Jobita Perez Ramos, with daughter Camila, is a member of a MCC-supported cooperative in La Vega, Guatemala. MCC Alberta staff visited Guatemala in January.
The least of these

In a year filled with tumultuous events, there are many people in our world who could be considered “the least of these.” The war in Syria rages on, leaving thousands dead or fleeing to overwhelmed communities in Lebanon and Jordan. In Congo, men rape women and young girls and use them as pawns in the ongoing civil war. In Colombia, violence displaces over half a million people to Ecuador, where they live without status.

MCC is supporting partners in these places of despair. Together with local communities, they are building sustainable futures with the forgotten of the world. In the Middle East, homemade quilts, food and peace-building activities help ease the fears and desolation of refugees. In East Africa, sand dams bring clean, accessible water and restore lands destroyed by clear-cutting and drought. In Central America, music programs bring healing from trauma and provide community-building alternatives to gang activity. Across Canada, the Truth and Reconciliation process gives a voice to Aboriginal people who suffered abuses at residential schools.

Thank you for your support. Your gifts bring hope to the forgotten of the world, “the least of these.”

Abe Janzen, Executive Director, MCC Alberta
Highlights of the past year

We have completed the first year with new fiscal start and end dates. As things change and we learn, the people of Alberta continue to be generous, kind, forgiving and compassionate.

• We continue to exceed our revenues target of $3,830,000. Thanks to so many people and to God, who “provokes us” to do good work with each other.

• Kim Thiessen travelled to Guatemala and El Salvador with six others to begin recording a fifth CD. This album focuses on HIV/AIDS and peacemaking, urgent needs in many places.

• Youth work has reached into schools, camps, chapels and into Fort Vermilion School Division where MCCA is part of a learning project about service and development work.

• Churches continue to invite us to share about the work of MCC and the needs of people who do not seem to have a voice. As someone told us recently, “Our job is to amplify that voice for them.”

• The new Edmonton MCC Thrift Shop on 34th Ave. South opened last September. It is a beautiful facility with much more window space and parking. The thrift shops are a huge benefit to MCC and they continue to grow.

• A group of MCCA restorative justice staff travelled to Nicaragua in February to visit similar work there. The cross-cultural insight and sharing impacted both groups.

• Some staff connected with MCC West Coast in February to host a concert, hold workshops, and visit the border wall between the U.S. and Mexico.

• The Didsbury Relief Sale happened last June, raising over $170,000. A new addition was “GO”, which invited groups to do anything mobile in order to raise money for MCC’s HIV and AIDS work.

• MCC Alberta continues to have amazing volunteers who work tirelessly in thrift shops, prisons, relief sales and in Ten Thousand Villages across the province!
Youth make a difference
Using creativity to help MCC’s partners

In January, Grade 8 girls in Bearspaw Christian School’s Bible class collected pennies to help MCC build sand dams in Kenya. The girls evaluated a number of charities and chose MCC. They collected over $1,000!

This is one example of the fantastic support MCC Alberta receives from youth. Every year, several young donors collect funds or items for MCC instead of birthday presents. A Grade 3 class in La Crete bought $2,000 worth of items from MCC’s Giving Catalogue instead of doing a class gift exchange. Some churches allow kids to use their Sunday School offerings to buy schools kits to be sent overseas. These youth continue to inspire as they use creativity to make a difference in the world!

We wanted to raise money for a Christian organization that could help us make a difference in the world
– Bearspaw Grade 8 girls

Explore creative ways to give
mcccanada.ca/more-ways-give

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>8 Ways to help</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Have a relief kit packing party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Shop or volunteer at the annual relief sale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Assist a refugee family</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Purchase a gift from the MCC Giving Catalogue</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Pray for the marginalized people in your community</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Volunteer at the Material Resource Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Care for creation by cycling to work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Donate to MCC’s food programs</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

When students from Bearspaw Christian School learned classmate Danielle was participating in a Kenyan learning tour, they rallied together and collected over $1,000 in pennies for sand dams!
MCC supports $1.3 M food assistance in Syria
The needs are expected to continue well into 2013

A $1.3 million response is providing 5,000 Syrian families, displaced by fighting, with monthly food baskets for five months.

This response, through MCC’s account at the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, assists families in the Qalamoun area where a population of 35,000 is sharing their homes and resources with more than 90,000 people.

“This food assistance is critical to not only carry vulnerable families through the particularly difficult winter months ahead, but to also provide some respite to a host community that has given to the point of sacrifice,” says Chris Ewert, MCC’s coordinator of this response.

MCC’s response also includes $500,000 for other projects in Syria, Jordan and Lebanon.

Read more about the Syria crisis  
mcccanada.ca/syriacrisis

These children and their families have found safety in the Qalamoun region of Syria.

