Shahlom 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)
“You make MCC breathe here in Saskatchewan...”

MCC’s work is a gathering of many people and our humble gifts for something larger than ourselves to be shared beyond ourselves. Forty years ago, Mennonite farmers, here in Saskatchewan and Manitoba, took inspiration from the biblical story of Joseph who stored up grain for use during years of famine so there would be enough for all. In the fall of 1976, farmers here began collecting grain for what was then called the MCC Food Bank. Others were negotiating with the Canadian government to create a sturdy partnership that has continued to this day with the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, leveraging millions of federal government dollars for food aid. We are grateful for the agricultural community, together with urban supporters, which has fed this vision for four decades and has made people more food secure around the world.

We are so grateful to each one of you for being part of this ministry of compassion and of reconciliation. Your gifts of time and skills and money make all our work possible. May our efforts bring comfort and strength and hope here and around the world.

Thanks be to God!

Eileen Klassen Hamm, Executive Director
MCC Saskatchewan

“A message from MCC Canada’s executive director”

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 25 years. Since 2012, MCC has sent more than 60 shipments of hygiene items, blankets and other supplies. These small gifts have made a difference. But we recognize that millions of people around the world do not enjoy this same reality.

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, the Saskatchewan Mennonite Brethren University under the leadership of our former president, Dr. Don Peters, initiated a project to improve school buildings in Afghanistan. It is so inspiring to see the impact of this project.

In Christ’s peace,

Don Peters, Executive Director
MCC Canada

“The effect of righteousness will be peace, and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever.”

Isaiah 32:16-18 (NRSV)

“The gathering of many people and our humble gifts”

MCC’s work is a gathering of many people and our humble gifts for something larger than ourselves to be shared beyond ourselves. Forty years ago, Mennonite farmers, here in Saskatchewan and Manitoba, took inspiration from the biblical story of Joseph who stored up grain for use during years of famine so there would be enough for all. In the fall of 1976, farmers here began collecting grain for what was then called the MCC Food Bank. Others were negotiating with the Canadian government to create a sturdy partnership that has continued to this day with the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, leveraging millions of federal government dollars for food aid. We are grateful for the agricultural community, together with urban supporters, which has fed this vision for four decades and has made people more food secure around the world.

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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 Nineveh 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.

“‘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

South Sudan

· EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE

Iraq

· EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE

El Salvador

· DISASTER PREVENTION

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.

MCC’s Zakho Small Villages Project provided 12 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.
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.

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.

**HEALTH**

91,534 people attended health, HIV or reproductive health info sessions

55,115 hygiene kits shipped

14,498 people tested for HIV

9,992 infant care kits shipped

91,534

people attended health, HIV or reproductive health info sessions

55,115

hygiene kits shipped

14,498

people tested for HIV

9,992

infant care kits shipped

People who attended improved hygiene practice sessions

85,414

FY2017

45,004

FY2016

39,468

FY2015

30,000

FY2014

Households connected to an improved water source

8,090

FY2017

6,757

FY2016

3,737

FY2015

1,000

FY2014

**PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS**

Lebanon

Uganda

- HEALTH TRAINING · TRAUMA CARE ·

With 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.

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.

SALT Profile

**Judy Loewen**

“Many families can’t afford feminine sanitary products, so many girls have to miss school during their menstruation. 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.
FOOD & LIVELIHOODS

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

As 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/ha, as compared to their average conventional yields of 1.5 tonnes/ha. Now, 1,529 farmers are using CA principles – even though the project originally expected to train only 700.

“I 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.”

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

People who attended nutrition workshops

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<tr>
<td>FY</td>
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PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Bangladesh

EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE

Canada’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/ha, as compared to their average conventional yields of 1.5 tonnes/ha. Now, 1,529 farmers are using CA principles – even though the project originally expected to train only 700.

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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, play time and counseling to about 100 children from the children’s home and surrounding neighborhoods. (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

Through partner Help the Afghan Children, MCC offered basic computer education classes in Paghman district schools in Afghanistan. High school students gained important computer skills, enabling them to seek and obtain work in this expanding field. 1,518 students were trained, and the percentage of students demonstrating key competencies in word processing increased from 0% to 60% during the project.

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.

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)

“What 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.” — SALTter Stefanie Heide of Aylmer, Ontario, who served as a university English teacher and tutor at Royal University of Phnom Penh in Cambodia.

