCC’s work aligns in other ways with the SDGs.

**PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS**

- **HEALTH TRAINING - TRAUMA CARE**

  Web partner Our Lady Dispensary, MCC is improving the health of community members and refugees in Lebanon. After people participated in health training sessions, 76% said they experienced decreased stress or anxiety in daily life. And 93% of those who attended trauma care sessions were able to identify self-care strategies for grief or trauma.

- **WATER - SANITATION - HYGIENE**

  A safe water, sanitation and hygiene improvement project helped 7,320 children in nine primary schools in the Kasese district of Uganda to lead healthier lives. Since April 2016, five schools constructed separate latrines for girls, boys and teachers, and 117 tippy taps (handwashing facilities) with soap were installed in schools and homes.

### People who attended improved hygiene practice sessions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY2017</th>
<th>FY2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>85,414</td>
<td>45,004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6,757</td>
<td>3,737</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Households connected to an improved water source

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY2017</th>
<th>FY2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8,090</td>
<td>6,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“Jesus sought out those he knew society may look down upon. He made them feel accepted and wanted, and he fulfilled their needs — not half-heartedly, or out of obligation, but with a heart full of love and humility.”

— SALTer Judy Loewen of Picture Butte, Alberta, who served as a hospital nurse with Faith Alive Foundation in Nigeria.

“Many families can’t afford feminine sanitary products, so many girls have to miss school during their menses. What does this mean? Increased vulnerability to early sexual exploitation, pregnancy and marriage; risk of HIV; lower wage earning in the future; gender inequality; and adult poverty. Through the involvement of the KEDHAP Foundation, the girls’ absenteeism has dropped significantly or stopped completely.”

— SALTer Judy Loewen of Rosemary, Alberta, who served as a health educator at KEDHAP in Kenya.
MCC works with local partners around the world to make sure there is food for today, food for tomorrow and food for all. In situations of conflict or disaster, we provide emergency food assistance including food packages, vouchers and cash. We work with farmers on new techniques to improve soil health and increase yields. We also advocate for government policies that allow everyone to access enough food. Our livelihoods projects provide the tools, seeds, and livestock for starting a new opportunity, and the vocational and business skills training needed for success.

Farmers like Etienne Tiendrébeogo in Yé, Burkina Faso, have been trained by an MCC agriculture partner to use half-moon and Zai farming techniques which capture rainwater during storms. These conservation agriculture techniques help control erosion, improve soil fertility, and increase water retention in the soil, ensuring families have enough to eat throughout the year. (MCC photo/James Souder)

579,643 pounds of MCC canned meat shipped
38,278 students participated in school feeding programs
2,265 kitchen or community gardens planted

MCC’s four-year project in the Assosa and Bambasi districts of Ethiopia promotes the adoption of conservation agriculture (CA) principles, such as minimum tillage, mulching and intercropping. During the first year of the project, the farmers’ CA plots yielded an average of 8.7 tonnes/hectare, as compared to their average conventional yields of 1.3 tonnes/hectare. Now, 1,529 farmers are using CA principles – even though the project originally expected to train only 700.

Through our account at the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, MCC implemented the Monga mitigation project in Bangladesh, supporting farmers to raise livestock and providing food assistance for families and their animals. Since the beginning of this project, the average family income increased from US$90 to $599. And the amount of protein consumed per day increased by 12%, helping people maintain higher nutrient diets.

“We believe my time in Chad will serve as an important part of my spiritual journey. It is necessary to face some of the perplexing questions of Christianity. However, I have also been realizing that faith necessitates a trusting, obedient step forward into things not entirely known.”

— SALT Ter Nathan Schmidt of Winnipeg, Manitoba, who served as an eco-charcoal and efficient cookstove project assistant in Chad.

People who attended nutrition workshops

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>People who attended nutrition workshops</th>
<th>People who received supplementary or seasonal food assistance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>43,926 FY2015</td>
<td>155,284 FY2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12,293 FY2016</td>
<td>130,368 FY2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,426 FY2016</td>
<td>124,513 FY2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,000 FY2016</td>
<td>120,000 FY2017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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With partner Cosecha, MCC works in Camotan, Guatemala, on a project focused on horticultural production, organization, training and adaptation to climate change. Twenty-two families are now producing an average of 9.5 kilograms of vegetables per family through their home gardens and consuming vegetables such as onions, cabbage, lettuce and radishes.