1. Improving education in refugee camps in northeast Kenya
2. Rebuilding and repairing homes in Haiti
3. Providing canned meat in 14 orphanages in North Korea
4. Supporting mobile medical clinics in Ukraine
5. Meeting needs of Somali refugees in Ethiopia
6. Packing 1,090 kits at Calgary’s Christmas Kit-Packing Party
7. Participating in an office carbon tracking initiative
8. Raising $115,000 in La Crete for Canadian Foodgrains Bank
9. Resettling 79 new refugees
10. Biking with people ages 6-70 for GO!
A safe place
Supporting families and individuals affected by FASD

Harvey (Harv) and Jane Janzen spent five years working with MCC Alberta’s Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) program. The effects of prenatal alcohol exposure are often impulsive decisions and difficulty maintaining relationships. Lack of public awareness makes it a challenge for those living with FASD. There is a great need for support.

For Harv and Jane, listening to the many stories of families, caregivers and individuals affected by FASD was the most important part of their work. That safe space to share, educate and feel supported helped relieve stress and bring hope for many.

This fall, Harv and Jane moved back to Manitoba. MCC thanks them for their good work!

Learn about MCC’s work with disabilities globalfamily.mcc.org

Sharing their joy and pain was an integral part of the program … bringing faith into the lives of [those] we encountered.
– Harv Janzen

8 Ways to help
1. Find materials for your Pinterest project at MCC thrift shops
2. Attend a fundraising event
3. Volunteer at a MCC thrift shop
4. Wear a red ribbon to support those with HIV/AIDS
5. Donate to Taber Assistance for Newcomers Centre
6. Buy the “Take Your Place” CD
7. Read stories on globalfamily.mcc.org
8. Teach a friend about FASD

Find us at mccalberta.ca and on Facebook
1. Supplying water tanks and latrines in Haiti
2. Increasing food production in Tanzania through conservation agriculture
3. Helping women gain sewing skills in South Sudan
4. Raising over $9,000 for Global Family as an Alberta staff/board
5. Helping approximately 400 people each month in Taber, Alta.
6. Reopening the Edmonton Thrift Shop
7. Singing across North America, raising money for HIV and AIDS
8. Raising $210,300 at three golf tournaments
9. Hearing stories from MCC partners and service workers
10. Taking Albertans to Kenya to help build a sand dam

**Learning about HIV in Tanzania**

Sharing and learning through art, music, drama and presentations

Female students in secondary schools represent one of the highest risk groups for new infections of HIV in Tanzania. Tears flow freely at Binti Mama (daughter mother) gatherings as mothers and their teenage daughters talk openly about HIV and healthy lifestyles.

“They dance, sing, eat and share stories of what happened to them,” says Salome Lally, a program coordinator at Mwangaza Education for Partnerships. “People cry a lot when others tell their stories.”

The gatherings are led by an intergenerational team of students, teachers and women who have participated in MCC-supported training. Each training team consists of 12 women—six students, two teachers and four women from a local congregation.

**It is a good idea because there are information gaps in both generations.**

– Dinah John, 17

Make an AIDS Caregiver kit
mcc.org/kits/aids

Dinah John (left) and Angel Mathew are part of an intergenerational team of women learning and sharing information about HIV and AIDS in Arusha, Tanzania.
Building bridges
Creating opportunities for peace in Edmonton

Mennonites Donna Entz and Miriam Gross have become familiar faces in the lives of Muslim families in Edmonton. Both are part of a project that is building connections and understanding between the Mennonite and Muslim communities. They work with newcomers in a variety of activities, including organizing small gatherings and finding tutors from Mennonite schools to mentor immigrant students.

“What [Muslim newcomers] tell me … is they want to be part of this society,” Donna says. “And they’re relieved when someone tries to move [toward] them.”

By being open about their Christian faith but also respectful of Islam, Miriam and Donna are demonstrating a powerful message of welcome to immigrants.

Welcome a newcomer
mcccanada.ca/refugee

8 Ways to help

1. Shop at Ten Thousand Villages
2. Write a story on 1000actsofpeace.wordpress.com
3. Volunteer with Restorative Justice Ministries
4. Write a letter to your MP about mining practices
5. Check out myth-perceptions.ca
6. Host an International Volunteer (IVEPer)
7. Learn about the First Nations Truth and Reconciliation Commission
8. Explore our awesome youth programs

Find us at mccalberta.ca and on Facebook

This project gives hope in the community … sharing being human together.
– Mana Ali, Somali mother

Miriam Gross shares a laugh with Syrian refugee Nahlah Alablouj and her son Abashr Aden.
10 Highlights

1. Enabling youth to make short films on peacebuilding in Serbia
2. Giving youth opportunities to attend peace activities in China
3. Developing a peace curriculum in Zambia
4. Training community peacebuilders in Sudan and South Sudan
5. Celebrating 10 years of Circles of Support and Accountability Alta.
6. Sending young adults to learn about peace in South Africa
7. Connecting with Restorative Justice Ministries in Nicaragua
8. Recording a fifth CD in Central America
9. Sharing peace with students in chapels and camp
10. Sharing music and stories of peace at the university

Pursuing peace amidst scars of war
Peace committees help resolve conflicts at the community level

South Sudan, which gained independence from Sudan in July 2011, is still reeling from decades of civil war that left two million people dead and displaced four million more.