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.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Children who participated in K-12 formal education</th>
<th>FY2015</th>
<th>FY2016</th>
<th>FY2017</th>
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<td>43,807</td>
<td>45,151</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>1,627</td>
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Adult literacy

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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)
“Many years ago our ancestors came as refugees,” reflects Elaine Hofer (third from left). “If Canada hadn’t welcomed Hutterite refugees, many of us wouldn’t be here today.” Hutterite members of Green Acres Colony near Wawanesa, Manitoba, worked with MCC to sponsor a refugee family from Syria. From left, Wanda Waldner, Najwa Hussein Al Mohamad, Elaine Hofer, Reyad Alhamoud, Paul Waldner and 1-year-old Lee Waldner meet together at Green Acres Colony. (Photo courtesy of Ava Waldner)

**MIGRATION & RESETTLEMENT**

Around the world people become displaced when they are forced to flee their homes because of conflict or disaster. MCC walks with uprooted people around the world in a variety of ways, including: addressing the root causes of conflict and migration; supporting refugees and internally displaced people; informing Canadians about refugee policies and advocating for fair legislation; promoting refugee sponsorship and supporting churches through the sponsorship process.

**CELEBRATING 40 YEARS**

Die Mennonitische Post, the German-language periodical published bi-monthly by MCC, celebrated its 40th anniversary in June 2017. As one of the last remaining German-language publications in North America, the Post has 13,500 subscribers from Canada, the U.S., Mexico, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, Argentina and beyond.

MCC has longstanding work with Low German-speaking Mennonites living in communities and colonies across North and South America, including promoting German literacy and education through Die Mennonitische Post and Das Blatt, a children’s monthly magazine.

Where are MCC-supported refugees coming from?

As a private sponsorship agreement holder with the Canadian government, MCC has worked with hundreds of groups to help bring more than 1,100 refugees to Canada during last fiscal year.

**OTTAWA OFFICE**

The Ottawa Office participated in the Canadian government’s International Assistance Review to help rethink our country’s international assistance policies and programs. This important review was the first one of its kind in about 20 years. Ottawa staff participated in various in-person consultations with Global Affairs Canada and provided a substantive written submission to the government. MCC was able to provide input on issues like:

- migration and displacement;
- conflict prevention and peacebuilding practices;
- policy building.

For more information, go to mcccanada.ca/IAP_review

**A house and a future**

Best-selling author partners with MCC

Yann Martel is known to many as the author of Life of Pi — an international best seller that became an Oscar winning movie. But at MCC Saskatchewan, Martel is also known as the man who welcomed a Syrian family of six into the home he owns in Saskatoon. Omar and Ramia and their four children, nine, eight and three years, and their adorable seven-month-old girl, arrived in 2016, and Martel wrote about the experience for The Sunday Times of London.

Martel bought this house years ago before he and his partner decided to have children. After they did, they kept the house. The family considered renting it out, but a friend suggested they contact MCC.

“To give is to receive. When we gift something to someone, whether a smile or a kind word or a service or an object, we create good will, we create bonds. Surely that was a worthwhile investment,” he wrote.

“So that, for me, is what you do with a sweet little house you don’t need anymore. You turn it into a safe house for children and a grateful family, a place for future citizens, a home where you can knock on the door at any time of day and be greeted with smiles, open arms and, likely, good pizza.”

Ramia Sraa and Omar Falah Hindawi with their children Hala, Dima, Mohammed, and Rahaf. The house where they live in Saskatoon is owned by Canadian author Yann Martel. Working with MCC and Mount Royal Mennonite Church, Martel offered his house for the family’s use. (MCC photo/Leona Lortie)
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**
  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.

- **Conflict Management Training**
  MCC worked to reduce conflict, promote healing, and build relationships across ethnic differences in communities in North Kwa province, DR Congo. In this peace building project, 375 people participated in training workshops. Afterwards, 52% of participants shared food with members of an opposing group, 50% hosted members of the opposite group in their homes, and 45% of participants took part in meetings with members of the opposite group.

### DR Congo

- **Conflict Management Training**
  MCC’s Raise the Peace camp took place in August 2016. Fifteen youth from diverse backgrounds spent a week with MCC staff learning about creation care and conflict resolution in Saskatoon. The week consisted of workshops about restorative justice, building friendships across difference, the importance of caring for God’s good earth and ending with a one night camp out at the Saskatoon Wildlife Federation. It’s amazing to see the transformation that happens when youth are given a chance to roam and play outside in nature. Youth became explorers of the natural world by spending an afternoon walking through the North East Swale in Saskatoon learning about endangered grasslands. At night they sat in awe of the vastness of the universe as the local Starman displayed the galaxy through a projection inside an inflatable tent. Young men spent hours fishing in a trout pond, never catching anything but loving the process.

