



2019/2020  
Annual Report  
**BRITISH COLUMBIA**



*British Columbia*



*Alberta*



*Ontario*



*Newfoundland and Labrador*



*Saskatchewan*





*Ontario*



*Manitoba*



*Quebec*



*Alberta*



*British Columbia*



*Saskatchewan*



*Manitoba*



*New Brunswick*



MCC  
BRITISH COLUMBIA  
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*“Clothe yourselves  
in compassion,  
kindness,  
humility...  
and above all  
these virtues put  
on love.”*

Colossians 3:12

## THANK YOU FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

100 years ago my grandfather, Henry Klassen, was a 13-year-old boy struggling to survive in south Russia. He had already lost his parents when his older brother was killed by the ‘black army’ while working in the barn.

He fled with his siblings to a nearby village where MCC would soon be providing emergency food aid. Soon after MCC assisted thousands of Mennonites who fled to Canada as refugees – including my grandfather.

MCC was born in the midst of conflict 100 year ago and continues to serve people uprooted by conflict around the world today. In fact, today over 70 million people around the world have been forced to flee due to conflict. They also need our help.

In 2020 we began celebrating our 100th anniversary by raising more funds to help those in need. Unfortunately, the impact of COVID-19 increased the needs around the world while also reducing our resources.

I am deeply grateful for people like you who continue to give of themselves despite these uncertain times. It brings to mind a passage in Colossians 3:12, where the apostle Paul invites us a God’s people to “**clothe yourselves in compassion, kindness, humility ... and above all these virtues put on love**”. We are blessed to have volunteers and donors who live this way every day.

Because of your generosity, we are still able to serve in many forgotten places with compassion, kindness and love.

Yours in Christ,

**WAYNE BREMNER**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MCC BRITISH COLUMBIA  
EILEENKLASSENHAMM@MCCSK.CA



## SOWING AND REAPING: ROOTS GO DEEP FOR MCC IN BC

Since MCC BC's inception, your seeds have multiplied and grown into new community organizations. Some offshoots began as MCC programs then became self-sufficient. Together they have flourished and blessed many in our province.

Communitas started in the 1970s as a partnership to open Christian group homes caring for adults with physical and developmental disabilities. It now supports 19 residential homes with 24-hour care, community living programs, recreation, and life skills.



The Cedars group home in Rosedale, BC was the first group home established by Communitas focused on nurturing people toward greater independence and interdependence in a supportive Christian environment. (Communitas photo).

More Than a Roof Housing Society began in 1984 as MCC BC Social Housing Society, offering province-wide affordable housing for low-to-moderate income seniors, families and singles. Some communities offer mental health support and addiction recovery services.

Fraser Valley Gleaners began a partnership with MCC BC in 2001, operating on 10.5 acres of MCC-owned land until 2012. Volunteers prepare donated produce to create nutritious vegetable soup mix that has nourished hungry people in over 40 countries.

In 2006, Positive Living Fraser Valley was created to address the needs of people living with HIV in the Fraser Valley. MCC BC helped secure government funding, provided outreach workers, office space, and had two members on the founding board.

These community organizations now helping people throughout British Columbia all started as seeds planted by the faithfulness of our people like you.

## OPEN DOOR FOR SINGLE MOMS

In 1986, Elsie Goerzen (MCC BC End Abuse Coordinator) started the Sardis Open Door program at Sardis Community Church with a small group of like-minded women. The goal: to give emotional, physical and spiritual support to single mothers of young children.

Open Door grew quickly, tripling in its first three months. In 1996, the program changed its name to Sardis Doorway and formed its own local board of directors. MCC BC partnered with the program, providing a service worker until last year.

Sardis Doorway continues to flourish and meet the needs of single mothers and their children.





1968

## Then + Now

Volunteers cutting and assembling fabric for baby clothing bundles in the MCC Material Resources warehouse when it was located in Yarrow, BC. These pre-cut pieces were prepared and then distributed to dedicated volunteers all across BC who would then finish the sewing and return them to MCC for distribution around the world. (Mennonite Heritage Society photo)

Multiple generations of MCC supporters came together at our Material Resources centennial event, The Great Winter Warm-Up. They continued the well-known MCC tradition of making blankets for those in need. Volunteers across Canada, Europe and the U.S. gathered to hand-sew over 9,400 blankets. (MCC photo/Katie Kowalchuk)



## ENDING ABUSE AND HEALING RELATIONSHIPS

Your faithful support of MCC enables women and men to participate in our much-needed End Abuse programs.

Our men's program, Home Improvement, works with those desiring to take responsibility for their behaviors and change their relationships. It recently received a grant from the Provincial Civil Forfeiture Program.

This past year the men attending had a total of 77 children. The time they invested will not only improve their relationships but impact the next generation. Often participants ask to take

Home Improvement again after finishing the program.

Three phases make up our women's program: Understanding Abuse in Relationships, The Healing Journey, and Connections - Shame Resilience. These popular programs often have waitlists, and many women expressed a desire to spend more time in the phases once they finished.

This year, at their request, we added Phase Four. It focused on equanimity: mental calmness, composure and evenness of temper, especially in difficult situations. Women who participated praised the group, saying:

"Phase four has given me a safe space to grow, love myself and connect with amazing women who are walking the same path of healing through a destructive marriage. I'm so thankful for this program, it has changed the trajectory of my life."

