Working together

“For we walk by faith, not by sight.”
2 Corinthians 5:7

I remember it vividly. It was 1979 and I was 19. My family had just been “on the move”...all the way from Waterloo County to Perth County! Then Thanh arrived. He was 19 as well and his family was also on the move.

From his home in Vietnam, a home destroyed by a brutal war, they had arrived in our community, via a Thai refugee camp. Thanh and his family were “sponsored” by our congregation. It was part of the first ever private sponsorship of refugees in Canada.

When MCC signed that first Sponsorship Agreement it was done in faith. Faith that congregations would step up with simple but profound hospitality. This faith was well founded! Thousands of South East Asian refugees were welcomed by Anabaptist churches in the following months.

This was MCC and the church at their finest, and it has not stopped. Thank you!

Now we need your Jesus-hospitality again! This time the war is in Syria, and thousands upon thousands cannot return home.

Together let us recommit to walking by faith. To welcoming strangers whom we cannot yet see. Strangers who will, through our faith, change us all for the better.

Rick Cober Bauman, Executive Director, Ontario

Board members

Karen Cornies, Chair
Mike Tennant, Vice-Chair
Dave Tiessen, Secretary
Luke Jantzi, Treasurer
Jacob Enns, EMC
Marlene Goertzen, MB
Jonathan Silverthorn, MB
Rick Cober Bauman, Ex-officio/Executive Director
Isaiah Ritzman, MB
Margaret Amanatides, MCEC
Tim Wichert, MCEC
Lynn Rempel, MCEC
Jacob Reimer, Old Colony
Anita Dong, Additional Director
Sara Anderson, Additional Director
Christina Main, Young Adult, EBC
Matt Steinmann, Young Adult, CGUC

This was MCC and the church at their finest, and it has not stopped. Thank you!
– Rick Cober Bauman
Resettle, create community and advocate

MCC walks alongside newcomers

Community support and social services are vital to newcomers to Canada. A recent Low German newcomer expressed her gratitude for help in Ontario, “Ontario provides many support services that were not available to us before – it's amazing!”

For resettled refugees, social support and community connections are critical. A recent refugee shared, “We were displaced from our home, separated from our loved ones and social networks. Going back was impossible.” Can you imagine such a reality? Your support empowered MCC to replace impossibility with hope!

Through advocacy, change is created in our communities and has a long lasting impact for all.

Support newcomers to Canada in a tangible way!
mcccanada.ca
Sending love to Syria

It was a Christmas blessing when MCC staff and friends from our Syrian community sent a container to Syria.

It was a powerful moment when our friend Kalthum Alshihabi shared prayers of blessing over a container headed to Syria.

As we closed in prayer, tears were flowing freely as both communities affirmed that we refuse to accept that war is the answer to conflict; we were declaring together that we were choosing the way of peace.

Kalthum prayed:

“God bless Canada. God bless everyone who takes initiative and puts their hands in this work. Because we have families and loved ones there feeling cold and starving. God bless you, and give victory and make this work a fever for you in the heaven in sake of God, Lord of all. Thank you very much.”

God bless everyone who takes initiative and puts their hands in this work.
– Kalthum Alshihabi

6 Ways to help

1. Donate to MCC’s Syria and Iraq crisis campaign.
2. Shop at your local MCC Thrift Shop.
3. Make a relief or hygiene kit.
4. Support your local MCC relief sale.
5. Organize a comforter knotting blitz at your church.
6. Donate to Material Resources.

Donate to MCC’s relief work
mcccanada.ca/relief
Relief supplies in Gaza
Providing emergency food and bedding

When conflict erupted again in Palestine and Israel over July and August, 2014, MCC was the first non-government organization on the ground providing emergency relief through partner Al Najd Development Forum.

In Gaza, 230 families received locally purchased food including rice, lentils and canned meat; 150 households received mattresses and emergency bedding.

“[Al Najd staff] … work tirelessly to get food and supplies out to families who have had their homes and livelihoods destroyed,” says Joanna Hiebert Bergen, an MCC representative for Palestine and Israel.

After the fighting stopped, MCC extended the food distributions to 460 families for eight months, and is funding home repairs for 70 families.

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

Volunteers with Al Najd Development Forum deliver mattresses to families who opened their homes to displaced people.
Healing through friendship
Night after night, men, women, and youth experiencing homelessness arrive at the door to the Transitional Shelter, which once was the Community Space at the YWCA-Emergency Shelter in Downtown Kitchener.

With the expansion of the Circle of Friends program to include men, we are able to be present in this shelter space for men and women.

