

Thanks to your support, MCC canned meat brings joy to families across the globe, including this boy\* whose mother is raising three children on her own in Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine. \*Names are not used for security reasons. Photo courtesy of AMBCU

Join the canning crew or volunteer at a canning site. mcc.org/canning

#### **MCC** canned meat shipments

Fiscal year is April 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025.

| Country                | Cans shipped |
|------------------------|--------------|
| Chad                   | 19,200       |
| Cuba                   | 84,480       |
| Ethiopia               | 288,000      |
| Malawi                 | 59,520       |
| South Sudan            | 24,000       |
| Ukraine                | 72,000       |
| Zambia                 | 36,480       |
| U.S. (Puerto Rico)     | 15,840       |
| U.S. (other locations) | 12,000       |
| Totals                 | 611,520      |



## **Mennonite Central Committee**

Mennonite Central Committee U.S. 21 South 12th Street, PO Box 500, Akron, PA 17501-0500 717.859.1151 or toll free 888.563.4676 mcc.org/canning



# Canner Times

### **Providing nourishment in Ukraine**

By MCC staff

Despite constant shelling by the Russian military, about 150 people come to the cafeteria at New Life Charitable Fund (New Life) in Nikopol, Ukraine, each day for a hot lunch. Several times each month, lunch gets a protein boost from MCC's canned meat.

Some people need a nutritious lunch because Russia's military invasion

has made it difficult for Ukrainians to provide for themselves. People with disabilities and those who are elderly are especially at risk. Families with multiple children and those who fled violence in their own communities tend to need help to feed their families.

"Thanks to the canned meat that we add to the dishes, lunches are more tasty, nutritious and enriched with



These men are eating soup made with MCC's canned meat at New Life Charitable Fund's dining room in Nikopol, Ukraine. Photo courtesy of New Life Charitable Fund

proteins, which are so necessary for maintaining health and vital activity," wrote Pavlo\*, manager of New Life, a faith-based charitable foundation.

Between April 2024 and March 2025, MCC partner churches and organizations, which are located throughout Ukraine, received 72,000 cans of meat. This supply was part of 611,520 cans of meat that volunteers in the U.S. donated and preserved for people in crisis throughout the world.

The Association of Mennonite Brethren Churches of Ukraine (AMBCU), with MCC's support, also distributes canned meat, food parcels and hygiene kits and provides trauma care as part of its ministry.

"The aim of our church now is to help the suffering," says Roman, leader of AMBCU. Most of the people AMBCU serves are elderly people, who struggle to live on a minimal government pension.

"Sometimes benefactors receive this aid with tears in their eyes. We see how dire the need is," says Andrii, the humanitarian coordinator for AMBCU. "We realize we can't provide people with everything they need, but people are still grateful."

\*Last names are not used for security reasons.



From May 1 to 14, 2025, the MCC canning team participated in a learning tour to Malawi. They learned how canned meat and other assistance provided by MCC help inmates in the Malawi Prison Service and residents in Dzaleka Refugee Camp in the Dowa district of Malawi. They also visited the headquarters of MCC's long-term partner, the Mennonite Brethren Church in Malawi, in Mponela, Dowa district. In front of the headquarters are (left to right) Lars Braun, MacGregor, Manitoba; Matt Buller, Henderson, Nebraska; Andrew Widrick, Lowville, New York; and Kenan Broersma, Harlan, Kentucky. Lars, Matt and Kenan will serve on the 2025-2026 MCC canning team, along with a new member, Thomas Carter, Honeoye Falls, New York. MCC photo/George Eckman

Interested in serving a two-year term as a canner operator? To learn more, contact George Eckman at georgeeckman@mcc.org or call 717-925-1424.

### 2025-26 MCC meat canning schedule

| Date                   | Location                   |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
|                        |                            |
| October 6–10           | *Sterling, Ohio            |
| October 15–17          | Middlefield, Ohio          |
| October 20–23          | Kidron, Ohio               |
| October 28-November 11 | **Newton, Kansas           |
| November 13-14         | Milford, Nebraska          |
| November 21–25         | Henderson, Nebraska        |
| December 4-5           | Pryor, Oklahoma            |
| December 8–9           | Kalona, Iowa               |
| December 11–15         | Freeport, Illinois         |
| December 17–19         | Williamsburg, Indiana      |
| January 5-16           | Goshen, Indiana            |
| January 19-21          | Montgomery, Indiana        |
| January 23-24          | Berne, Indiana             |
| January 27-30          | Berlin, Ohio               |
| February 2-5           | Spartansburg, Pennsylvania |
| February 9-13          | Lewistown, Pennsylvania    |
| February 16-20         | White Horse, Pennsylvania  |
| February 23-27         | Hinton, Virginia           |
| March 2-6              | Chambersburg, Pennsylvania |
| March 9-13             | Kirkwood, Pennsylvania     |
| March 16-20            | New Holland, Pennsylvania  |
| March 23-27            | *Penn Yan, New York        |
| March 30-April 2       | Lowville, New York         |
| April 6-10             | *Sterling, Ohio            |
| April 13–15            | Souderton, Pennsylvania    |
| April 17–21            | Manheim, Pennsylvania      |

<sup>\*</sup> MCC partner organization

<sup>\*\*</sup> canning takes place at the MCC Central States warehouse