



2023/2024
Annual Impact Report
BRITISH COLUMBIA



*See the impact of your generosity
in British Columbia.*





Kojo Kyei and Sarah Njeri engage in a creative staff development activity. Our MCC BC Programs team participates in continuous development and peace training to enhance skills and better serve the most vulnerable in British Columbia. (MCC Photo/Dale Klippenstein)



Vern Peters has volunteered at MCC Centre Thrift in Abbotsford, BC, since 2016. Inspired by his family's legacy and MCC's impact on his life, his weekly shift helps support MCC's global and local projects, along with many other dedicated volunteers. (MCC Photo/Monet Lamphere-Ma)



Guests Amy Van Bergen and Paula Sharpe (SARA for Women) chatting at our first "Cause & Connection" event. The event encouraged community connections and raised awareness about expanding End Abuse support groups for women and men affected by intimate partner violence, including a new group launching in Prince George, BC. (MCC Photo / Monet Lamphere-Ma)

We are so glad you are part of the MCC story.

These pages are just a glimpse into how your gifts are impacting people's lives in British Columbia and around the world.

Thank you for joining us in this work.

THANK YOU

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the opening of the MCC Centre in Abbotsford, a building that is home to Thrift, Ten Thousand Villages, Common Place Café, Material Resources, our head office and programs that meet needs here in BC.

The theme for the fundraising campaign back then was *Building on a Legacy of Compassion*. This was our way to recognize that thousands of people had contributed to MCC over the decades and that we wanted to propel that mission of compassion forward - for decades to come.

Thanks to the support of so many people, the MCC Centre has helped multiply the impact of MCC here at home and around the world - growing every year. We are delighted to have over 400 volunteers serve at the MCC Centre and over 1,000 visitors every day who engage with some part of the ministry of MCC. This is in addition to the 3,000 volunteers and 3,500 donors across BC who support the global ministry of MCC.

I am reminded of the words of the apostle Paul as he wrote from prison in Rome to the emerging church in Colossians, encouraging them to “clothe yourselves in compassion” as an expression of God’s love. The stories and statistics in this report are just a few of the ways your support of MCC is making a difference in the lives of vulnerable people.

Thanks for your part in the MCC story.



WAYNE BREMNER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MCC BRITISH COLUMBIA
WAYNEBREMNER@MCCBC.CA



“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.”

— COLOSSIANS 3:12 NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION (NIV)

2023-2024 Program Highlights

5,543 individuals supported by MCC British Columbia in 2023-24; the highest number of people ever participating in BC programs.



371

women and men in End Abuse support groups for intimate partner violence



1,625

people supported by our homelessness prevention and outreach team



1,264

individuals engaged with Indigenous history and culture



100

refugees welcomed throughout BC



176

Ukrainians supported with settlement in BC

16

projects serving people in need in British Columbia

MCC BRITISH COLUMBIA 2023/2024 BOARD MEMBERS



Peter Wolfe
(Chair), MB



Sharon Zacharias
(Treasurer), MC



Louise Larson
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(Director), MC




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WELCOMING REFUGEES



In times of crisis, your support ensures safety and welcome.

Top right: 
Olena is one of the Ukrainians who received support from MCC BC. She and her family are rebuilding their lives in Abbotsford, BC. (MCC Photo/ Monet Lamphere-Ma)



“You don’t know what it really means to trust God until something like this happens.”

OLENA, HELPED BY MCC BC’S UKRAINIAN RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM

UKRAINIAN FAMILIES IN BC

Your generosity brought safety and stability to 176 individuals through our Ukrainian Resettlement program in BC. Arriving with few possessions, they faced challenges such as transportation, learning a new language, and accessing services. With support from MCC BC, local churches, and partners, these families gained hope as they were connectd to resources and community connections.

We celebrated the program’s completion in March 2024. As families gathered, it was evident that your kindness has made a hopeful and lasting impact on their lives. Thank you!

REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP

Bottom right: 
The Rasikh family, fleeing danger in Afghanistan, received support from volunteers at the Gathering Church and MCC BC’s refugee sponsorship expertise. (Photo courtesy of the Rasikh family)




“I know there is a group of people who are willing to support me every step of the way — to make me feel valued, safe and welcome.”

MALEKA RASIKH, RECENT REFUGEE FROM AFGHANISTAN

ENDING ABUSE, HEALING RELATIONSHIPS



Your generosity is uplifting and connecting women across communities.

Top right: 
Our first “Cause and Connection” event at MCC Centre in Abbotsford in February 2024. (MCC Photo / Monet Lamphere-Ma)



At a networking evening in February 2024, Laurie shared her story with 45 women who had gathered to learn about supporting women affected by intimate partner violence. Years ago, after experiencing abuse in her marriage, Laurie bravely reached out to the MCC BC End Abuse women’s support group. Finding healing alongside others to be powerful and life-changing, she was inspired to become a facilitator herself.