Through simple activities like talking, or playing cards, we have seen individuals move from isolation into meaningful relationships and community.

A simple card game of euchre has the power to fill the entire room with joy, laughter, and new friendships.

“This program is about relationships that support those experiencing homelessness.”
– Katie McDougall, Program Coordinator

Learn more about the Circle of Friends Program
mcccanada.ca/learn/more/circle-friends

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6 Ways to help

1. Contribute to MCC’s account at Canadian Foodgrains Bank.
3. Sponsor a refugee family.
4. Volunteer in a Circles Program.
5. Take the TOOLS challenge.
6. Learn about the Living Wage initiative.
Alternatives to Coca in Colombia
Helping farmers grow legal and sustainable crops

With a lack of opportunity in rural Colombia, farmers Maria Valencia Rivas and Genaro Jabe Hinestroza supported their family by growing coca, which is processed into cocaine. But in early 2013 they decided the risk of fumigation from government coca elimination programs was too high.

An agricultural program run by the Mennonite Brethren Church in Chocó, an MCC partner, was the opportunity they needed.

The project built a rice mill nearby, provided farmers with initial seeds and committed to buy the crop. “That’s the main thing for us, having the guarantee that we can sell it,” says Valencia Rivas.

Learn more about the church’s work helping farmers grow new crops
mcccanada.ca/alternativestococa

As part of the Cacao not Coca project, Colombian farmer Maria Valencia Rivas received rice seed and cacao seedlings.
A space for healing

What do church basements and the community rooms at 50 Kent Avenue in Kitchener have in common?

They are places where individuals gather on a regular basis to share a meal, spend time together, learn from each other, and reflect on devotional questions.

This is the work of Circles of Support and Accountability. These are groups of individuals who have been impacted by crime, who have experienced pain and have caused pain in the lives of others.

A volunteer reflects on the power of circles of support and accountability, “These are groups forged out of brokenness and often held together with a fragility that might break at any moment.”

These are places of belonging, places of hope, and places of peace.

I can’t change the past, but I can work for a different future. – Program participant

At Circles of Support and Accountability, each person is welcomed and valued because they are a loved child of God while at the same time acknowledging the long term consequences and impacts of sexual offending.

Learn more about the Circles of Support and Accountability
mcco.ca/rj

6 Ways to help

1. Sign up for MCC’s Ottawa Office blog.
2. Pray for peace in Syria and Iraq.
3. Volunteer with Circles of Support and Accountability.
4. Share MCC’s Peace Sunday materials with your friends.
5. Organize a peace walk.
6. Engage with First Nations communities, and learn about their justice needs.
Diffusing violence and encouraging connections
Peacebuilding in regions of religious and ethnic diversity

When Mugu Zakka Bako arrived at the scene of bomb blasts in Jos, Nigeria, in May of 2014, he saw more than destruction and injured people. He saw Christians and Muslims working together, rescuing people from the debris and consoling each other.

Bako, MCC’s peace coordinator in Nigeria, says that’s a change from a few years ago when reprisal attacks after a bombing meant the “whole city would be in flames for days or weeks.”

MCC and its partners are involved in intensive peacebuilding work to diffuse violence and encourage connections between Muslims and Christians.

MCC’s peacebuilding work has been a priority in Nigeria since 2001.

Learn more about MCC’s peace projects mcccana.ca/peace

Many have come back from the training dramatically transformed.
– Dave Klassen, MCC representative in Nigeria

MCC Nigeria peace coordinator Mugu Zakka Bako speaks at an interfaith training event held in Plateau State, Nigeria.

1. Training 6,858 people in conflict transformation and peacebuilding.
2. Supporting peacebuilding in Mozambique where weapons are being surrendered.
3. Inspiring openness to all cultures at a summer camp for youth in China.
4. Bringing together peace organizations in Bolivia to discuss causes of racism and conflict.
5. Helping newcomers learn about Canadian culture.
6. Continuing to promote local program in Ontario MCC Thrift Shops.
7. 3 IVEP participants serving in Ontario.
8. Raising over $34,729 with Ride for Refuge.
10. MCC Ontario working with 6 churches and community groups to sponsor 56 refugees.
A brighter partnership
Larry Bearss of Niagara and Mike Henderson from Penetanguishene retrofitting homes in the far north of Ontario.

MCC Ontario partnered with Mushkegowuk Council and Ontario Power Authority to retrofit homes in three remote, fly-in First Nations in Ontario. The goal of the electrical repairs was to make them more efficient, cutting hydro costs for families on fixed incomes.

Lyndsay Mollins Koene reflects on the impact of this work, “It really was about building relationships and making lasting change in the community of Attawapiskat First Nation.”