### PEACEBUILDING

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The youth are strong and resilient leaders in their communities. Many attend MCC’s weekly programs and become involved in their school’s leadership. Even though many grew up way too fast, they show us what it means to thrive and to make the best out of any situation. Many came to Canada through the refugee process and know firsthand how to take each day as a new day and to not let life’s chaos take over. They persevere.
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 pornography addiction, sexual abuse and domestic violence; Circles of Restorative Justice programs include: support for families and churches dealing with harm and conflict, as well as prison visitation and reintegration initiatives; publishing books and resources.

In response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Calls to Action #49 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/crb-response

Advocating for change in provincial correctional centres

MCC has partnered with other Saskatchewan community-based organizations to conduct a study on phone access in provincial correctional centres. The results of the study found that the cost of making phone calls was prohibitive to inmates and ultimately led to people being disconnected from their families and communities upon release. Furthermore, the study also found that this disconnection often increases the risk of people reoffending. After submitting a report to the Minister of Justice, changes were made to the phone system more affordable. We rejoice in this news and continue to work at promoting dignity and value for all people within the justice system.

Restorative Justice in practice

On a hot April afternoon, twenty young people arrived at MCC’s Kids Club apartment eager to patch holes, paint walls, and clean up messes, messes, holes, and wrecked walls from vandals who took an opportunity to make their mark on the place.

Since 2004 MCC has operated after-school peace building programs out of two a bedroom apartment in one of Saskatchewan’s most diverse neighborhoods. Children and youth living along Appleby Drive come together every week for homework help, cooking classes and a drop-in program called Appleby Kids Club.

In April of this year Kids Club was vandalized. The walls were painted with white paint, holes were punched in and items were taken away. After some investigation the children involved confessed and we had to come up with some way to move forward as a community. Do we make the families pay for damages and be done with it? Or do we try to implement our core values of restorative justice and peacebuilding by involving the kids in rights their wrongs as a way to learn ownership and compassion? Leaders and kids decided that helping with the cleanup would show they are sorry for what happened and that they care about Kids Club.

Patch the Peace participants. (MCC photo)

How small actions can create change

Building relationships between community members and inmates is at the center of Parkland Restorative Justice’s (PRJ) mission. Through programming that offers safe, intentional platforms PRJ has been able to build empathy and understanding within communities while offering the healing and recovery that inmates need. One of the often-overlooked dynamics of these interactions is the need to foster trust relationships with the staff inside the penitentiary. PRJ’s director, Heather Driedger, notes that it is foundational to create accessibility and trust within the institution for restorative justice principles to work. She highlights the contributions of one volunteer who regularly brings baking for the guards when she goes to visit inmates. “We encourage our volunteers to recognize the struggles of people serving time as well as the people working here – we acknowledge that it is a broken system for everyone.”

Instead of facing anger, a usual response to bad behavior for the kids, they were encouraged to see how their individual actions affect the whole and were given the chance to make amends. They modelled courage and humility by confessing and showing up to correct their wrongs. They asked for forgiveness and were shown grace and love in return. This community of tiny peacemakers is a place where Jesus shows up in unlikely ways and where restoration happens in the in-betweens of childhood and adolescence.

MCC in Canada & Saskatchewan

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20  MCC IN CANADA & SASKATCHEWAN

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PROVINCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

People helping people

After nearly 40 years of connecting small groups with a refugee family in need of assistance - having seen first-hand that the basis of this work is simply seeing each other as neighbours – MCC Saskatchewan has crossed many obvious barriers of distance, language, and religion to extend a hand of friendship when needed most.

These past two years have represented some of the busiest seasons in migration and resettlement work. In 2015 alone 12.4 million people were forcibly displaced from their homes. No doubt there is an entire narrative of fear and loss attached to every person accounted in these staggering numbers. But in these times of need there have also been countless reasons to celebrate.

This past year at Forest Grove Community Church in Saskatoon over 60 congregant volunteers have come together to sponsor four families (23 people total) offering support in resettlement, help in beginning a new life, and open arms of friendship. Many thanks FGCC for your continued work to welcome newcomers in Saskatchewan.

For more information on how to get involved in private sponsorship please contact Dana Krushel danakrushel@mccsk.ca

Introducing a Cry For Home

As part of MCC Canada’s advocacy work, a new three year campaign called A Cry for Home was launched this past year to build understanding around MCC’s ongoing relief, development, and peace work in Palestine and Israel. In year one of this project, MCC focused on creating opportunities for staff to learn more deeply about the history, context, and complexities of our partners’ work.