MCC is a founding member of Canadian Foodgrains Bank, where we partner with 15 other organizations to reach our goal of a world without hunger.
EDUCATION

Through MCC’s education projects, we work alongside local communities and partners to: increase access to education, especially for low-income families, girls, ethnic minorities and children affected by disabilities, HIV or violence; improve the quality of education through professional development for teachers, educational materials and other support for schools; support vocational training to help youth find work in their home communities; promote peace clubs and other initiatives to help develop young people’s full potential as leaders.

Stansberry Children’s Home has been a refuge for abandoned children in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, since 1954. Stansberry also runs a day care program, providing a safe, educational environment where kids can learn and grow while parents focus on sustaining their families. The day care provides snacks, playtime and counseling to about 100 children from the children’s home and surrounding neighborhood. (Stansberry photo/Juliane Kozel)

2,266 teachers participated in professional development

4,560 children received scholarships or tuition support

17,917 students received locally purchased education supplies

70,652 school kits were shipped

34,304 43,807
FY2015 FY2016

30,000 45,151
FY2015 FY2017

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

MCC’s projects in the area of education align with one of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which countries around the world have pledged to work toward.

• SDG#4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

> Go to mcccanada.ca/development-goals for more information and to see how MCC’s work aligns in other ways with the SDGs.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Afghanistan

Children who participated in K-12 formal education

70,652

30,000

17,917

34,304

4,560

2,266

Children who participated in early childhood education

3,381

1,627

2,799

1,000

MCC partner Emergency Preparedness and Response Team (EPRT) has 270 volunteers and forms a critical force for peace in Plateau State, Nigeria, by encouraging a culture of non-violence, mediating conflict and serving as an early warning system for conflict. In schools with EPRT peace clubs, the number of students experiencing physical punishments dropped from an average of 100 students per school to six students per school.

Adult literacy

The global literacy rate for all people aged 15 and above is 86.3%. When adults develop literacy skills, they increase their potential of finding sustainable income and are better equipped to carry out daily tasks — including important things like reading a medicine bottle.

In Egypt, Magda Raouf Shafik is now able to read her Bible and help her nephews with homework thanks to an adult literacy class. (Diocese of Mallawi photo/Father Yohanna Fayez)

“We sort of insights have I had this year? The power of a smile. Not just in a teaching position, but just in general being in a different culture. Start with a smile and laugh if you make a mistake, and it goes a long way.”

— SALTer Stefanie Hinde of Aylmer, Ontario, who served as a university English teacher and tutor at Royal University of Phnom Penh in Cambodia.
Refugee Sponsorship in BC

Giving families the tools they need to thrive

For thousands of families every year, persecution, war and violence force them to give up what we often take for granted: peace, safety and security. For these families there is no choice – there is no option to return home. As they arrive on our doorstep as newcomers to Canada, they face incredible challenges. Through refugee sponsorship with MCC BC, you continue to support these families, giving them the tools they need to thrive as they rebuild their lives.

Home at Last

Where would you go if you couldn’t go home? What would you take with you if you had to run?

When Rena and Rafi Banonazarian packed up their two sons and fled Aleppo for Lebanon they thought they would be gone for a couple of months. They packed a few clothes and their important papers but there wasn’t time or space to pack anything special. It’s been almost three years since they last saw their home.

For many people in British Columbia the war in Syria is something we see on the news, and in photographs of faraway places. For Rena and her family, the war was happening right in front of them.

One morning as Rena was walking her two boys to school she saw a woman and her son killed just a few feet up the road from where they were standing. She knew it was time to go.

The family didn’t have passports so they took a bus to Lebanon. In Lebanon they were away from the violence but life was hard. They shared a single room with six other people. The boys were not in school.

There was no work.

After two years in Lebanon, Rafi met a man who said he knew someone who could help. He said there was a chance the family could come to Canada and give Rafi a phone number. When they called, the woman on the other end of the line said she worked with Armenian Family Support Services. She asked a lot of questions and said she would be in touch.