"Phase Four has been the polishing of all the truths, skills and knowledge garnered in the first three phases, in a sacred, supported and safe place."

"This course has been life changing in helping me to connect with myself and move forward."

The empowerment gained by these men and women is only possible because of your support.



## BLANKETING THE WORLD WITH LOVE

A colourful, hand-tied comforter from MCC is a tangible reminder of God's love and care. Since our early days, we have sent comforters to those in need across the world. On January 18, 2020, we came together in the Great Winter Warm-Up to make 615 blankets as part of our centennial celebrations.

Some British Columbia participants braved snow and cold to attend the group event at Ross Road MB church in Abbotsford. Mennonite churches from Langley, Mission, Abbotsford, Greendale, Chilliwack and Harrison also came together to sew,

bringing their finished blankets directly to MCC BC Material Resources.

“My thoughts are always someone's going to sleep under this blanket, whether it's a child or an adult, and they are going to be warm,” said Alvira Froese from the Abbotsford event.

Across Canada, the United States, and Europe, thousands gathered to make a record number of blankets. There are 9,400 hand-tied comforters ready to send around the world: keeping people warm and reminding them of our care and love as we have for 100 years.

Because you care, **3,545** families will receive cozy blankets for the winter.



*“[End Abuse] has given me a safe space to grow...I'm so thankful for this program, it has changed the trajectory of my life...”*

End Abuse program participant



## Then + Now

Constructed in 1986, pictured above is Charleswood Court, the first housing project completed by MCC Social Housing Society (SHS). MCC SHS was formed by MCC in 1984 to respond to growing concerns of homelessness and poverty in the province. It offered 26 units of affordable housing for low income families and singles. (More Than a Roof photo)

Today, housing and homelessness continues to be a top priority for MCC BC. Pictured right is our weekly BBQ held every Thursday night. Participants are able to come enjoy a hot meal, share some time with friends and build community with one another. (MCC photo/Luke Tilley)



## WORKING TOWARD HOUSING STABILITY

Your generosity enables vital programs like the Fraser Valley Rent Assistance Project (FVRAP) – one of the longest-running rent banks in British Columbia. Because of FVRAP’s excellent reputation and results, VanCity Community Foundation trusted MCC BC to help bring its \$10 million provincial rent bank program to fruition.

FVRAP, part of our Homelessness Prevention & Outreach Program, puts individuals in charge of their own housing stability. It provides a one-time emergency loan for rent payments, security deposits or utility arrears.

Jane Njogu, Homeless Outreach Coordinator, says advocacy for clients is also an important part of the program.

She recalls, “We had a senior who had medicine that needed refrigeration, and they just turned off her power. They said she can go to the hospital. I called them and said, ‘You can’t do this – it’s inhumane. We’re paying you. Bring the boss.’ I told them, ‘She’s going to die! How can you tell her to go to the hospital?’” Because of Jane’s advocacy, her power was restored immediately.

In 2019, VanCity Community Foundation asked Melissa Giles (Program Director of MCC BC)

to lead the first year of their provincial rent bank pilot project. She is now the permanent Project Lead. Jane Njogu has acted as a liaison and a troubleshooter for new rent banks.

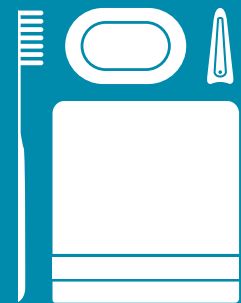
Giles says, “It’s the reputation of MCC and its well-known experience in providing rent bank services, the long-standing history of the rent bank, as well as the reputation of MCC to do good work, that puts us in this position.”

With your help, FVRAP and the BC Rent Bank are giving more people across British Columbia access to housing stability.





Because of your love, **790** homeless or those at risk of being homeless were helped with basic needs



## EQUIPPING NEWCOMERS IN VICTORIA

Your support of MCC BC helps single-parent newcomers to Canada. This year our New Foundations program expanded to offer a group in Victoria.

Single-parent newcomer families have considerable financial stress and many live far below the poverty line. New Foundations (NF) assists these families by offering life and job skills, and a financial literacy program that includes budgeting, tracking expenses and saving.

Sadly newcomers (or immigrants who are still struggling to adapt) can be exploited by

unscrupulous businesses offering predatory loans: easy approval with no down payment and no credit history.

Kris\* was talked into buying a vehicle with a high loan payment. Struggling every month to come up with \$600 was a huge stress. Over eight months, Michelle Hardy (NF Program Coordinator in Victoria) and Kris worked together and with credit counsellors to find a solution. In July the situation was finally resolved, resulting in a good vehicle with a much lower payment.

Your contributions help MCC BC equip newcomers with the skills they need to thrive.

