Mennonite Central Committee Ontario
Relief, development and peace in the name of Christ

2013/2014 Annual Report

MCC Ontario is committed to working with people living on the margins.
Sharing God’s love and compassion

“... do good ... and share what you have.”

Simple advice from the writer of Hebrews 13:16.

Advice that MCC supporters have heeded for decades, and now in 2014 we look back over countless examples of countless MCC supporters doing countless acts of good and sharing.

Take the 20 years of Circles of Support and Accountability, a Restorative Justice program that walks with sexual offenders after they come out of prison. Started here in Ontario, this Jesus-rooted work insists no one is disposable, and has proven over and over to reduce re-offending by over 80 per cent.

Or the 40 years of MCC thrift shops in Ontario. Starting in St. Catharines and spreading rapidly across the province to 12 other communities, thrift shops in Ontario have contributed over $31 million to relief, development and peace in the name of Christ. That is a lot of sharing and a torrent of doing good!

And in 2020 we will mark MCC’s centennial. We will celebrate. We will look back on 100 years, years like 2014 where we shared God’s love and compassion, where we did good relief, good development, and good peace, in the name of Christ. And then, like now, we will say, “Thanks be to God.”

Rick Cober Bauman, Executive Director, MCC Ontario
It’s a ruby year for MCC Thrift in Ontario!

Mennonite Central Committee is marking 40 years of Thrift in Ontario, and there is much to celebrate! The success is staggering: over $31 million has been raised in 40 years in our MCC Ontario thrift shops to support MCC’s work in relief, development and peace in the name of Christ.

St. Catharines Christian Benefit Shop was the first to open its doors to the public in 1974, with first year donations to MCCO of $11,000—and there’s been no looking back since.

“The success of Thrift in Ontario is due to our dedicated volunteers, generous donors, loyal shoppers and gifted staff,” says Patty Ollies, Thrift Development Officer at MCC Ontario.

With over 1,200 volunteers breathing life into the stores across the system, the future is bright for Thrift. MCC Thrift in Ontario supports MCC’s work locally and around the world.
**Barmherzigkeit from our Low German neighbours**

Over $3,400 raised in one evening

After Super Typhoon Haiyan made landfall in the Philippines in November 2013, MCC was overwhelmed by the generosity of Ontario donors, who donated over $1 million in support of relief programs. In an amazing display of generosity, a small group of Low German-speaking churches in Dresden, Ontario, organized an event to raise money for those affected by the typhoon.

Over 200 people attended and $3,400 was raised at the MCC Typhoon Donation Info Session, a night of singing and community, and a presentation led by Kristina Tiessen, MCCO Leamington Regional Representative.

Kristina says she felt a strong sense of compassion by those attending the event.

**I was overwhelmed by their generosity, and eagerness to help people a world away.**

– Kristina Tiessen

Showing God’s love and compassion in a tangible way

mcco.ca/lowgerman

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**6 Ways to help**

1. Organize a “Ride for Refuge” team.
2. Educate yourself on disasters.
3. Make a hygiene kit.
4. Shop at your local MCC thrift shop.
5. Ride your bike to work.
6. Become a friend to agricultural migrant workers in your community.

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The Low German community in Dresden gathered to support work in the Philippines.

Find us at mcco.ca and on Facebook and Twitter
Shelter and supplies for Syrian refugees
MCC response exceeds $14 million

In Lebanon, where refugees from Syria now make up roughly one-fifth of the population, MCC is providing rent support to 350 families. Shelter is the primary need for those fleeing the conflict in Syria. “The homes are very basic and not originally built for winter,” says Rita Hamdan, director of Popular Aid for Relief and Development, an MCC partner. MCC received a grant from the Government of Canada to provide the funds for the rent support.

In addition to the shelter assistance, another 1,000 families are receiving essential items such as mattresses, blankets and hygiene supplies.

Since the conflict in Syria began, MCC has spent over $14 million on assistance for those affected.

Learn more about MCC’s response to the Syria crisis
mcccanada.ca/syriacrisis

People shouldn’t have to live like this.
– Rita Hamdan

This refugee settlement in Lebanon has many sheds that are not equipped for winter, and flood with heavy rains.
**Winston rejoices for the love shown to him by his Canadian faith community.**

MCC Ontario’s Refugee Program offers community support and outreach services to migrant agricultural workers who come to Ontario’s Niagara Region from the Caribbean.

Shortly after arriving in Niagara-on-the-Lake for another work season, Winston received the news that his teenage daughter had been involved in a serious car crash. Winston made the difficult decision to remain in Canada, knowing that his family would need his income for hospital expenses.

Winston reached out to his Caribbean co-workers, and Canadian church family, to ask for prayer. Many supporters rallied with prayers, warm meals, special offerings, and much more.

Winston’s daughter is now recovering well.