A new End Abuse support group will launch in Prince George to reach more women affected by intimate partner violence. Your generosity is helping End Abuse expand and walk alongside more women like Laurie.

“I always wanted to come to group.

The outside world doesn’t understand our stories, but this group does — no one can understand until [abuse] happens to them.

I believe God loves this group. I’m very thankful!”

**JOANNA*,
END ABUSE PARTICIPANT**

*The participant’s name has been changed due to the sensitive nature of this program.

HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION & OUTREACH



Your gifts are preventing homelessness for people like Billy.

1,625 people supported through various stages of homelessness and housing instability.

Top right: _____
Community members “shop” for clothes at the weekly community barbecue. (MCC Photo/Monet Lamphere-Ma)



RENT BANK

Billy Joe Gladue has faced a series of challenges over six years, including losing his car, caring for his daughter after drug overdoses and coping with a leg injury that left him unable to work. A fire in 2020 further devastated their lives. Tragically, his daughter passed away in 2022.

A year and a half later, these challenges continue to weigh heavily on Billy. Despite the difficulties, he has shown remarkable resilience. He has been studying for a certificate to return to work. Unexpectedly, his exam was delayed by a month, preventing him from starting a new job to cover his rent. He turned to our Fraser Valley Rent Bank for crucial assistance and received a one-month rent loan just in time to avoid eviction.

Your generosity has made a significant impact on Billy’s life, providing him with much-needed stability at a difficult time. Thank you for helping people like Billy to stay housed.

“I knew I was going to get evicted and have nowhere to go... this loan is impactful!”

It helped me through a tough time and saved my job.”




**BILLY JOE GLADUE,
HELPED BY MCC BC’S FRASER VALLEY RENT BANK**

Because of your generosity, people like Carey can access a weekly hot meal and a shower.



COMMUNITY BARBECUES

Top right: 
Carey Reddicopp at the weekly community barbecue at MCC Centre in Abbotsford. (MCC Photo/Monet Lamphere-Ma)

“This meal brings people together and helps people come out of the situation they’re in. I know where to go when I need help.”

**CAREY REDDICOPP,
COMMUNITY MEMBER AT MCC BC’S COMMUNITY BARBECUES**

Circle of Friends includes volunteers who support individuals and families transitioning from homelessness and shelters back into the community.

Since Mia* didn’t have friends or family nearby, celebrating her first year of sobriety with her group held special significance.



CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

The group biked around Fish Trap Creek, then to Dairy Queen for ice cream. Along the way, Mia showed the group where she used to camp and talked about the struggles of living on the streets — dealing with trauma and addiction. She also shared that being in nature and meeting supportive friends through this program has been deeply meaningful as she heals.

Thank you for helping Mia and others find community this year, so they are not alone as they strive to transition out of homelessness.

Your support provides community for individuals as they transition out of homelessness.


 Bottom middle: Each month, small groups called “circles” gather for a larger group activity. (MCC Photo/Monet Lamphere-Ma)

*The participant’s name has been changed for their privacy.

NEW FOUNDATIONS



Your gifts are helping newcomers build new skills in Victoria.

Top right: 
Lizeth “Liz” Vega, her husband Renzo, and their two children (now ages 6 and 7) just a few days after they arrived in BC. (Photo courtesy of Lizeth Vega)



In 2022, Liz and her husband Renzo moved to Canada with their two young children due to economic and political challenges in Peru.

Liz faced multiple obstacles including language barriers and the need to recertify her qualifications. She found support through MCC BC’s New Foundations program in Victoria. Initially, she joined the program for the financial literacy workshops, but she also learned new life skills such as wellness practices and skills for the Canadian job market. Grateful for her growth in the program, Liz returned as an intern to give back to other newcomer families.

Thanks to your caring support, Liz’s family and other newcomer families are acquiring essential skills so they can thrive in their new communities.

We added a new location in greater Victoria this year:

- In Spring 2024, New Foundations added a second location in the West Shore region.
- The first location continues to serve newcomers in downtown Victoria.

“New Foundations helped me not only with new savings techniques but also to overcome fears, in addition to having a supportive community.”


LIZ, NEWCOMER SUPPORTED BY MCC BC’S NEW FOUNDATIONS



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



Together, we are building safer communities in Prince George.

Top right: 
MCC BC staff and volunteers from Westwood Church and the apartments team up to organize a BBQ for residents at Park Village Apartments. (MCC photo /Kojo Kyei)

New programs coming to northern BC:

- Serving those affected by intimate partner violence, we are expanding our End Abuse program to Prince George.
- Serving those on the brink of homelessness, we are starting the Central and Northern BC Rent Bank based in Prince George.



