



2024/2025
Annual Impact Report
ALBERTA

*Reporting on the impact of your
generosity around the world.*



Grow Hope farmer Shaun Galloway (centre) with Alberta farmers preparing for harvest at the Gibbons field. (Photo credit/ Mihret Galloway)



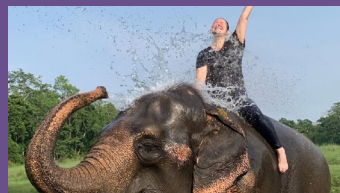
The Wheels of Waterton team preparing to cycle 100 km for GO!100. (MCC photo/Jessica Evans)



Michael Jok is reunited with his mother Rachael at the Calgary airport after more than 20 years apart, thanks to MCC Alberta sponsorship. (MCC Photo/ Jessica Evans)



Hygiene kit packing at the MCC Alberta warehouse. (MCC Photo/Jessica Evans)



MCC Alberta SALTER, Kate Warkentin served in Nepal conducting research on inclusive education. (Photo credit/Kate Warkentin)

Jesus told us that faith, even the size of a mustard seed, can move mountains. Your faith has been anything but small and has accompanied us every step of the way.

These are the stories of your impact around Alberta, over the past year.

Thank you for your act of faith and generosity.



THANK YOU

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In February 2025, a group of Albertans traveled to Colombia to visit MCC partners to see the impact of our international work firsthand. Continually we heard that the church is a lifeline. In several of the communities struggling with social and economic hardships, local Mennonite and Mennonite Brethren congregations act as small beacons of hope to those yearning for a better future. We visited several congregations that participate in the MCC Colombia Church Initiative Program; small, church led initiatives that empower congregations to respond to local needs in their communities. The program assists with the educational needs of children of Venezuelan migrants, children and youth programming as prevention to gang involvement, food assistance, health care needs, microfinancing and conservation agriculture. In places often forgotten by government or social structure, and taken advantage of by armed groups and gangs, these congregations, with the help of MCC, go beyond their walls to provide a much needed lifeline.

Thank you for making this work possible. Your profound generosity and grace, as donors, volunteers, supporters and churches, empower communities here and around the world to respond to hurting communities with compassion, love, and hope. Thank you!



RYAN SIEMENS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MCC ALBERTA
RYANSIEMENS@MCCAB.CA



“And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.”

— COLOSSIANS 3:15 NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION (NIV)

MCC ALBERTA 2024/2025 BOARD MEMBERS

Timothy Burkholder (Chair)
First Mennonite Church, Edmonton (Mennonite Church Alberta)

Heather Driedger (Vice Chair)
Lives in Banff, AB, Member at large

Becky Andres (Secretary)
Foothills Mennonite Church, Calgary (Mennonite Church Alberta)

Sharon Penner (Treasurer)
Dalhousie Community Church, Calgary (Alberta Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches)

Nicole Enns-Fehr
Calgary Inter-Mennonite Church, Calgary

Christina Carpenter
Abbeydale Christian Fellowship, Calgary (Evangelical Mennonite Conference)

Siyemule Ntasi-Nunu
River West Christian Church, Edmonton (Alberta Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches)

Francis Kahihu Kamau
First Assembly Church, Calgary (Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada) Member at large

Derek Cook
Foothills Mennonite Church, Calgary (Mennonite Church Alberta)

Lowell Thiessen
First Mennonite Church, Edmonton (Mennonite Church Alberta)

ABOUT MCC ALBERTA



Andy Arthur
Thrift Coordinator
(SK/AB)



Tolulope Babalola
Human Resources
Director



Ala Camerzan
Finance and Payroll
Coordinator



Cindy Colman
Migration and
Resettlement Program
Coordinator



Linda Dickinson
Material Resources
Coordinator



Joyce Doran
Director of Social
Enterprise



Jessica Evans
Marketing and
Communications
Coordinator



Sherry Galan
Edmonton Thrift Shop
Manager



Ken Grahlman
Circles of Support
and Accountability
Coordinator



Paula Guirguis
HR Generalist
(SK/AB)



April Hauck
Calgary Thrift Shop
Manager



Alex Heidebrecht
Communications and
Development Director



Brandon Hiebert
Donor Relations
Coordinator



Jose-Luis Moraga
Program Director



Rebecca Schnell
Community
Engagement
Coordinator



Alex Scott
Constituency Relations
Associate



Dianne Smith
Corporate Services
Manager



Tyler Retzlaff
Migration and
Resettlement
Associate



Renn Von Riesen
Director of Finance



Eliza Rogers
Taber Thrift Shop
Manager



Andrea Rueda
Database Associate



Donita Wiebe-Neufeld
Church Engagement
Coordinator

WORKING IN TREATIED TERRITORIES

In the spirit of respect and truth, we acknowledge and honour that our work is done on the lands of Treaties Six, Seven and Eight. These lands are the traditional home of the Cree, Dene, Inuit, Kainai, Metis, Piikani, Salteaux, Siksika, Stoney Nakoda and Tsuut'ina peoples.