Myriam Ullah, MCC Saskatchewan’s Community Engagement Coordinator, had the chance to travel to the region on a two-week learning tour as part of her role as the Saskatchewan Coordinator, had the chance to travel to the region on a two-week learning tour as part of her role as the Saskatchewan representative on MCC’s Canadian Advocacy Network (CAN). This network will be mobilizing Canadian constituents to advocate for the Canadian government to follow through on their stated policy to condemn illegal settlement expansion and land dispossession and push for a stronger reaction to under-age Palestinian children in detention. Please see the A Cry for Home webpage for more information http://mcccanada.ca/cry-for-home

MCC SASKATCHEWAN STAFF

101 community partners

200 people participated in the Blanket Exercise facilitated by MCCS and partners

3,410 comforters were made and sent around the world

576 Relief Kits sent from MCCS

63 newcomers welcomed last year to our province as part of MCCS’ private sponsorship program

*Some members of four refugee resettlement teams meeting with newcomer families that Forest Grove Community Church is currently partnering with. (Photo courtesy of Forest Grove Community Church)
This financial information represents the provincial operations of MCC Saskatchewan for the year ending March 31, 2017, expressed in Canadian dollars and has been prepared from the audited financial statements for MCC Saskatchewan. Complete audited financial statements for MCC Saskatchewan including notes are available upon request or at mcccanada.ca.

**MCC Saskatchewan's Dollars at Work**
- Provincial Programs: $807,935
- International Programs: $2,409,331
- Administration & Fundraising: $815,607
- Community Engagement/Meadowgreen: $119,875
- Indigenous Neighbours: $88,925
- IVEP: $65,068
- Low German: $16,494
- Migration & Resettlement: $233,467
- Restorative Justice: $200,592
- Other: $83,514

**MCC Saskatchewan’s Donations Sources**
- Contributions: $2,202,717
- Canadian Foodgrains Bank: $300,100
- Thrift Shops: $1,172,138
- Other Income: $239,971
- Relief Sale: $130,164

**THRIFT SHOP CONTRIBUTION**

MCC Saskatchewan would like to thank you for your incredible generosity, which allows MCC to continue its work around the world – both locally and internationally. Thanks to our generous donors, MCC Saskatchewan was able to provide: after school programming for children and youth in Saskatoon’s Meadowgreen neighbourhood, advocate for landless bands, welcome people from around the world and work with community partners for restorative justice.
MCC CANADA FINANCES

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
$100.4 MILLION

- Relief  20%
- Development  16%
- Peace  13%
- Administration  13%
- Fundraising  5%

REVENUE
$114.1 MILLION

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM EXPENSES BY THEMES
$61.8 MILLION

- Humanitarian relief & disaster recovery  27%
- Peacebuilding  17%
- Conflict prevention  13%
- Food security & sustainable livelihoods  14%
- Education  27%
- Health  9%
- Migration & resettlement  21%

INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC PROGRAM EXPENSES BY REGION
$82.2 MILLION

- Africa  21%
- Asia  20%
- Europe & Middle East  15%
- Latin America & Caribbean  10%
- United States  9%
- Canada  10%
- Multi-region  21%

* 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

Canada  413 MCC workers*  $12.8 million  *includes Thrift
United States  194 MCC workers  $7.6 million
Latin America & the Caribbean  118 MCC workers  $8 million
Africa  154 MCC workers  $17.3 million
Europe & the Middle East  46 MCC workers  $16.4 million
Asia  193 MCC workers  $12 million
Multi-Region  $7.9 million

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

48 IVEP* participants
53 SALT* participants
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.
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 want to acknowledge Mary Krause (Rosthern Clothes Basket) and Susan Friesen (Warman Thrift Shop) in celebration of their ninetieth birthdays this past year. As we walk into this new year, we do so emboldened by the care and hope we have for a better world. To our three hundred volunteers, thirty staff, donors, and shoppers, thank you!

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.

Thank you for your support!

Building on the foundation of Thrift

Since the beginning of Thrift, the unparalleled dedication and commitment of our volunteers has been our greatest strength. We are blessed to have volunteers who faithfully give their skills and their time to build on the foundation that has been created by our generous volunteers. The success of the Thrift Network in Saskatchewan is in large part due to our ability to stitch together the wisdom and experience of our more seasoned volunteers; the stability and energy of our boomers; and the innovation and creativity of our millennials.

We recognize and value the commitment and efforts of our volunteers and stand in awe of the incredible bonds formed in the shops. We thank our volunteers and staff for their creativity, dedication, and commitment this past year.