Learn more about the Indigenous Neighbours Program mcc.ca/indigenous-work

Volunteers are priceless!
Nellie Tiessen has been volunteering in Leamington since 1982

Nellie shares her love of thrift through volunteering. “I love to meet people and enjoy working at the thrift shop because of all the wonderful customers and volunteers I have come to know along the way.”

A strong supporter of MCC, Nellie connects the work she does in the shop to her strong faith in God.

Volunteer at your local MCC Thrift Shop thrift.mcc.org
My dream has come true

Chadreque Finiasse works with an MCC partner in Mozambique.

When I was a child helping my father with his goats, I used to think about working in agriculture. I studied agriculture, and now I work with people in villages where sand dams have been built. I show them how to plant vegetables and save seeds. They are so proud when they show me their harvest.

I love my job and I believe this is what God wanted me to do.

Learn more about MCC’s work in Mozambique in the spring 2015 issue of A Common Place.

Serve.mcccanada.ca

Volunteer with SALT
Resiliency = Inspiration

Lydia Hogewoning serves as a social worker in Durban, South Africa, for MCC partner Refugee Social Services.

A typical day is filled with appointments, home visits, connecting clients with staff and community services. “Despite so many barriers and tragic circumstances, these people inspire me with courage, strength and self-advocacy.

Learning about the complexities facing refugees is fueling my passion for global justice and peacebuilding.”

Volunteer with SALT
serve.mcccanada.ca
In Ontario

Low German Newcomers - Lily Hiebert Rempel
Working with partners to assist Low German newcomers with settlement.

People in Poverty - Greg deGroot-Maggetti
Walking with people in poverty and advocating for a poverty free Ontario.

Restorative Justice - Eileen Henderson
Working to build community support for those impacted by crime.

Refugee Sponsorship - Moses Moini
Working with churches and communities to sponsor and resettle refugees.

Human Resources - Michelle Brenneman
Working with and resourcing MCC Ontario staff and international service workers.

Indigenous Neighbours - Lyndsay Mollins Koene
Creating awareness of Indigenous culture and advocating for justice.

Material Resources - Bob Lebold
Responding to disaster needs by collecting and distributing relief supplies.

MCC Thrift Shops - Matthew Kok
Supporting and encouraging the work of the Ontario Thrift Shop network.

Revenue Development - Kim Lester
Helping to raise the financial resources necessary to further MCC’s work.
What we do

The MCCs in Canada and the U.S. together work in three program areas: community development, disaster response, and peace building.

For the year ended March 31, 2015, the total worldwide program costs allocated to the MCCs in Canada were budgeted to be:

- Community development: $23,000,000
- Disaster response: $9,700,000
- Peace building: $7,300,000

Total: $40,000,000

The funds we raise

MCC raises funds across Canada from many sources. For the year ended March 31, 2015, we budgeted to raise the following amounts:

- Cash donations: $19,600,000
- Donations–material resources: $2,000,000
- MCC Thrift Shops: $9,200,000
- Relief sales and events: $1,500,000
- Grants from gov’t and other: $11,100,000
- Other: $3,900,000

Total: $47,200,000

Administration and fundraising

The MCCs in Canada invest approximately 20% of their total expenses into administration and fundraising. We work hard to maintain a balance between using our resources responsibly and making our programs as effective as possible.

For the year ended March 31, 2015, the MCCs in Canada budgeted to spend the following:

- Administration: $7,000,000
- Fundraising: $2,400,000

Total: $9,400,000

*Actual results for the year ended March 31, 2015 will be available after June 30, 2015 at mcccanada.ca/annualreport.

*All amounts are expressed in Canadian dollars.
The financial charts shown above are part of the story in reporting to you the work of MCC Ontario in 2014/2015, but they are only one part. Whether making direct donations, supporting thrift shops, relief sales, or material resources, your gifts contribute in a meaningful way. Thank you!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Workers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>$9,513,000</td>
<td>331 MCC workers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>$4,613,000</td>
<td>192 MCC workers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Latin America &amp; the Caribbean</td>
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<td>Africa</td>
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<td>Multiregion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>$10,214,000</td>
<td>236 MCC workers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Map represents the full picture of MCCs budgeted program expenses for year ended March 31, 2015 (expressed in Canadian dollars).

Note: worker statistics are as of January, 2015.
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.

Yusuf Al Attar, 12, stands inside his family’s rabbit and pigeon enclosure next to their home in Gaza. The family participated in a rabbit-raising project with MCC partner Al Najd Developmental Forum.