We are grateful to be able to live, work and serve God the Creator here. As a Christian organization committed to right relationships and the Truth & Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, we acknowledge the harm done to the Indigenous peoples of these lands. As Treaty people, we strive towards reconciliation in our words and deeds.

Elsie, Sewing for MCC

“Here I am, back again, still sewing comforters and kit bags for MCC’s GO!100. I committed to 100 hours of making items for this worthwhile project. They will be shipped overseas to areas of war, natural disaster, poverty and conflict.

I follow in the footsteps of two grandmothers and my mother, who sewed and were involved with meeting needs of others through MCC. My daughter, the 4th generation, has picked up the torch as well.”

Elsie Wiebe with one of her GO!100 creations. (photo courtesy of Elsie Wiebe)



Development highlights:

344

acres sponsored for
Grow Hope

\$253,569

funds raised from Grow
Hope growing season

\$7,577

individual donations

275

new donors



Scan the QR code to learn about
Grow Hope in Alberta.

DEVELOPMENT

You're growing food, hope and peace

GROW HOPE

Grow Hope Alberta is a powerful partnership between MCC Alberta, the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, Alberta farmers, and generous donors, all working together to combat food insecurity faced by the 757 million people worldwide who are experiencing hunger.

Over the past year, 344 acres were sponsored by MCC donors. This partnership raised an incredible \$253,569 to support families around the world. Thank you to every Grow Hope farmer and donor—your efforts are planting seeds of hope and change.