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MCC THRIFT

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Countries receiving MCC shipments of material resources*

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>2016/2017 Shipments</th>
<th>Canada/U.S.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bosnia</td>
<td>$480,000</td>
<td>$1.11 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DPRK (North Korea)</td>
<td>$360,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>$640,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>$350,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>$90,000</td>
<td>$148,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>$206,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$150,000</td>
<td>$148,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serbia</td>
<td></td>
<td>$148,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td></td>
<td>$148,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Shipped between April 1, 2016 – March 31, 2017, indicated by Canadian dollar value of goods.

MCC comforters have many uses

1. They provide warmth and comfort on a bed
2. They keep out winter drafts from windows
3. They swaddle babies
4. They are a tangible sign of God’s love

Nawal Yacoub sits in the empty classroom at the Saskatoon Open Door Society, remembering back to the time she and her family spent in Lebanon and how the generosity of people on the other side of the world provided comfort in the midst of chaos.

Originally from Iraq, Nawal, her husband and two sons fled from the violence in their home country and, like many other refugees in the area, fled to Lebanon.

It was during this time that a friend told Nawal that she could collect relief kits and blankets from a group down the street. Nawal received four comforters (one for each of her family members) and a bucket of relief supplies including towels, toothbrushes, shampoo and other hygiene items.

Over the past year, MCC Thrift supported MCC’s relief, development and peace projects with 50 shops across Canada, Ukraine, Syria, Bosnia, Ethiopia, Jordan, Lebanon, DPRK (North Korea), and Dominican Republic.

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

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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.

VOLUNTEERS

Harold and Miriam Tieszen

For the past 17 years, Harold and Miriam Tieszen have worked side-by-side, sewing blankets for MCC. The couple retired in 2000 and was looking for an activity that they could do to fill their time. Their friends, Frank and Bertha Froese, shared about their experience making blankets for MCC and the rest is history.

While the couple was familiar with the work of MCC, they were unsure of how to get involved until they heard about the opportunity to make blankets. It started off slowly, but the pair soon created a system that has allowed them to work alongside each other and be efficient at the same time.

Each blanket top has 195 patches that need to be washed, pressed and cut. While Harold cuts and prepares the patches, Miriam sets to work sewing the patches together, creating a masterpiece of various colours and patterns. They estimate that every week Harold cuts approximately 500 patches while Miriam sews two blanket tops. In their 17 years, the couple has made over 2,000 blankets and cut almost 400,000 patches! When asked what they think about this incredible accomplishment, they smile and humbly respond, “we have been very blessed.”

Davida Bentham

MCC Saskatchewan has benefited tremendously from working with the many talented youth and young adults who are engaged in social justice work throughout Saskatchewan. This past year we have gained new insights and have received an abundance of energy through the enthusiasm, curiosity, and drive that this demographic brings to our work. In particular, U of S law student and Pleasant Point Church member, Davida Bentham, has been very active in a variety of MCC projects.

Her diverse interests have motivated her to participate in MCC’s three week learning tour Uprooted, which explores migration along the southern and northern borders of Mexico, chair a private sponsorship group who welcomed a family of six from Syria in January 2016, be a key member in MCC’s campus club at the U of S which hosts educational events on campus related to social justice, and attend MCC’s advocacy student seminars. In addition to Davida’s other volunteer pursuits, she has managed to be a vital contributing piece to many of these initiatives.

When asked why she’s chosen MCC out of the many local organizations doing good work Davida responded, “MCC is an amazing organization. My first real interaction with MCC was on a learning tour. I really appreciated that our role was to learn, bear witness and bring what we saw and experienced back to Canada to advocate. I think this model speaks to the type of work MCC does, it is well thought out and intentional. It also highly values and prioritizes the voices of those who MCC assists.

MCC understands and attempts to reconcile all the various impacts international work can have. I like that the organization is open to genuine dialogue. I think that is what is needed in healthy relationships and healthy societies.”

MCC Saskatchewan is grateful to count Davida amongst our supporters and is proud of what she has helped MCC accomplish this past year!

If you’d like to be more involved with MCC please be in touch: myriamullah@mccsk.ca.
Recent research into the long-term effects of childhood abuse has only increased the urgency for child protection work. One of the most development. Child abuse at a young age impairs brain development, with lasting implications, including increased likelihood of abusive behavior later in life, criminal activities, substance abuse and negative health outcomes, including heart disease, liver disease, diabetes and depression. These individual effects translate into long-term societal costs related to physical and mental health care, domestic violence, criminal activity and strain on education systems.

The Adverse Childhood Experiences study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in collaboration with Kaiser Permanente on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) represents one of the largest investigations of childhood abuse and later-life health and well-being. A

© Salina Lopchan, 8, at her temporary home on the hillside of the village of Thulogaon in Nalu 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. This 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)