In Prince George, Westwood Church and MCC BC are achieving a lasting impact together. The church has been a key partner in revitalizing communities in the Prince George apartments. Previously marked by economic and social challenges, these neighbourhoods have undergone a remarkable transformation.

Together, the church and MCC are empowering community residents to lead food programs, ESL classes, a homework club, summer day camps and more.

These neighbourhoods used to require a significant police presence. As Westwood and MCC increased community engagement, local police noted a reduced number of calls — they are growing into peaceful areas.

Your thoughtful generosity is inspiring intentional change, drawing neighbourhoods together toward a brighter future through church and community partnerships.

“The collaboration with Westwood has been instrumental in building communities of peace, or ‘shalom,’ within the apartments.”

**KOJO KYEI, MCC BC STAFF
IN PRINCE GEORGE**



INDIGENOUS NEIGHBOURS



1,264 individuals engaged with MCC BC in learning from Indigenous peoples.



(Photo courtesy of John Longhurst)

In July 2023, the “Memories of Migration” tour witnessed a significant event at Semá:th First Nation’s longhouse on Sumas Mountain. An apology was made for actions by Mennonite ancestors who had settled on Stó:lō land, marking an important step towards healing. Chief Dalton Silver accepted the apology as a “step in the right direction.” This event highlights the importance of learning and reconciling relationships in our communities, and reminds us of the work still ahead.

THRIFT SHOPS



1,189 thrift volunteers in BC supporting MCC’s work around the world.



“When I started volunteering at MCC Thrift, it was a way I could tithe my time... to honour the Lord in a different way.”

**KAREN AUGHTRY,
VOLUNTEER CASHIER AT
MCC CENTRE IN ABBOTSFORD**

(MCC Photo/Monet Lamphere-Ma)

A heartfelt thank you to the dedicated volunteers across all our local ministries. We are grateful for the sharing of your talents and time to make the work of MCC possible.

Thank you for continuing the work of MCC

MCC’s work gathers many people and our humble gifts to share with those in need locally and globally. The combined efforts of our nine community Thrift Shops continue to provide about 14% of our revenue in British Columbia.

We teamed up again with Run For Water and the community to raise awareness and support

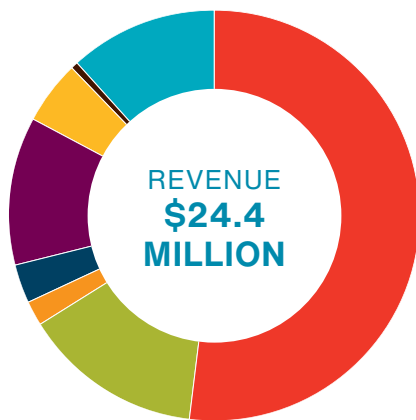
for freshwater wells in Ethiopian villages. Over \$200,000 was raised in this fiscal year to bring clean water to these rural communities.

Our September 2023 Festival for World Relief was a success, with over \$1 million providing food supplies for families who need it the most.

To our donors — whether you are giving as an individual, church group, or business — your generous gifts continue to power life-changing ministries of relief, development and peace. Thank you!

TOTAL REVENUE:

\$24,405,578

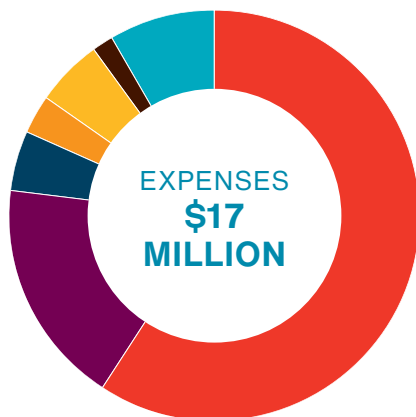


■ Contributions \$12,735,521	■ Local Program \$2,866,136
■ Thrift Stores (Net) \$3,410,315	■ Relief Festivals (Gross) \$1,186,933
■ Contributions (Disasters) \$516,029	■ Material Resources \$170,867
■ Ten Thousand Villages/ Common Place Cafe \$733,873	■ Other \$2,785,904

Note: In addition to the amounts shown in the visual above, MCC BC also received a trust distribution from our Legacy Donor of \$57 million in revenue generating properties and cash that will be managed by HyLand Properties, similar to an endowment.

TOTAL EXPENSES:

\$17,011,142



■ International Program \$ 10,107,643	■ Fundraising, Communications & Events \$922,078
■ Local Program \$3,000,148	■ Material Resources \$247,460
■ Ten Thousand Villages/ Common Place Cafe \$801,997	■ Finance & Administration \$1,415,787
■ International Disasters \$516,029	