Volunteer with MCC’s Migrant Worker Program
mcco.ca/volunteer

**Prayers answered for migrant worker**

Love and support shown by faith community

1. Become a Global Family sponsor.
2. Donate to “where needed most.”
4. Sponsor a refugee family.
5. Volunteer in a local Circles of Support and Accountability program.
6. Take the TOOLS challenge in Toronto.
New access to water in Zimbabwe
Supporting community efforts to build a dam

To get water, Violet Mudimba used to walk an hour one way from her village of Nkalange, Zimbabwe. So when Kulima Mbobumi Training Centre (KMTC) mobilized the community to build a dam, Violet helped dig trenches, pack soil and carry rocks for the wall.

More than 100 people contributed labour to the dam in a food-for-work project. MCC partnered with KMTC to provide food and materials for the dam.

By the end of the first rainy season there was more than 2.5 meters of water behind the wall. With new access to water for people and animals the quality of life in Nkalange has improved. “We are very thankful for the project, because we used to travel long distances,” said Mudimba.

Donate to MCC’s water projects
donate.mcccanada.ca/project/give-water

People are saving time, because previously they were using a lot for fetching water.
– Mudymeni Mugande, head of Nkalange village

Violet Mudimba has more time for gardening and other work now that water is only a short walk from her home.
Building strong families through sharing
MCC’s International Vocational Education Program (IVEP) enhances lives

Reuben and Heidi Vanderkwaak have a bustling lifestyle with their two young children, but despite that, they committed to sharing their life, and home, with an IVEP participant for a year.

After spending time travelling abroad, Reuben and Heidi wanted to be more intentional about sharing their lives, and offering hospitality to others.

“The IVEP program seemed a perfect fit to get to know someone and have a transformative relationship where we can learn from sharing in each other’s lives,” says Reuben. Heidi adds that their time with Walter, an IVEP participant from Uganda, has made them grow closer as a family.

Host an IVEP participant
ivep.mcccanada.ca

It has been a blessing to have Walter be a part of our lives.

– Heidi Vanderkwaak

6 Ways to help

1. Use MCC peace resources in your church.
2. Organize a peace walk.
3. Volunteer with Circle of Friends in Kitchener.
4. Pray for people who are in prison.
5. Support the People’s Inquiry on Suicide in Ontario’s north.
6. Donate to peace programs or Restorative Justice.

Find us at mcco.ca and on Facebook and Twitter
Sharing memories can contribute to lasting peace
Project encourages public discussion on victims of conflict

Tamara Šmidling says damaged buildings and scarred sidewalks are still evident in Bosnia and Herzegovina. But the most enduring impact of past wars is the ethnic divisions.

“We have a lot of discussion about our own victims,” Šmidling says. “But we need to recognize there were victims on all sides.”

Šmidling is Program Coordinator of the Peace Academy Foundation (PAF) in Sarajevo. With funding from Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), PAF is implementing “The Culture of Remembering.”

Initially, the project will bring together people from three communities to discuss how sharing memories can contribute to lasting peace. Eventually, the goal is to find and publicize memorial sites to encourage public discussion.

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

The impact craters of mortar rounds are filled with red resin on Sarajevo sidewalks. They are known as “Sarajevo roses.”

1. Hosting five IVEP participants in Ontario.
2. Providing pastoral care on the streets of Toronto.
4. Rallying support for Circles of Support and Accountability program.
5. Helping newcomers learn about Canadian culture.
6. Raising over $62,000 in Ride for Refuge.
8. Integrating peacebuilding with development work in Afghanistan.
9. Promoting teamwork with young adults in the West Bank.
10. Supporting conflict prevention activities in Colombia.
A legacy of faith

In his volunteer application, Gordon Erb wrote, “I was presented with the need and felt led to offer my talents.”

Gordon, a Kitchener resident, started volunteering with the MCC Circles of Support and Accountability program in 2011, after retiring as a family physician. He dedicated his time to provide support to individuals reintegrating into the community after time in prison. He attended weekly meetings, and invited members to his home and church. His wife, Dorothy Erb, says, “He went beyond his responsibilities as a volunteer to foster relationships and get to know people regardless of their past.”

Volunteer with Circles of Support and Accountability
mcco.ca/restorative

Generosity is her best gift

Annika Martin told her parents she wanted to make school kits instead of receiving a gift for herself on her 10th birthday.

Annika, from Breslau, Ontario, invited friends over for her birthday party, where they assembled 14 school kits to donate to MCC Ontario. Little did they know that a shipment to Syrian refugee families was about to be sent to Lebanon. “We needed 14 more kits to fill the shipment, the exact number of kits that Annika donated,” says Bob Lebold, MCC Material Resources Coordinator.

Volunteer with MCC Ontario
mcco.ca/volunteer

Find us at mcco.ca and on Facebook and Twitter
Children are like blooming flowers

Soma Chakraborty is a teacher at a school in Kolkata, India.

I see my classroom as a garden. My students are from six to 10 years old. They have lots of problems. But when they come to our schools, our loving schools, they are blooming like flowers. We give as much as we can. I am cultivating these beautiful flowers so they can serve their communities as beautiful human beings.