*Struggling every month to come up with \$600 was a huge stress. Over eight months, we worked with Kris\* and credit counsellors to find a solution.*

*\*name redacted for privacy*

**97** churches are currently partnering with MCC BC to deliver critical programs.

*“...working with MCC is an excellent instrument of the practice...of our faith. When MCC calls, the answer is yes. It’s always yes!”*

**Artur Bergen**  
Pastor, Ebenezer  
Mennonite Church



## Then + Now

Yarrow MB church (pictured left) was the hub of many of MCC's early activities in BC. (Mennonite Archives of Ontario photo)

Today churches partner with MCC to deliver key programming such as the Abbotsford Blue Bus homeless outreach (MCC photo)

## **MCC AND THE LOCAL CHURCH: DECADES OF PARTNERSHIP**

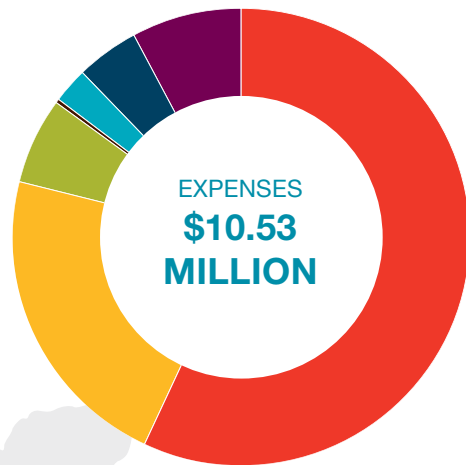
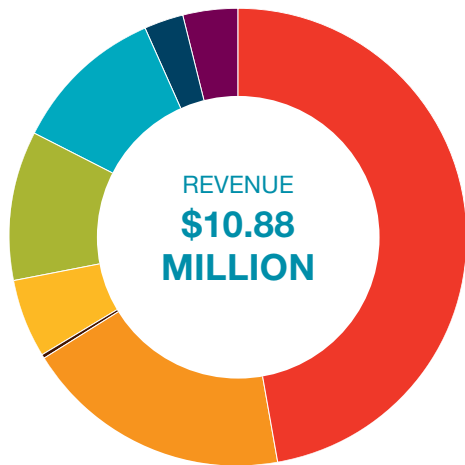
Church partnerships are essential to the work MCC does in our province and around the world.

Church partners sponsor refugee families, host programs for single parents and newcomers, bring attention to domestic violence programs, help prioritize healing relationships with our indigenous neighbors and more. Church members volunteer at our festivals and thrift shops, as host families for service workers and pack relief kits.

Pastor Artur Bergen of Ebenezer Church sees the influence of refugee sponsorship on his congregation. When founding church members fled Russia and Ukraine as children, MCC assisted them. Now they see new immigrant families starting to thrive in Canada. The younger generation sees this refugee narrative brought to life. Lifelong friendships have formed between newcomers and Ebenezer members.

“We see [working with MCC] as an excellent instrument of the practice and expression of our faith,” says Bergen. “When MCC calls, the answer is yes. It’s always yes!”

# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS MCC BRITISH COLUMBIA



<span style="color: red;">■</span> Contributions \$5,138,345	<span style="color: green;">■</span> Local Revenue \$1,147,434	<span style="color: red;">■</span> International Program \$6,004,281	<span style="color: teal;">■</span> Material Resources \$265,593
<span style="color: orange;">■</span> Thrift Stores (Net) \$2,064,243	<span style="color: teal;">■</span> Relief Festivals (Gross) \$1,179,542	<span style="color: orange;">■</span> Local Program \$2,323,652	<span style="color: darkblue;">■</span> Fundraising & Communications \$447,177
<span style="color: brown;">■</span> Contributions (Disasters) \$26,970	<span style="color: darkblue;">■</span> Material Resources \$286,895	<span style="color: green;">■</span> Ten Thousand Villages \$648,097	<span style="color: purple;">■</span> Finance & Administration \$812,545
<span style="color: orange;">■</span> Ten Thousand Villages \$610,540	<span style="color: purple;">■</span> Other \$421,090	<span style="color: brown;">■</span> International Disasters \$26,970	

## MCC BC PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



**325**

Individuals assisted with housing needs



**898**

Participants in Indigenous Neighbours programming



**165**

Newcomers sponsored



**373**

People impacted by End Abuse programs



2019/2020  
Annual Impact Report  
CANADA



*DR Congo*



*southern Russia*



*Palestine*



*Canada*

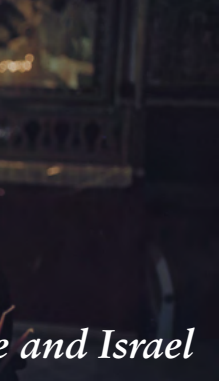


*Chad*



*Ukraine*





*e and Israel*



*Vietnam*



*South Africa*



*Haiti*



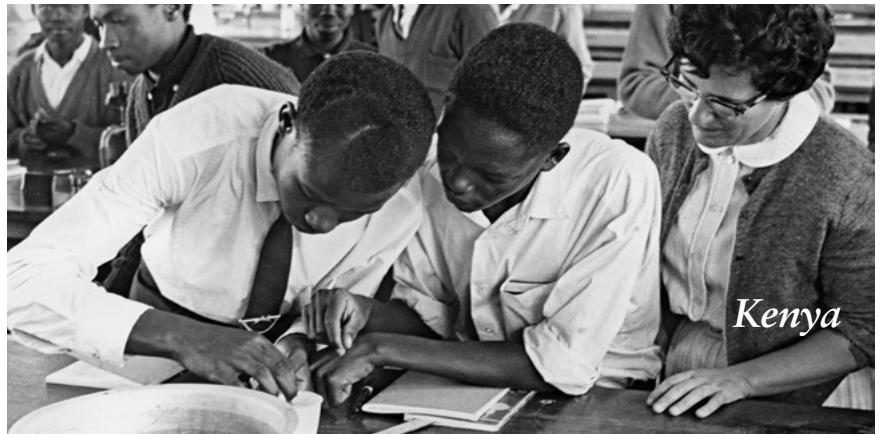
*Jordan*



*India*



*Guatemala*



*Kenya*





Staff members\* from an MCC partner, Popular Aid for Relief and Development, distribute MCC comforters and relief kits to people in a low-income neighbourhood in Tyre, Lebanon. The majority of the recipients are Palestinian and Syrian refugees who face increasingly difficult times due to the economic crisis in Lebanon. \*Names withheld for security. (MCC photo/Evangeline Hammond)

**In 2020, MCC is celebrating its centennial.** At the start of our next 100 years, we want to renew our identity and our mission to see communities worldwide in right relationship with God, one another and creation.