A couple of months later, the call came.

The lady from Armenian Family Services reached out to MCC BC where Jennifer Mpunga and the team from MCC’s Migration & Resettlement Program took over the case. They helped sort out all of the paperwork and connected the family with New Life Christian Reformed Church in Abbotsford—who were willing to sponsor them. A few months later another call came. The family was scheduled for an interview, and medical exams and then they were on a plane flying to Toronto, and then two days later, to Vancouver.

Rena remembers crying on the flight.

Her husband asked her, “Do you know what we are doing?” and she remembers telling him, “It’s okay just trust God. God is going to help us.”

They were met at the airport by a team from New Life Church who welcomed them to Canada with open arms. The church found a rental home for them and filled it with everything the family needed to start a new life. Rena remembers standing in the empty apartment as person after person from the church showed up with things for their home, from furniture to clothes to dishes. “There was nothing,” she said. “And everyone gave us something. They were very kind.”

Now the family has been living in Abbotsford for a year and a half. The boys are back in school after missing two years while they were in Lebanon. Rafi and Rena are both working and they are building a life for their family and they are doing what they can to help other refugees come to Canada. “Canada gives you the chance,” Rena said. “If you work hard you can do anything. Everything.”

Rena and Rafi Banonazarian sit with their children in their apartment in Abbotsford as they tell us about their new life in Canada. (MCC Photo/Luke Tilley)

MCC IN CANADA

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MCC believes God calls us to a life of peace and non-violence and we actively promote the pursuit of peace. We teach conflict resolution skills and peacebuilding strategies, and encourage people to courageously choose peace over violence. MCC facilitates interfaith dialogue and relationship-building across cultural, racial and ethnic divides. We build resilience and respond to psychological needs through trauma healing, and we provide churches with educational and advocacy resources about peace.

**PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS**

**Colombia**
- **TRAUMA HEALING**
- **CONFLICT MANAGEMENT TRAINING**

At the end of 2016, the Colombian government signed a peace accord with the country’s largest rebel group, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC-EP) after 50 long years of social and political violence. MCC partners with the Church Coordination for Psychosocial Action to help churches and church-related organizations develop and implement strategies for trauma healing and resilience.

**DR Congo**

**PARTNER PROFILE**

In Iraq, MCC supports the Azidi Solidarity and Fraternity League (ASFL). In one ASFL project, displaced youth like Feryal (last name not used for security reasons) worked toward peace by sharing and documenting stories of trauma and resilience. These kinds of stories told by people of different religious and ethnic backgrounds build understanding and help avoid future conflict. Through this project, 36 stories were documented and published on social media, reaching approximately 5,070 people. (MCC photo/Matthew Sawatsky)

The legacy of hundreds of years of discrimination and abuse – including the experience of residential schools – have left deep scars in Indigenous communities across Canada. The Truth and Reconciliation commission invites us to participate with action toward restoring broken relationships with our Indigenous neighbours, but the first steps are often fraught with anxiety and difficulty.

As Christians, we recognize the injustices that were perpetuated against the Indigenous peoples of Canada, but don’t always know how to best respond. MCC BC’s Indigenous Neighbours program walks alongside churches and local Indigenous communities interested in starting down a path of reconciliation and restoration. We work to break down barriers, relieve anxieties and work toward respectful, healing and long-term relationships between churches and their Indigenous neighbours.

**The real work of peacemaking**

Building bridges between local churches and our Indigenous neighbours in BC

Several years ago, Cedar Park Church began to explore what it means to be peacemakers with their neighbours in Tsawwassen First Nation (TFN). As they started to develop their relationship with TFN, they realized that they would benefit from the wisdom of a guide, so they sought the help of MCC.

Though the journey hasn’t been without its challenges, Pastor Lee Kosa (pictured right) and Elder Ruth Adams (pictured left) feel it’s been worth it. “This is the real work of peacemaking,” says Pastor Lee, “It’s hard work, but you can do it.” Elder Ruth emphasized, “Don’t be afraid to reach out, even if you might make mistakes. The real mistake is not getting together in the first place.”