In the midst of poverty and scars of war, people struggle to rebuild their lives. Recognizing the tensions, the Sudan Council of Churches, with support from MCC, has established peace committees in 10 communities.

“Before the war we all lived together peacefully but during the war we experienced different things,” says peace committee member Savia Tete. “We have come back home with different mentalities and ways of thinking. That creates a lot of misunderstandings. It is my ambition to bring people back together.”

View the photo gallery
mcccanada.ca/stories/galleries/moving-forward-peace

From left, Grace Kide, Savia Tete and Betty Dudu laugh during a peace committee meeting in the Opari district.

Peace is loving your neighbour as yourself.
– Savia Tete
Faith in Action

Walking alongside

Erwin Strempler is a volunteer with Circles of Support and Accountability (CoSA).

Our CoSA Circle meets with a person, called a CORE Member, who is serving probation from a penal institution. We offer our time and support in their attempt to be re-integrated into society. CORE Members are people with deep scars on their person and the way they see themselves. My reason for choosing to participate as a CoSA volunteer is to be a follower of Christ and bring hope towards the healing of such scars. In a non-judgmental atmosphere, God can turn our lives around. It is rewarding to see mini-steps when love enters our lives.

Volunteer with CoSA
mccalberta.ca/programs/rjm

A privileged position

Barb Wiens is a MCC thrift shop volunteer and Chair of the Calgary Thrift board.

I have been a volunteer at the Calgary MCC Thrift Shop for five years, mostly in the toy department. My mother, one of the pioneers of our shop, set an example that I am privileged to follow. It gives me great satisfaction to help transform bags and boxes of “trash” into affordable “treasures” for children in Calgary, [while] helping children in need around the world.

Volunteer at Alberta thrift shops
thrift.mcccanada.ca/volunteer

Find us at mccalberta.ca and on Facebook
Choosing peace, not revenge

James Morris is a community peace mobilizer in South Sudan.

I am a builder but I only do that when I get time to do that work. I spend most of my time helping people resolve conflict. My whole life I have known war. My father, stepfather, brother, uncle and cousin brother have all been killed. If I had chosen revenge I would not be able to do the work I am doing now. When you choose revenge, you lose more than you gain.

Learn more about MCC’s work in South Sudan in the fall 2012 issue of a Common Place acommonplace.
mcccanada.ca

Working for peace in Mexico

Adrienne Wiebe, from Edmonton, is a policy analyst and educator for MCC Latin America.

In Ciudad Juarez, one of the most violent cities in the world, we video recorded 12 church leaders, lawyers and community workers from northern Mexico in a colourful piñata workshop. They told us that to be a peacemaker in this region means to renounce violence and to participate in actions that foster life rather than death. I have been humbled and inspired by people whose faith provides hope and strength to work for peace in Mexico today.

Watch the video http://vimeo.com/53970926

Service workers
1. Loralee Williams, Burkina Faso
2. Martha and Ron Ratzlaff, Kenya
3. Wendy Martin, Laos
4. Adrienne Wiebe and Arturo Avila, Mexico
5. Lynden Neudorf, El Salvador

2011-2012 SALTers
1. Alex Heidebrecht, Cambodia
2. Trish Elgersma, Jordan
3. Jason Horlings, Indonesia
Executive Director
Abe Janzen

Administration Assistants
Ruth Neufeldt
Elda Enns

Material Resources
Linda Dickinson

Peace and Youth
Kim Thiessen
(also Generations and Associate Director)
Megan Enns

Communications and Donor Relations
Lisa Rosenberg
(Donor Relations)
Trish Elgersma
(Communications)

Thrift Shop Coordinator
Susan Reynar
(Also Grant Writing)

Human Resources
Anne Boehlig
(Also Administration)

Service and IVEP
Tiffany Barbosa
(Maternity Leave: Iliana Friesen)

Refugee Assistance
Orlando Vasquez
(Calgary, also Program Director)
Jim Shantz
(Edmonton, also Constituency Relations)

Finance
Linda Unger
(Accountant)
Debra Raatz (Maternity Leave: Kristen Green)