**The MCC Canada board of directors has decided that over the next five years the organization will focus on these four strategic directions:**

1. Increasing the capacity of our partners to help uprooted and vulnerable people
2. Improving communication with churches and constituents
3. Increasing peacebuilding and justice work
4. Caring for God's creation and supporting communities harmed by climate change

To read an online version of this report visit [mcccanada.ca/annual-impact-report-2020](https://mcccanada.ca/annual-impact-report-2020)

# A THANK YOU FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

One hundred years ago, MCC began in response to drought, hunger and violence. Canadians were quick to respond even while they were recovering from a flu pandemic.

Now we mark our centennial in the midst of another pandemic with the world on the brink of a food shortage due to COVID-19. This 100-year comparison reminds us that the world continues to be haunted by disparity, with many people vulnerable to disease and hunger.

At the same time, I am so thankful for generous supporters like you who reach out with God's love to these neighbours. With your help, our vital, Jesus-following ministry continues into another century.

When the pandemic shutdown began in Canada, we were within days of approving a new strategic plan. It was a strange time to look into the future. But I believe the strategic directions (on the opposite page) will be a strong guide.

This is the MCC I see moving into our next century: **Deepening our gospel roots. Strengthening Anabaptist communities. Communicating with supporters with excellence and transparency. Supporting the uprooted with fierce commitment. Responding to climate change. Pressing for the peace of Jesus Christ.**

Thank you so much for helping us come this far. I hope you will feel invited into a second century of MCC ministry, rooted in the peace Jesus gave us.



**RICK COBER BAUMAN**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MCC CANADA



*“God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.”*

—Psalm 46:1 (NRSV)

## MCC CANADA 2019/2020 BOARD MEMBERS

**Paul Gilbert**  
(Chair), Member-at-Large

**Walter Thiessen**  
(Vice Chair), Eastern Canada

**Scott Siemens**  
(Treasurer), Member-at-Large

**Cindy Klassen**  
(Secretary), CCAL\*

**Oscar Cardozo**  
CCAL\*

**David Chow**  
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**Catherine Enns**  
MCC Manitoba

**Robert Enns**  
MCC Alberta

**Laurence Fontaine**  
Member-at-Large

**Selena Friesen**  
CCAL\*

**Laura Hanna**  
CCAL\*

**Lynn Rempel**  
MCC Ontario

**Dan Siebert**  
MCC Saskatchewan

**Peter Wolfe**  
MCC British Columbia

*\*Appointed by Canadian Council  
of Anabaptist Leaders*





Living in rural Cambodia, Chim Yean\* had an empty fishpond, a handful of chickens and no hope for things to improve.

During the rice growing season, he could harvest enough so his family wouldn't starve. But during the dry season, there were many days where his family didn't have enough food.

But your act of kindness planted a seed of hope for Yean. Through MCC's account at Canadian Foodgrains Bank, you've enabled our local partners to form and support farm co-operatives. For \$120, one family is equipped with all the seeds, tools and materials they need to farm. And \$360 can provide a new fishpond.

Yean's fishpond allows him to both raise and sell fish and keep a supply of water for his crops during the dry season. He now has a busy and full chicken coop, a stocked fishpond and a healthy garden year-round. He has enough food for his family and enough to store up and sell too.

"If people want fish, I will catch fish for them," he says. "If people want vegetables, I will bring vegetables to sell to them. Sometimes people want chickens. So, I will sell the chickens."

\* In Cambodia, family names are written before first names.



## Food program highlights:

58,075

People attended agriculture and animal production training

22,302

People received agricultural supplies including seeds and tools



## FOOD

**Your donations helped Yean grow enough food to feed his family.**

### Then + Now

Children at Lohfelden refugee camp in Germany in 1948 play with grain sacks from different international relief agencies. In addition to MCC (right) are CARE (Cooperative for American Remittances to Europe) and CRALOG (Council of Relief Agencies Licensed to Operate in Germany). (MCC photo)

Chim Yean and Reach Koeun with chickens at their farm in the village of Prey Toum, Cambodia. Your support has allowed them to purchase the tools, seeds and other necessities to build a thriving farm. (MCC photo/Matthew Lester)

*“I bought everything at market before, the vegetable, fish and chicken. Now I grow everything.”*

Chim Yean,  
Cambodia

# 79%

Of women in a farming group in Burkina Faso were able to access a loan when they couldn't before

# 398 to 6,747

The increase in number of farmers practicing sustainable agriculture in a project in Ethiopia

Igor Semyonov's smile has a comforting warmth to it. Most would never guess he spent five terms in prison before turning his life around. He loved helping people, prisoners especially. But when war came to his doorstep in Donetsk, Ukraine, he found himself needing help he never imagined.