Congregants at Cedar Park Church participate in the KAIROS blanket exercise, a teaching tool to share the historic and contemporary relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada. The blankets are used to illustrate the diminishing territory since European settlers first arrived in North America. (Cedar Park Church photo)
**RESTORATIVE JUSTICE**

MCC’s restorative justice programs help individuals and churches find healthy ways to deal with harm and conflict, as well as respond to and prevent violence and sexual abuse. We also support healing processes through biblical reflection. Some of our restorative justice programs include: support for families and churches dealing with pornography addiction, sexual abuse and domestic violence; Circles of Support and Accountability (where volunteers meet with individuals with sexual offending histories, helping them transition back into communities); prison visitation and reintegration initiatives; publishing books and resources.

**Responding to the TRC**

In response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Calls to Action #48 and #49, MCC Canada’s board issued a public statement to acknowledge the long, complex history and current relationships between MCC, as an institution and its workers, and the Indigenous peoples of what we now call Canada. MCC repudiates concepts used to justify European superiority over Indigenous peoples, such as the Doctrine of Discovery. Such concepts of superiority, coercion, violence and abuse are opposed to the gospel of Jesus Christ and to the inherent dignity and equality we believe all people have received from God. To read the full response, visit: mcccanada.ca/trc-response

**End Abuse**

Bringing hope and healing to those impacted by abuse

When the one you love abuses you, a part of you is lost. Dealing with the fear, confusion, embarrassment and anger can lead women into isolation and hopelessness. Through women’s support groups run at the MCC Centre in Abbotsford, BC, End Abuse brings women experiencing abuse out of isolation, letting them experience healing and regain hope.

We also work to restore relationships; helping men who have abused their partners see that change is possible. Through support and accountability groups, we help participants learn healthier ways of being in relationship. Ultimately, End Abuse aims to reduce cases of abuse in our communities. In addition to our support groups, we are also working with our partners to help raise awareness and help educate the public about abuse, how to recognize it, and the best ways to respond.

**End Abuse responds to families impacted by abuse in the following ways:**

- Individual and group support for women
- Support and accountability groups for men
- Training for professionals and support group facilitators
- Education and awareness-raising of issues of abuse in churches
- Pastoral training on dynamics of abuse in the home and the church
- Liaison with community groups.

**Here’s what they have to say**

Your impact in their own words

Each year, MCC BC runs a women’s support group called “When Love Hurts.” This support group is transformative for those who participate. Here’s what some of them had to say:

“I used to think I had to put up with stuff but today I know I don’t have to. I know what abuse is.”

“I’m more confident, and stronger to make decisions. I no longer need to mediate my family.”

“I’m WAY stronger and I know signs of abuse. I don’t think I’ll make the same mistakes.”

MCC BC’s End Abuse Program aims to reduce cases of abuse in our communities through workshops, support groups, and training. Family pictured is representative. Program participants not shown for privacy reasons. (Stock photo)
REAL PEACE COMES FROM GOD’S LOVE

Sovannara Yoeun is an IVEPer from Cambodia that served as a Chaplain Assistant at Menno Home from September 2016 to July 2017. “I have learnt how to serve people,” she says, “to share God’s love, to make peace with God, with myself and with others. And to learn that all people have value and need to be respected and know that real peace comes from God’s love.”

MCC IN CANADA

BC HIGHLIGHTS

ART & COFFEE

This year, we launched Art + Coffee nights featuring a selection of fair trade coffees and chocolate to sample. The art exhibit this year is entitled Volvos of Lebanon. In 2015 MCC received a gift of two apartment buildings located in Prince George. As MCC BC started to engage with the residents of the apartments, our main was how isolated many of the residents were. So, this summer MCC began a community garden project which has already begun to have a positive impact, encouraging community building in the apartments.

COMMUNITY GARDENS IN PRINCE GEORGE

In 2015 MCC received a gift of two apartment buildings located in Prince George. As MCC BC started to engage with the residents of the apartments, our main was how isolated many of the residents were. So, this summer MCC began a community garden project which has already begun to have a positive impact, encouraging community building in the apartments.

INVITING CONVERSATION THROUGH THEATRE

This year, MCC sponsored two theatre productions: disPLACE, a show that featured the stories of refugees told in their own words, and Forgiven/Forgotten, a story that looks at how our society responds to those affected by crime. MCC’s work often addresses difficult subjects and these productions provide a new way to invite our constituency into these conversations.