Restorative Justice Ministries
Peter Worsley
(Community Chaplain)
Moira Brownlee
(Circles of Support and Accountability)
Jayson Besserer
(Circles of Support and Accountability)
Janet Anderson
(Edmonton M2/W2)
Gord Hutchinson
(Drumheller M2 Coordinator)
Darrel Heidebrecht
(Community Conferencing)

Taber Assistance for Newcomers
George Epp
(Coordinator)
Mari Banman
Hertha Warkentin
Tina Klassen

Community Outreach Workers
(Edmonton)
Donna Entz
Miriam Gross

Interns
David Zentner
Lauren Harms
Christina Burrows

Thrift Shop Managers
April Hauck
(Calgary)
Carol Giesbrecht
(Lethbridge)
Bryan Heidebrecht
(Edmonton)
Susi Peters
(Taber)

Find us at mccalberta.ca and on Facebook
## Financials

### BUDGETED INCOME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>FY 12/13</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash gifts</td>
<td>17,858,229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gifts-in-kind</td>
<td>1,505,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thrift shops</td>
<td>7,637,904</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relief sales</td>
<td>1,780,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nongovernmental grants</td>
<td>447,890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governmental grants</td>
<td>5,750,335</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ten Thousand Villages</td>
<td>14,231,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other income</td>
<td>3,281,590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total income</strong></td>
<td><strong>$52,491,948</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### BUDGETED EXPENSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>FY 12/13</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>International program</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>4,980,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>3,226,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe and the Middle East</td>
<td>1,512,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America and the Caribbean</td>
<td>3,147,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiregion</td>
<td>11,718,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justice and peacebuilding</td>
<td>1,135,694</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Material resources collection</td>
<td>691,545</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable community development</td>
<td>2,158,325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$56,174,011</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Personnel by program location

- **375** Service workers
- **630** Salaried workers
- **1,005** Total

- **300** Canada
- **188** U.S.
- **123** Latin America
- **121** Asia
- **42** Europe

- **399,104** cans of meat shipped
- **68,361** quilts shipped
- **2,258** sheets shipped
- **910** kg of bath soap shipped
- **225,017** kits shipped
- **255,184** pamphlets shipped

- **2,258** kits shipped to Latin America
- **42** kits shipped to Europe
- **123** kits shipped to Canada
- **188** kits shipped to Asia
- **42** kits shipped to Africa

- **188** kg of bath soap shipped to Asia
- **350** kg of bath soap shipped to Africa
- **41** kg of bath soap shipped to Latin America
- **42** kg of bath soap shipped to Canada
- **231** kg of bath soap shipped to Europe

- **910** kg of bath soap shipped to Canada
- **300** kg of bath soap shipped to Asia
- **123** kg of bath soap shipped to Africa
- **188** kg of bath soap shipped to Europe
- **42** kg of bath soap shipped to Latin America

- **1,505,000** bath soap shipped to Africa
- **1,505,000** bath soap shipped to Asia
- **1,505,000** bath soap shipped to Europe
- **1,505,000** bath soap shipped to Latin America
- **1,505,000** bath soap shipped to Canada

- **5,750,335** bath soap shipped to Africa
- **5,750,335** bath soap shipped to Asia
- **5,750,335** bath soap shipped to Europe
- **5,750,335** bath soap shipped to Latin America
- **5,750,335** bath soap shipped to Canada

- **14,231,000** bath soap shipped to Africa
- **14,231,000** bath soap shipped to Asia
- **14,231,000** bath soap shipped to Europe
- **14,231,000** bath soap shipped to Latin America
- **14,231,000** bath soap shipped to Canada

- **14,587,000** bath soap shipped to Africa
- **14,587,000** bath soap shipped to Asia
- **14,587,000** bath soap shipped to Europe
- **14,587,000** bath soap shipped to Latin America
- **14,587,000** bath soap shipped to Canada
Where Albertans give

People in Alberta are generous in making the work of MCC possible. The needs continue to be urgent and MCC Alberta thanks people in Alberta for their generosity and compassion.

- People supporting community-based education projects through Global Family increased by 6 per cent. That’s a total of 695 sponsorships or $263,000.
- Peace, and HIV and AIDS programs resonated with Albertan supporters. MCC Alberta exceeded targets for both, raising $202,000 for peace and $315,000 for HIV and AIDS.
- More than $247,000 was raised for water projects. This could build 16 sand dams and change the lives of more than 150,000 people.
- MCC Alberta received many donations for administrative costs and “where needed most.” MCCA is thankful Albertans recognize that critical projects need to be managed and well implemented.
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

mccalberta.ca
210 2946 32 St NE, Calgary, AB T1Y 6J7
403.275.6935 or toll-free 1.888.622.6337