He fled to Zaporizhzhia where an MCC church partner fed and sheltered him until he was able to get back on his feet.

Now he and his wife Larisa have their own apartment. On their bed is an MCC comforter. Their shelves hold cans of meat with the words "In the name of Christ" donated and canned by volunteers and then shipped to Ukraine. Sending one shipping container of food and relief supplies to help Igor and others like him costs \$7,800.

After training from another MCC partner, Igor now works as a trauma counsellor. He helps people who also were displaced from their homes. **A ripple effect of caring set off by you.**

"The training has also helped me leave the past behind. Because our life in the past was quite hard, it was hard to do," says Igor. "Really for two years there was such turmoil inside, we really needed to leave that and regain ourselves."



Relief program highlights: 27

Number of disasters  
MCC responded to

158,021

People received  
emergency food



RELIEF

**Your support provided food and shelter when Igor was forced to flee his home.**

## Then + Now

Two women received MCC-distributed relief supplies including canned meat in Vienna, Austria, in 1959. (MCC photo)

Igor Semyonov and his wife Larisa received MCC canned meat and comforters after fleeing conflict in eastern Ukraine. Thanks to your support, they were given food and shelter when they had none. (MCC photo/Matthew Sawatzky)

**46,171**

People received emergency supplies including clothing, relief kits and hygiene supplies

**6,062**

People trained in disaster risk reduction

*“It was very scary to move to an unknown place.... [MCC’s partner] was really taking care of us.”*

**Igor Semyonov,  
Ukraine**

**Naomi Bakeka Anuarite was used to feeling hopeless. Raised in Mubimbi, a camp for displaced people in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, it was hard some days to imagine surviving to 18, never mind graduating from high school.**

Naomi had no access to education and no way to secure a good job. But that's no longer her reality.

**Your support means Naomi and children from a few nearby camps can access a full Grade 1–12 education at the nearby Rutshunda Primary School.** For \$78, a single child can attend a year of school and have the equipment they need to succeed.

Naomi graduated from Rutshunda and is now attending medical school at the Evangelical University in Africa. With education in math and science and the ability to read and write in both French and Swahili, Naomi now has opportunities for well-paying jobs and careers that would never have been open to her before. She is determined to become a doctor and help others, including her mother and younger siblings who still live in Mubimbi.

“Our joy is to see displaced children taught,” says Rutshunda’s principal Joel Maombi Fikiri. “Instead of seeing those children in the town, among the armed groups... we want to see them in the classroom.”



## Education program highlights: 3,067

Teachers participated in professional development

## 20,552

Children and youth participated in K–12 formal education



# EDUCATION

**Because of your gifts, Naomi has been able to reach medical school.**

## Then + Now

Teachers Abroad Program (TAP) participant David Ritter (third from left) works with students in a classroom in Nyanga, in what is now the Democratic Republic of the Congo. (MCC photo)

Naomi Bakeka Anuarite outside the Evangelical University in Africa in Bukavu, Democratic Republic of the Congo where she attends medical school. She received her MCC-supported primary education at Rutshunda Primary School. (MCC photo/Matthew Lester)

*“I just look at the benefits I’ve gotten from my supporters, because they are preparing me to be a great leader.”*

**Naomi Bakeka Anuarite,  
The Democratic Republic  
of the Congo**

# 62%

Decrease in absenteeism at eight schools in Zambia that provide meals and other supports

# 100%

Of students at an education project in South Sudan passed a Grade 8 national exam

**Aïchatou Hamidou hated giving her grandchildren water that tasted like rust and dirt. She hated more that they barely knew the taste of safe, clean drinking water.**

She lives in a refugee camp in Chad called Kobiteye. Until recently, a handful of barely functioning hand pumps were the only way to collect water that was mostly safe to drink.

A new, more reliable hand pump costs \$1,983. **Your generous support means that more than a dozen new pumps now provide clean, safe water for Aïchatou, her grand-children and the 6,000 others living in Kobiteye.**

And along with lifegiving water, you've also provided Kobiteye with latrines and WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) training for Aïchatou. She leads Kobiteye's WASH team and ensures waste is safely cleaned up and the pumps stay in repair.

"We have seen such a positive impact," she says. "We now have clean water to drink and there is less sickness. I hope it means my grandchildren will have opportunities that I didn't."



## Water program highlights:

**68%**

Of households in one community in Haiti now have access to latrines, up from 8%

**22,443**

People have access to a new or improved latrine or sanitation facility



# WATER

**Because of your support, Aïchatou has clean water for her grandchildren to drink.**

## Then + Now

Keith Krehbeil (left) and Orië Friesen finish the first hand-dug well in the San Julian colony in Bolivia in 1972. Wells like these were dug by hand using a metal drill bit. They provided improved drinking water and enabled farmers to increase livestock and crops. (MCC photo/Cecil Graber)

Aïchatou Hamidou was displaced from Central African Republic to a refugee camp in Chad. Through your support, she now leads the WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) team, a group of women who maintain the latrines and keep the water pumps clean. (MCC photo/Colin Vandenberg)

*“More latrines and pumps mean people are living with better water and more hygiene.”*

**Aïchatou Hamidou,  
Chad**

**4**

The number of hours women and girls in some small communities in Egypt spent daily collecting water before new water and sewage pipelines were installed

**48,065**

People have access to an improved water source



**In rural Nepal, resources for mental health support are few and far between. There are many stories of people being imprisoned or worse in response to their trauma.**

**Your support meant that Kamala Sapkota could attend a mental health and rehabilitation program,** which costs approximately \$1,300 per person. And when she graduated, Kamala was no longer defined by her mental health. Her family was also taught how they could best support her.