BC SERVICE WORKERS

Service Workers from BC:
• Anna Vogt
• Char Siemens
• Mark Tymm
• Sharon Miksi
• Meg Garberbrandt Wiebe

SALTers:
• Deanna Elslau
• Kaylee Hall
• Rachel Hills
• Emily Huang
• Tiffany Wisler

IVEPers serving in BC:
• Abhijit Das
• Michelle Kundishora
• Antonio Lumberanza
• Helen Mordovets
• Elizabeth Mulya
• Sovannara Yoeun

Service Workers in BC:
• Andrew Antelis
• Tammy Batterby
• Soraya Canales-Galdamez
• Laura Funk
• Thomas Geischauf
• Renny Hulabarat
• Nita Kristian Hubert
• Calvin Li
• Jonas Kishlar
• Monica Mellado-Jerezano
• Thirza Prentice
• Katrin Rampal
• Samuel Walter
• Jian Wong

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The Committee

Inviting the next generation to "do more" through MCC

Millennials are overwhelmed by the brokenness of the world. They have come of age in a post-9/11 world characterized by terrorism, disaster and unrest. For many, this has created a deep desire to change things for the better. They want to make a difference, but often, they don’t know where to start.

For nearly 100 years, MCC has been fueled by the passion of people who saw need in the world and wondered: How can we do more? This year, we launched The Committee, an initiative to provide young people with practical ways to "do more" through opportunities to learn, serve, give, advocate and pray.

JOSE

REFUGEE CLAIMANT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Jose hasn’t lived in his home country of El Salvador since he and his family fled when he was 8 years old. When his initial refugee claim was rejected, he was scared. Faced with the idea of returning to a country where he knew no one and hadn’t been to since he was a child, he didn’t know where to turn. Because of MCC’s legal assistance, he was able to successfully appeal his case. “I am happy now,” he says, “I’m not scared anymore, and I’m sleeping OK. I think it’s a very good life!”

BIJOU

NEW FOUNDATIONS PROGRAM

Though Bijou had come to Canada from Congo several years ago, she still felt she was missing some skills to make it as a single parent. The financial literacy skills she learned through New Foundations were transformative. “If only I knew all of this was possible before!” she says. Through the New Foundations program, Bijou has been equipped with the knowledge and skills that she needs for her and her family to thrive. “Where there is a lack of knowledge, there is no life, no hope,” she says, “This knowledge is my future.”

YVONNE

HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION & OUTREACH

Yvonne has been coming to MCC’s Thursday night BBQ, called Meals and Friendship, for two years. She cherishes the opportunity to come as she is each week for a simple meal. “Most people don’t understand,” she explains, “we don’t want to end up homeless, we don’t want to be addicted...” MCC’s weekly BBQ gives her a place where she can just be herself. “It really gives me something to look forward to every week.”

PEOPLE YOU’VE IMPACTED

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**MCC BC FINANCES**

The financial information on this page represents the operations of MCC BC for the year ended March 31, 2017, expressed in Canadian dollars and has been prepared from the audited financial statements of MCC BC. Complete audited financial statements, including notes, are available upon request or at mccbc.ca.

### EXPENSES

- **$7.6 MILLION**
  - International Program: $3,270,601
  - Local Program: $1,756,091
  - Villages & Cafe: $531,354
  - Finance and Administration: $1,061,600
  - International Disasters: $260,048
  - Material Resources: $485,547
  - Fundraising: $400,135
  - Other: $32,564

### REVENUE

- **$8 MILLION**
  - Contributions: $3,052,645
  - Thrift Stores (Net): $1,958,928
  - Contributions - Major Disasters: $260,028
  - Local Program Revenue: $1,171,382
  - Relief Festivals (Net): $776,773
  - Material Resources: $276,773
  - Other: $32,564

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**Thank You!**

Every year, the MCC BC community comes together at Relief Festivals across the province with one goal: to raise funds to support the work of MCC. Because of your generosity, 2016 was the first year in MCC BC history in which the Abbotsford Festival for World Relief raised over $1 Million*.