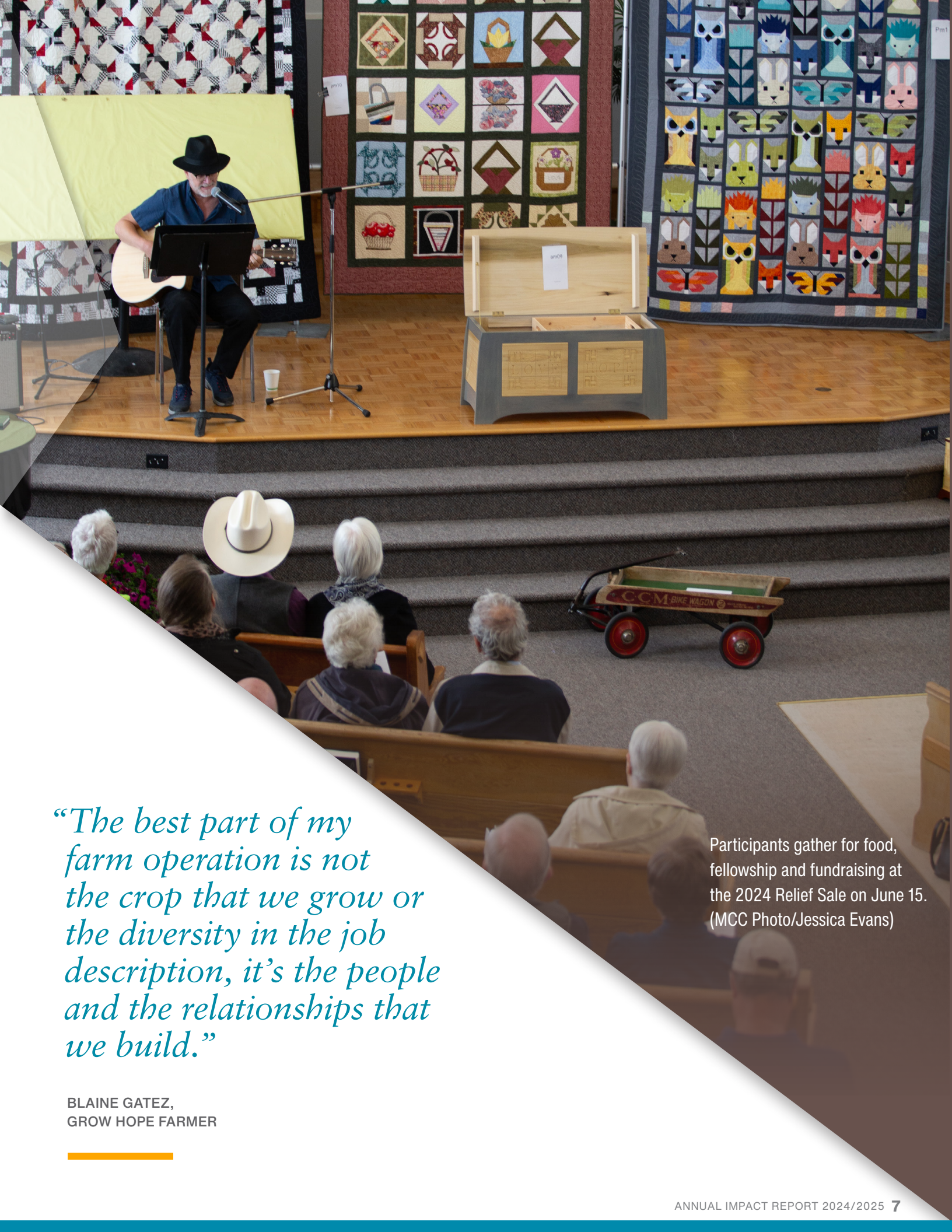
GO!100

We sincerely appreciate the generous support of our donors, along with their families and friends.

This year, 16 individual participants and 2 dedicated teams took part in creative and meaningful activities—such as sewing, running, and biking—to raise an outstanding \$103,794 in support of MCC’s mission of relief, development, and peace.

A special thank you to the Flaman Foundation for their remarkable \$50,000 matching gift, which significantly amplified the impact of this year’s efforts.

To all those who devoted their time and talents to pursue their passions while supporting MCC—thank you. Your commitment brings hope and transformation to communities around the world.



“The best part of my farm operation is not the crop that we grow or the diversity in the job description, it’s the people and the relationships that we build.”

BLAINE GATEZ,
GROW HOPE FARMER

Participants gather for food, fellowship and fundraising at the 2024 Relief Sale on June 15. (MCC Photo/Jessica Evans)

In Tune

Our second annual conference, *In Tune: The Soul's Cry for Home*, was held on Oct 26, at Ambrose University in Calgary. The daytime conference event welcomed keynote speaker Kaylee Perez (MCC Canada), and workshop speakers Ray Aldred (Vancouver School of Theology) and Mulanda Jimmy Juma (MCC Rwanda/Burundi).

The day's offerings also included a screening of the film *Passage to Freedom* and the *Forced to Flee* simulation experience. Focused on the theme of migration and resettlement, In Tune culminated in a sold-out *Evening of Storytelling*, featuring video stories of resettlement from Ruth Janz and Alsar Zarour, and the premiere of *Aleppo Cookies* by Adam Schnell, a play, in English and Arabic, about the transformative power of welcoming the stranger. After the formal program, the audience of MCC constituents, theatre goers and newcomer families lingered for informal conversation about the evening's experience and dessert. The power of story was palpable as the audience mingled enthusiastically, bridging language and cultural divides.

(Photo courtesy of Jessica Evans)



1,207

participants through engagements

60

number of engagements, trainings and workshops

71

EOI's (expressions of interest)

49

refugees settled

PROGRAM

You're walking in friendship and solidarity

INDIGENOUS NEIGHBOURS

MCC Alberta's Indigenous Neighbours program is all about building relationships and walking together in the spirit of reconciliation. Through workshops, films, community events, and church partnerships, we support Indigenous-led initiatives and create spaces for learning and connection. From hosting *The Path of Two Rows Wampum* workshop to inspiring action through local and global connections, we're listening deeply, standing alongside, and helping people across Alberta become better neighbours—one step, one story, and one conversation at a time.

MIGRATION & RESETTLEMENT

MCC Alberta's Migration and Resettlement Program is deeply grateful for the opportunity to welcome 49 individuals from South Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Syria to their new homes in Brooks, Calgary, and Edmonton.

Thanks to the generous support of donors and sponsors, families were joyfully reunited, and new beginnings were made possible. We are especially thankful for the sponsors who commit their time, resources, and hearts to making a meaningful difference in the lives of those seeking refuge from conflict and instability.

Your partnership is bringing hope, stability, and a renewed sense of belonging to those who need it most.



“What a privilege to be in this peaceful country.”

RUTH KIFLAY, SPONSORED BY MCC FROM ERITREA

Ruth Kiflay enjoys her first snowfall in Calgary after moving through several countries on her refugee journey to Canada. (photo courtesy of Ruth Kiflay)



Scan the QR code to learn about Indigenous Neighbours workshops and experiences.



Scan the QR code to learn about refugee sponsorship.