Upon graduating the program, she received two baby goats that allow her to create income for herself. With supports in place and financial independence, Kamala's life was in her own hands once again.

"We have realized that medicines are not the only thing that is needed and there is much more all of us as a family, friends and neighbours can do to support people going through these difficulties to help them be healthy. We are her supports now. We are with her," says Kamala's sister Pompa Humagaim.



**Health program highlights: 41,484**

People received direct clinical care

**89,649**

People received hygiene items, including feminine hygiene supplies



## HEALTH

**Your gifts provided Kamala with mental health support.**

### Then + Now

MCC nurse Lois Kuhns (third from left) works with nurses in South Korea in 1955. They are preparing cotton balls and bandages in the central supply bandage room at Taegu Medical College Hospital. (MCC photo)

Kamala Sapkota (right), with her sister Pompa Humagaim, at her home in the hills of Kavrepalanchok, Nepal. With your support, Kamala graduated from a mental health program. They are holding baby goats that Kamala was given through the project which allow her to earn income and live independently. (MCC photo/Paul Shetler Fast)

**95%**

Of participants in one Nepal mental health project now have a stable source of income

**10,615**

People received training as health care workers, community health promoters and caregivers

*“Supporting innovative, local solutions to health care needs helps increase our impact and builds on the strength of the communities we serve.”*

**Paul Shetler Fast,  
MCC health coordinator**

**There was one strong image that Hannah Gray held in her heart after attending the MCC Ottawa Office student seminar. A kaleidoscope of monarch butterflies safely carrying a humpback whale through the air.**

When she painted the image for an art exhibit, she explained the imagery. The butterflies represent the dignity and resilience of migrants and the right that all beings have to move freely. She added the humpback whale, which also migrates, precisely because it's so different from the butterflies.

“I wanted this painting to emphasize that sometimes we are taken off of our regular routes of migration and that people can end up in unexpected or difficult situations and that it is important for us to work together (as the butterflies in this picture) to help our fellow migrants on their journey even if they are very different from us,” she says.

**Your faithful donations meant Hannah could attend the student peace seminar last year.** The theme was People on the Move: Human Rights and Global Migration.

Hannah left the seminar feeling more empowered than ever to seek justice.

“I wanted to compel people to a global and personal action based on our faith,” said Hannah. “We’re beneficiaries of our culture and our history, and we have to recognize that means participating in the story of migration.”



**Peace + Justice highlights: 22,951**

People trained in conflict transformation, peacebuilding or mediation

**1,321**

Emails sent by Canadians to MPs and senators using MCC's letter writing tool



# PEACE + JUSTICE

**Because of your donations, Hannah is more empowered to work for justice.**

## Then + Now

Pax man Elwin LeFevre works at a housing project in Bielefeld, Germany. The MCC Pax program provided an alternative service option for conscientious objectors drafted into the U.S. military, with some Canadians also participating. Pax began in Germany after the Second World War, but by the time the program ended in 1976 approximately 1,150 people served in over 40 countries. (MCC photo)

Wes Braun, Hannah Gray and Zlata Zolotarova pose for a photo on Parliament Hill while they attended the 2019 MCC student peace seminar in Ottawa, Ontario. The theme of the seminar was People on the Move: Human Rights and Global Migration. (Photo courtesy of Hannah Gray)

Inset: Drawing by Hannah Gray

*“It is important for us to work together ... to help our fellow migrants on their journey.”*

**Hannah Gray,  
Canada**

**100%**

Of members in one South Sudan peace club applied peacebuilding or conflict resolution in their lives

**65%**

Of parents saw improvement in how their daughters handled challenges after an empowerment project in Jordan called *SuperGirls*

**No matter what she tried, Gilchen Davalillo couldn't make enough money to feed her family. The Venezuelan economy was in shambles, with hyperinflation pricing even daily bread beyond her reach.**

So, she made a brave and incredibly difficult choice. She left to seek opportunity somewhere else. When she arrived in Quito, the capital of Ecuador, her family was one of thousands who'd fled for the same reasons. Jobs, housing and hope seemed just as impossible to find.

But because of your support, Gilchen's journey did not end there.

**You've empowered a partner church in Quito to support Gilchen and her family with housing, trauma support and food.** It costs \$98 for the church to provide families like Gilchen's with monthly food baskets. Without this food, many families could not survive in Quito.

Your act of love means her family, and many others, have new opportunities to thrive.