Because of you, refugees both in BC and around the world will receive the support they need as they rebuild their lives.

*The Abbotsford Relief Festival raised $1.05 million in gross revenue in 2016. Page 24 reports the net revenue for all Relief Festivals in BC.
The financial information on this page presents the combined operations of the MCCs in Canada and the U.S. (excluding Ten Thousand Villages Canada) for the year ended March 31, 2017, expressed in Canadian dollars and has been prepared from the audited financial statements of the respective MCCs. Complete audited financial statements for each of the MCCs, including notes, are available upon request or at mcccanada.ca.

**EXPENSES**

- Relief $20,001,000
- Development $46,075,000
- Peace $16,159,000
- Administration $13,116,000
- Fundraising $5,077,000

**REVENUE** $114.1 MILLION

- 43% Material resources
- 18% Government grants
- 17% Non-government grants
- 13% Other
- 5% Relocation
- 5% Education
- 3% Cash & other contributions

**INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM EXPENSES BY THEMES** $61.8 MILLION

- 27% Humanitarian relief & disaster recovery
- 17% Peacebuilding
- 14% Health
- 13% Food security & sustainable livelihoods
- 10% Migration & resettlement
- 9% Education

**INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC PROGRAM EXPENSES BY REGION** $82.2 MILLION

- 21% Africa
- 15% Asia
- 15% Europe & Middle East
- 10% Latin America & Caribbean
- 10% United States
- 9% Canada
- 15% Multi-region

* A portion of these funds are held in a restricted fund for future budgeted international program expenses.
MCC AROUND THE WORLD

56 countries  515 partners  767 projects  1,118 workers

Global Service Learning†

25 YAMEN* participants
*YOUNG ANABAPTIST MENNONITE EXCHANGE NETWORK
48 IVEP* participants
*INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER EXCHANGE PROGRAM
53 SALT* participants
*SERVING AND LEARNING TOGETHER
30 Seed participants
10 Summerbridge participants
50 Summer Service participants
50 SOOP* participants
(Canadian participants only)

*SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES WITH OUR PARTNERS
†Numbers represent participants who began their service term between April 1, 2016 and March 31, 2017.

Map indicates program costs in Canadian dollars for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2017.
MCC THRIFT

As a non-profit network with 50 shops across Canada, MCC Thrift supports MCC’s relief, development and peace projects. Thrift shops also help build strong, resilient neighbourhoods, and encourage people to reuse and repurpose gently used items as a way to care for the environment.

Over the past year, MCC Thrift surveyed donors, shoppers and volunteers to find out what was working well and what needed to change. Through this process, we updated the Thrift website to make it easier for people to find information about their local shop and learn more about what we do. Go to thrift.mcc.org to see what’s new.

We also used the feedback we received from donors, shoppers and volunteers to refresh our brand and introduce a new look, including an updated logo.

We are grateful for our more than 10,000 volunteers, 300 shop managers, and hundreds of board and committee members in Canada and the U.S. who give so much of themselves to this work. MCC Thrift contributed more than $20 million to the work of MCC during this past fiscal year, and we couldn’t do it without you.

Thank you!

We invite you to:

• Shop, donate or volunteer at MCC Thrift because you care… about your family, your community and beyond.
• Shop, donate or volunteer at MCC Thrift because your dollars matter… as you spend wisely and share what you have with others.
• Shop, donate or volunteer at MCC Thrift because you hope for a better world… environmentally, economically, socially and spiritually.

Go to thrift.mcc.org to see what’s new.

Thank you for your support!

Since the early 1970s, MCC Canada Thrift shops have contributed more than $119,444,000 to Mennonite Central Committee

MATERIAL RESOURCES IN BC

Kelowna church rallies for refugees

In September 2015, the horror of the Syrian refugee crisis was captured in a single image of a young boy on a beach. Alan Kurdi, the boy in the photograph, was just three years old when he lost his life trying to flee to safety. The image became a touchpoint for many. For Kelowna pastor Mike Penninga, it was a call to action.

