Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), a worldwide ministry of Anabaptist churches, shares God’s love and compassion for all in the name of Christ by responding to basic human needs and working for peace and justice. MCC envisions communities worldwide in right relationship with God, one another and creation.

Where we work Central States

The annual MCC Comforter Blitz happens in early March just outside of Yoder, Kansas. In 2017, 446 attenders from Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Mexico and Alberta worked together to complete 306 comforters.
IMMIGRATION

MCC is building partnerships for direct services, such as safehouses and legal aid, in Texas and along the U.S.-Mexico border. Hosting learning tours to explore the realities of immigration along the border is one way MCC is building understanding around complex immigration issues. We continue to collaborate with Anabaptist communities, Spanish- and English-speaking, in the Rio Grande Valley, creating space for future partnerships.

LOSS OF TURTLE ISLAND

A participatory learning experience

The current U.S. is part of what is known as Turtle Island by the Indigenous nations that were the original inhabitants of this land. In the learning experience, blankets represent the land and participants represent distinct Indigenous nations who experience colonization, genocide, broken treaties, forced removal, assimilation and termination, all in the spirit of the Doctrine of Discovery. MCC works to support the strength and genius of Indigenous people as they address injustices past and present.

KITS PROVIDE WELCOME

MCC kits help people transition from life in prison

In Kansas, men and women walk out of prison with $100 or less, the clothing on their backs and a bus ticket to wherever they have been paroled. With those resources, they need to find a place to live and food to eat, get valid identification so they can apply for employment and find support to keep them from returning to prison.

Working Men of Christ (WMOC) in Wichita helps returning citizens navigate these challenges by providing free housing for nine months, assisting them to find a church family and providing mentoring and accountability. MCC partners with WMOC to send a message of compassion by providing returning citizen care kits to the men and women WMOC supports. Volunteers donate the supplies—underwear, socks, undershirts and various hygiene supplies—and pack these new kits at MCC Central States Material Resources Center.

In September, a group of MCC Borderlands Learning Tour participants gathered in front of the U.S.-Mexico border wall. Erica Littlewolf of MCC Central States leads the exercise at MCC’s Welcoming Place in Akron, Pa.

BUILDING UP LEADERS

MCC’s young adult programs help develop leaders

Summer Service is a leadership program for young adults of color to serve in their local communities. MCC partners with constituent churches and related organizations that prioritize community development and encourage leadership development. Participants learn that when they give of themselves, they grow emotionally and spiritually.

"I learned an abundance about myself while being here in these short two months. The children are also benefiting because they get to learn about God..." Jamaris Cotton reflected about his experience at Mashulaville Dormitory in Macon, Mississippi.

Leadership skills are honed as young adults are responsible to lead a variety of activities. The program is six to 10 weeks long. Workers earn money while they serve.

Serving and Learning Together (SALT) and Seed enable young adults to serve with MCC internationally. SALT is a one-year option for single young adults between the ages of 18 and 30. Seed is a two-year program that brings together young adults between the ages of 20 and 30 from around the world to reflect, serve and work for peace.

International Volunteer Exchange Program (IVEP) is a one-year work and cultural exchange for young adults. Each year, 60 IVEP participants come from more than 25 countries to volunteer in the U.S. or Canada where they live with a local person or family.


MCC Central States executive director Michelle Armster, above, leads a gentrification tour in the neighborhood where DOOR Denver and MCC offices are located in Denver, Colo.