## Migration program highlights: 32

Students attended an Ottawa Office seminar on root causes of migration and displacement

## 521

Refugees came to Canada through MCC's sponsorship program from:



# MIGRATION

**Your donations provide shelter, food and counselling as Gilchen seeks opportunities for her family.**

## Then + Now

Victor Neumann (second left), MCC representative in Thailand, with refugees who fled Vietnam in 1985. MCC partnered with the Government of Canada to create the first private sponsorship agreement in 1979 in response to the refugee crisis after the end of the Vietnam War. (MCC photo)

Gilchen Davalillo (centre) with her family at their new home in Quito, Ecuador. They fled the collapsing economy in Venezuela. Your donations empowered our partners in Quito to provide housing and other support. (MCC photo/Annalee Giesbrecht)

Syria	<b>39%</b>	DR Congo	<b>6%</b>
Eritrea	<b>20%</b>	Somalia	<b>6%</b>

Other countries (Ethiopia, Iraq, Pakistan, Myanmar (Burma), Sudan, South Sudan, Burundi, Afghanistan, Iran and more) – **29%**

*“Through local partners, MCC donors support people through all stages of their journey: providing shelter and welcome and addressing root causes of migration.”*

**Annalee Giesbrecht,**  
 Advocacy and Communications  
 coordinator in Latin America  
 and the Caribbean

# MATERIAL RESOURCES

A TANGIBLE SIGN OF GOD'S LOVE IN TIMES OF CRISIS



Amal Abujayyab, Shergo Ibrahim, Donna Entz and Sedra Mustafa work on a comforter together at The Great Winter Warm-up event in Edmonton, Alta. (MCC photo/Donita Wiebe-Neufeld).

Your support is a sign of hope in times of crisis.

.....

*“Your help is immeasurable. In each can of meat, in each blanket we see God’s love. We see your love.”*

Natalia Mezentseva,  
Director of MCC partner  
New Life Charitable Fund  
in Ukraine

To celebrate MCC’s centennial, we set out to collect 6,500 comforters at The Great Winter Warm-up events across Canada, the U.S. and Europe. Though January 18, 2020 saw major winter storms at many locations, hard-working volunteers helped us surpass the goal: we collected more than 9,400 comforters! Thanks to everyone who helped cut, sew and tie these blankets. They will provide warmth and comfort to displaced and vulnerable people around the world.

We are so thankful for the families, churches and volunteers that pack, sew and donate relief supplies to be shared with our global neighbours.

## Material resources shipped last year:



**849,024**

Canned meat (lbs)



**94,073**

School kits



**55,180**

Hygiene kits



**47,830**

Comforters



**21,724**

Relief kits



**6,289**

Infant care kits



**1,200**

Sewing kits



Minear Mak

(Photo courtesy of Minear Mak)

## Global Service Learning

YOUNG ADULTS VOLUNTEERING IN THE NAME OF CHRIST

One evening, Minear Mak’s Colombian host family made spaghetti for dinner. But Minear, from Cambodia, was surprised to see they were going to use a fork instead of chopsticks to eat noodles. What followed was a giggle-filled evening as Minear shared chopstick lessons and a part of her culture.

This is the kind of cross-cultural exchange Minear experienced through the Young Anabaptist Mennonite Exchange Network (YAMEN). The program also helped her learn about her faith identity. “It’s not about being Asian or Latina but being a woman who is adorned with the beauty of Christ,” she says.



Jacob Fehr

(Photo courtesy of Jacob Fehr)

## MCC Thrift Shops

WHERE EVERY PURCHASE IS A GIFT TO THE WORLD

Every year MCC Thrift shops help reduce clothing waste and raise millions of dollars to support MCC’s work around the world. This is only possible because of volunteers like 93-year-old Jacob Fehr.

Jacob spends many of his free hours cutting denim squares out of old pairs of jeans. Those squares are packaged and sold through MCC Thrift shops. This is great for thrifty quilters, and it helps keep clothes that might otherwise be thrown away out of the landfill. Since 2017, Jacob has delivered more than 700 bundles of denim squares to Thrift shops — around 90,000 squares.



# \$19,717,000

Donated by MCC Thrift shops in Canada and the U.S. to support the work of MCC in 2019/2020 fiscal year.