As he thought about how his church could get involved in the plight of refugees, one thing became clear: “Either we can cry against what’s wrong or we can be a part of the solution,” he told MCC. “People want to help. They just need to know where to direct their help. We decided that as a church we were not just going to sponsor a refugee family, but that we would be a church that sponsors refugee families.”

Penninga’s church, Kelowna Gospel Fellowship, a congregation of 750 people in Kelowna BC, raised the funds necessary to sponsor a refugee family and contacted MCC to be their sponsoring agent. Kelowna Gospel Fellowship was paired with a refugee family but at the last minute the family had to withdraw. The process of bringing refugees to Canada can be long and complex. By April of 2017 they were still waiting. As they waited, Penninga and his team wondered if there was something more the church could do to help. He invited MCC Advancement Director, Scott Campbell, to come and speak to the congregation.

That’s when they heard about MCC’s relief kit program.

Relief kits are 20L buckets packed with supplies that help families whose lives have been disrupted by violence or disaster. The kits contain towels, soap, combs, toothbrushes, laundry soap and other necessities. Each kit costs between $50-$75 to assemble. With the help of individuals and groups, last year MCC shipped over 14,000 relief kits to Jordan, Syria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Haiti, Honduras, Iraq, Lebanon, Ukraine and Serbia.

On April 23, 2017, Kelowna Gospel Fellowship launched a campaign to pack 150 relief kits – the same week they got word that the refugee family they are sponsoring will be arriving in Kelowna sometime this summer. As of today, Kelowna Gospel Fellowship has collected just over 200 relief kits!

Pastor Penninga said he was not surprised by his congregation’s generosity.

“We can do this,” he said. “It’s not overwhelming. We can be a part of a solution.”

Countries receiving MCC shipments of material resources*

(Such as comforters, hygiene kits, relief kits, canned meat, etc.)

1 Shipped between April 1, 2016 – March 31, 2017, indicated by Canadian dollar value of goods. Totals indicate goods shipped by all of MCC in Canada.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bosnia</td>
<td>$206,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DPRK (North Korea)</td>
<td>$197,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>$360,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>$1.11 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>$350,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>$148,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$150,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serbia</td>
<td>$90,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>$515,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada/ U.S.</td>
<td>$1.82 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A group from Kelowna Gospel Fellowship stands with their completed relief kits. (Photo/Mike Penninga)
THANK YOU

For nearly 100 years,
MCC has been able to continue its ministry thanks to the generous, compassionate support of people like you. We are grateful that you have chosen to partner with us to touch the lives of thousands of vulnerable people around the world.

Together, we can bring hope and help to people who are suffering due to conflict, disaster, poverty and illness. And we do it all in the name of Christ, who commanded his followers to demonstrate love to our neighbours.

We also acknowledge the generous support of the Government of Canada, whose significant contributions support our work around the world.

We couldn't do it without you...

Every year, MCC volunteers in BC donate thousands of hours of their time to make the work of MCC possible. MCC BC would not be what it is today without the tireless work of these dedicated individuals. This year more than 3000 people volunteered on a regular basis, and our Material Resources volunteers alone gave more than 3700 hours of their time.

Thank you!
Salina Lopchan, 8, at her temporary home on the hillside of the village of Thulogaon in Nallu VDC, in the district of Lalitpur, Nepal. Lopchan’s mother, Devi Lopchan, received both kitchen garden and nutrition training through MCC partner The Rural Institution for Community Development (RICOD).

RICOD is working to reduce malnutrition in the south of the Lalitpur district of Nepal, focusing on pregnant and nursing mothers and children under five. The program provides training on nutrition, locally available foods, kitchen gardens and the importance of pre- and post-natal care as well as training for peer educators. The project also provides seeds and supplies for gardens, funds for income generation through savings groups and supplementary food to families most in need. (MCC Photo/Colin Vandenberg)
Students participate in psychosocial activities run by MCC partner Popular Aid for Relief and Development (PARD) in southern Lebanon.

PARD has worked for years in Palestinian areas in southern Lebanon and began psychosocial activities to give Syrian and Palestinian refugees tools to address trauma and a chance to express themselves and grow in confidence. Activities are held on Friday mornings at community centres and schools, including this one in Jim Jeem, a Palestinian area in southern Lebanon. (MCC photo/Matthew Sawatzky)