Learn more about MCC’s work in India in the fall 2013 issue of A Common Place.
mcccanada.ca

Service workers
1. Yolanda Wiema
2. David and Damaris Schmucker
3. Josh and Marylynn Steckley
4. Jessica Ford
5. Isaac Friesen and Wanda Wall-Bergen
6. Monica Shank
7. Wendy Martin
8. Mary Lou and Dave Klassen
9. Ruth Plett and Krystan Pawlikowski
10. Peter and Cath Woolner
11. Luke and Leah Reesor-Keller
12. Elaine Pequegnat
13. Bonnie Klassen
14. Mark and Jane Sider
15. Dawn and Ross Penner
16. Brian Lim and Janet Sio
17. Scott Lewis and Evonne Komaromi
18. Bert and Martha Lobe
19. Margaret Sider
20. Gerald Heimpel
21. Helena and John Guenther
22. Kristin Farquharson

SALTers
1. Amy Zehr
2. Bethany Boom
3. Caleb Redekop
4. Feker Kebere
5. Leanne Dalke
6. Michelle Metzger
7. Nathan Gorvett
8. Rebekah DeJong
9. Kou Lor

ENLACE
Challenging the way we live.

Enlace literally means “to weave together.” And it is the weaving together of cultures and experiences that makes this serving and learning program to Guatemala so unique and profound.

“Enlace allowed me to examine my ability to give to those in need, but also to see how hospitality and generosity is not just a ‘Western’ idea but a universal one,” says Margaret MacDonald, Enlace 2013 participant.

Enlace is another way that MCC Ontario helps young adults develop a vision of how they can share God’s love and compassion and be open to receiving it as well.

mcco.ca/enlace
Ontario

**Restorative Justice – Eileen Henderson**
Listening, truth telling, repairing harm and 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**
Recruiting, developing and resourcing MCCO staff, and international service workers.

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

**Low German Newcomers – Lily Hiebert Rempel**
Assisting Low German newcomers with settlement and adaptation within Ontario.

**Aboriginal Neighbours – Lyndsay Mollins Koene**
Creating awareness of Indigenous history and culture, and advocating for justice in First Nations communities.

**Material Resources – Bob Lebold**
Collecting and distributing relief supplies to people in need due to conflict, natural disaster or poverty.

Find us at mcco.ca and on Facebook and Twitter
Worldwide

Personnel by program location

377 Service workers  622 Salaried workers
Total: 999

Financials

MCC operates at the provincial, national and international level. These numbers represent budgeted Canadian income and expenses for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2014.

Actual income and expense figures for the fiscal year were not available when this report went to print. However, the actual year-end figures are available at mcccanada.ca/annualreport.

MCC Canada and MCC U.S. both contribute to MCC’s international program. Numbers in this report only reflect MCC in Canada’s contribution to MCC’s international work.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>BUDGETED INCOME</th>
<th>FY 13/14</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash gifts</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>17,659,297</td>
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<td>Gifts-in-kind</td>
<td>2,243,698</td>
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<td>Thrift shops</td>
<td>8,493,343</td>
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<td>Relief sales</td>
<td>1,657,800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nongovernmental grants</td>
<td>783,926</td>
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<tr>
<td>Governmental grants</td>
<td>6,751,019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ten Thousand Villages</td>
<td>10,790,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other income</td>
<td>3,615,228</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total income</strong></td>
<td><strong>$51,994,311</strong></td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>BUDGETED EXPENSES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>International program</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>7,776,042</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
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<td>Europe and the Middle East</td>
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<td>Latin America and the Caribbean</td>
<td>4,251,092</td>
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<td>Multiregion</td>
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<td>Canadian program</td>
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<td>Justice and peacebuilding</td>
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<td>Material resources collection</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sustainable community development</td>
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<td>Ten Thousand Villages</td>
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<td>Administration</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>2,568,123</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$57,442,663</strong></td>
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Offices/staff

Thrift stores
Aylmer 65
Elmira 175
Harrow 40
Kitchener 225
Leamington et Cetera 100
Leamington Furniture and More 60
Milverton 60
New Hamburg 250
Port Colborne 50
Port Rowan 60
St. Catharines 200
Stouffville 80
Welland 60

Material resource centres
Kitchener 3,100 (kits shipped)

Ten Thousand Villages

Relief sales
New Hamburg $320,000 2,000
Elmira $10,150
Toronto Mennonite Festival (Black Creek) $38,000 250
Leamington $7,500
Heifer Sale (Listowel) $176,940 50

Ride for Refuge
$62,113 245 riders
Hamilton
Waterloo
Brampton
Leamington
Markham
Niagara region

Meat canning
Elmira 450
Leamington 600

Material resources
Volunteers

Find us at mccoa.ca and on Facebook and Twitter
The financial charts shown above are part of the story in reporting to you the work of MCC Ontario in 2013/2014, 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!
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

mcco.ca
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