You're supporting communities near and far

On March 26, 2024, the Edmonton MCC Thrift Shop officially opened, after 4500 hours of volunteer work and \$95,136 raised by donors. We are incredibly grateful to each and every donor and volunteer who helped bring our thrift shop to life. Your generous donations, time, and energy have created more than just a store—you've built a space that supports our community and brings people together.

Thank you for believing in our mission and for making this dream a reality. We couldn't have done it without you.



350

MCC Thrift
volunteers across Alberta

\$820,040

Contributed to international
programs

\$3,538,608

in Thrift revenue



*"I like to get up
Wednesday mornings
knowing I get to meet
my friends here."*

OLGA FRIESEN, TABER MCC THRIFT
SHOP VOLUNTEER

Mary Friesen, Elizebeth Fehr, Olga Friesen, Eliza Rogers,
Helena Reimer and Mina Froese at the Taber MCC Thrift
shop. (Photo courtesy of Eliza Rogers)

Scan the QR code to follow the journey of an item
at the Calgary MCC Thrift Shop. (MCC video/
Pablo Villarroel)



CONNECTIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

You're **building
bridges** of faith
and community

PARTNERING WITH CHURCHES

This year, MCC Alberta connected to the global church on Learning Tours to Rwanda and Colombia. In both places, Alberta participants saw the incredible ways that local church partners embody the heart and mind of Christ, in partnership with MCC. They came home inspired to share encouraging stories of the faith and work of the church. The sharing of resources, both material and spiritual, goes both ways!

MCC Alberta staff made over 208 personal connections to churches, including speaking engagements, phone calls, personalized reports and visits, workshops, and thank yous. The Relief Sale, *In Tune* event in Calgary, a summer inter-Mennonite worship service in Edmonton, and various fundraising and volunteer appreciation events are ways that MCC Alberta brings the church community together for fellowship.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community Engagement in Alberta has increased 40 percent from the previous year, connecting MCCA with evangelical churches, public schools and post-secondary institutions, community groups and campus ministries in Calgary, Edmonton, Medicine Hat, and Taber.

Forced to Flee is the number one requested presentation for students and young adults in the last year, offered in association with CFGB. In this interactive presentation, participants must make decisions as part of a forced displacement simulation. This presentation builds empathy and invites participants to engage in extending welcome to refugees and other newcomers to Canada. This presentation builds a connection to MCC's work and in the coming year will present next step opportunities to youth and young adults through material resources kit campaigns and volunteer opportunities.



*“For I was hungry and
you gave me food, I was
thirsty and you gave me
drink, I was a stranger
and you welcomed me,
I was naked and you
clothed me, I was sick
and you visited me, I
was in prison and you
came to me.”*

MATTHEW 25: 35-36

Alberta participants on a learning tour to Colombia in January. (Photo courtesy of Jose-Luis Moraga)



Richard Goertzen shows Jonathan Wai how to bale comforters at the MCC Alberta Material Resource Centre in Calgary. (MCC photo/ Linda Dickinson)

“We like coming to MCC and deciding how to match up books for school kits!”

KAYLEE AND CHLOE, MCC ALBERTA WAREHOUSE VOLUNTEERS

MATERIAL RESOURCES



You’re providing comfort to those in need

MCC Alberta expresses heartfelt gratitude to the many donors across the province who have generously contributed their time and resources.

This year, over 239 individuals shared their skills and abilities in support of Material Resources initiatives.

At the MCC Alberta Material Resource Centre in Calgary, volunteers dedicated more than 384 hours to sorting supplies, packing items, and preparing comforters for shipment.

Additional time was also spent quilting, assembling kits, and shopping for kit contents across the province.

Thanks to these collective efforts, more than 5,120 pencils, 2101 bars of soap and 284 safety pins were sent to the Central Canadian Warehouse in Ontario, en route to communities in Zambia, Malawi, and Ukraine—where these supplies are needed most.

Material resources shipped last year with your support:



640

School kits



75

Relief kits



71

Infant care kits



2101

Hygiene kits



1350

Comforters

FINANCES

We are immensely grateful for our donors, shoppers, and volunteers. Thanks to your generous support, MCC is able to share God’s love in practical ways with people around the world and right here in our home communities. Our Relief Sale raised \$104,150 for local & international programs, Grow Hope raised \$253,570, despite drought conditions across the province and \$213,529 was raised to aid those affected by conflict in Ukraine and Gaza. Complete audited financial statements are available at mcc.org.

TOTAL REVENUE:
\$7,635,096

Funding sources



TOTAL EXPENSES:
\$7,998,870

\$2,784,085
Forwarded to MCC Canada for
International Programs

\$792,818
Administration

\$473,024
Local Programs

\$2,933,523
Thrift

\$906,033
Development

\$109,387
Material Resources