## Canada

475 MCC workers\*  
\$11 million  
\*includes Thrift

## United States

205 MCC workers  
\$8.7 million

## Latin America & the Caribbean

90 MCC workers  
\$7.2 million

## Europe & the Middle East

54 MCC workers  
\$16.1 million

## Africa

152 MCC workers  
\$19.6 million

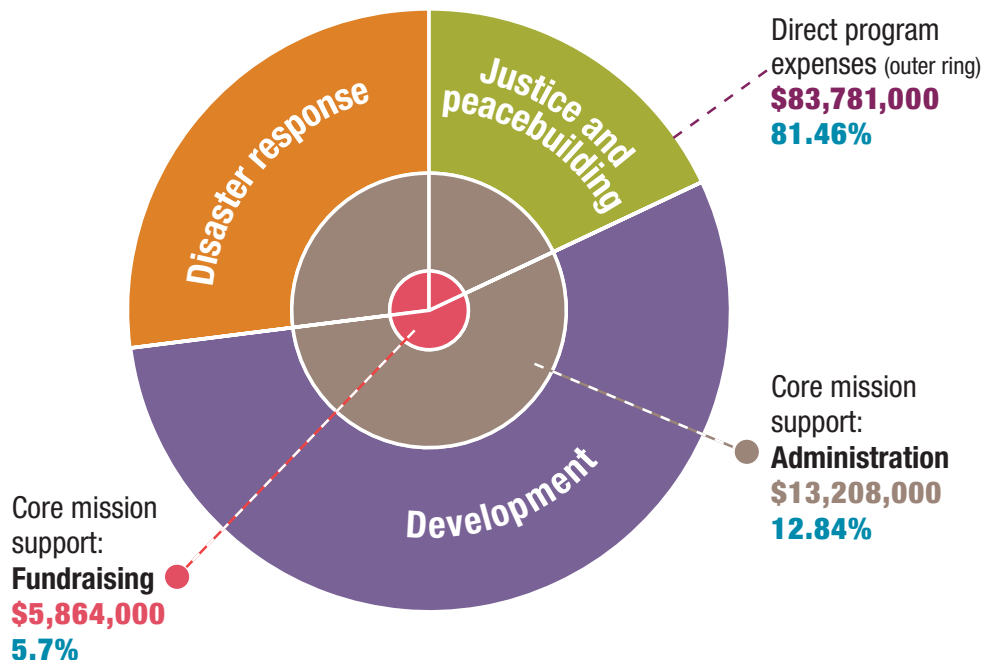
# MCC around the world

## Finances

The financial information on these pages presents the combined operations in Canadian dollars of the MCCs in Canada and the U.S. (excluding Ten Thousand Villages Canada) for the year ended March 31, 2020. More detailed financial and program reporting as well as complete audited financial statements are available at [mcccanada.ca/annual-report](http://mcccanada.ca/annual-report)

TOTAL EXPENSES:

**\$102,853,000**





**Asia**  
158 MCC workers  
\$10.4 million

**Multi-Region**  
\$10.8 million

**51**  
countries

**511**  
partners

**619**  
projects

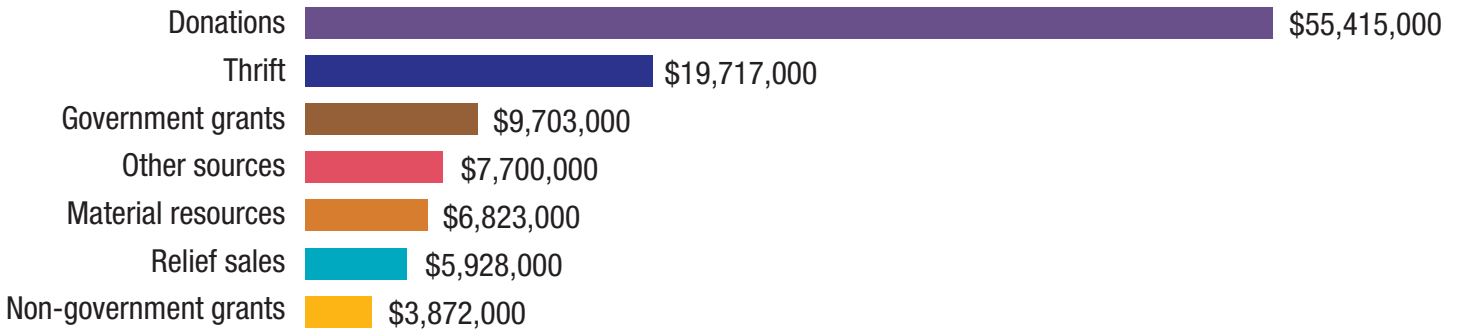
**1,134**  
workers

Global Service and Learning participants

YAMEN	33
IVEP	24
SALT	39
Seed	13
Summerbridge	14
SOOP	45

**TOTAL REVENUE:**  
**\$109,158,000**

**Funding Sources**





## Then + Now

Palestinian women doing needlework in Jericho, West Bank around the 1960s. The MCC needlework project provided income for displaced women, and their work was sold by Edna Ruth Byler through what would later become Ten Thousand Villages. (MCC photo/Ernest Lehman)

A group of artisans from the Hajiganj Handicrafts crochet unit sit outside their workshop stitching blankets from recycled saris in 2018. These artisans sold many blankets through Ten Thousand Villages. (Photo courtesy of Ten Thousand Villages)



# Ten Thousand Villages

**With heavy hearts, MCC announced the closure of Ten Thousand Villages Canada corporate operations in early 2020.**

The beginnings of Ten Thousand Villages in 1946 – when Edna Ruth Byler first sold handicrafts from the trunk of her car – launched a global fair-trade movement. For 74 years, the stores have helped ensure artisans all over the world are paid first and fairly for their work. These values helped spark a movement that saw more and more people embrace ethical and sustainable shopping.

We are grateful for the faithful work of every single Ten Thousand Villages Canada artisan, staff member and volunteer who contributed to this legacy. And don't forget, you can still shop online at [tenthousandvillages.com](https://tenthousandvillages.com) or at one of the four independent stores still open in Canada (or in shops across the U.S.).

Ten Thousand Villages used its **Artisan Relief Fund** to help ensure the legacy of fair trade after Canadian shops closed. The fund provided artisans with financial support as they found new avenues to sell their crafts.

A representative from an artisan group in Bali says, “Thank you very much.... You're really a fair trade soul. Words are not enough to describe; your support comes at the right time.”

# Give a special gift to help *Celebrate 100 Years*

Thank you for being part of the MCC story.  
The work and ministry of MCC is only possible  
thanks to the faithful support of people like you.

To mark MCC's centennial, we're inviting you  
to make a special gift. Your support is needed  
now more than ever. Join us to bring hope,  
dignity and peace for the next 100 years.

[mcccanada.ca/our-faith-our-future](http://mcccanada.ca/our-faith-our-future)

