From our Executive Director

We thank you for helping us feed the hungry and meet the basic human needs of many around the globe. We are grateful to all of you who have given your resources, time, money, creativity and energy through meat canning, volunteering at thrift shops, relief sales, material resources and board service. Your generosity has allowed MCC to fully meet our budget and international commitment to our partners around the world.

At the end of 2013, the United Nations estimated that about 51 million people around the world had been forced to leave their homes by conflict. Today in Syria alone, 7.6 million people have been internally displaced and over 3.3 million are seeking refuge in neighboring countries. MCC and our partners continue to collaborate to meet the basic needs of these people who are scared, hungry, cold and unsure about their futures.

As Gordon Epp-Fransen, MCC Representative for Iran, Iraq and Jordan, said, “It is a privilege, a conflicted privilege to meet and visit with refugee families who are so destitute…and then go back to our plenty. Our lives are not worth more than theirs, and so we do need to step into their lives when we can…and then make sure their stories are told.”

We pray that Christ may grant strength to those living in refugee camps. And we pray for our supporters who embrace the responsibilities and blessings that come with giving.

Zenebe Abebe, Executive Director, MCC Great Lakes

Board members

Milton Borntrager (Chair)  Member-at-large
Jessica Camacho  Member-at-large
Philip Dick (Secretary)  Illinois Mennonite Conference
Joan Gerig  Member-at-large
Sabrina Gipson (Vice Chair)  African-American Mennonite Association
Rachel Kauffman  Ohio Mennonite Conference
Brenda Meyer  Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference
Haroldo Sérgio Martins Nunes  Iglesia Menonita Hispana
Sara Obri  Member-at-large
Willis Sommer (Treasurer)  Central District Conference
Cynthia Weisel  Brethren in Christ
Freeman Yoder (term ended Feb. 2015)  Conservative Mennonite Conference
Howard Yoder (term began Feb. 2015)  Conservative Mennonite Conference

I know what it is to be poor or to have plenty, and I have lived under all kinds of conditions. I know what it means to be full or to be hungry, to have too much or too little, Christ gives me the strength to face anything.

- Philippians 4:12-13
MCC Great Lakes Regional Staff (listed left to right)

Les Gustafson-Zook
Zenebe Abebe
Virgil Troyer
Joy Liechty Yoder
Joe Christophel
Eric Kurtz
Amber Falcón
Nadine Zook Miller
Jennifer Steiner
Jorge Vielman
Krista Dutt
Matthew Tschetter
Roberta Miller Yoder

Constituent Relations Coordinator
Executive Director
Material Resource Coordinator (Kidron)
Thrift Shops Coordinator
Donor Relations Coordinator
Assistant Director
Human Resources Coordinator
Material Resource Coordinator (Goshen)
Communications Coordinator
Peace & Justice Coordinator
Chicago Program/Illinois Church Relations
Donor Relations Associate (Ohio)
Executive Assistant/Accountant

MCC Great Lakes Appalachia Staff (listed left to right)

Jackie Joseph
Charlene & Keith Barr
Nicole & Steven Erickson
Colettia Estep
Dove & Carl Leinbach
Joan & Phil Steininger

MCC Appalachia Bookkeeper
MCC Appalachia Program Coordinators
SWAP Harlan Location Coordinators
MCC Appalachia Administrative Assistant
SWAP Elkhorn Location Coordinators
SWAP Hindman Location Coordinators
Despite the noise of lids being pounded on buckets and the baler pressing clothing, the volunteers visited, joked with each other and had a great time.

- Virgil Troyer, MCC Connections Material Resource Coordinator
It’s a good project, and everyone works together. Sometimes people just walk in because they see what’s going on.

- Jeff Lehman, Berne, Ind., meat canning committee chair

A true community effort
Berne meat canning brings people together and spreads their blessings

The MCC meat canning in Berne, Ind., is flourishing. In addition to the strong backing from First Mennonite Church where the canning takes place, two local Apostolic churches, an evangelical church and several Amish churches all support the program. They also have partnerships with two local high school FFA chapters and an alternative school to get young people involved.

Support has been so good, in fact, that the Berne committee recently partnered with the canning committee in Goshen, Ind., to share some of their financial resources. This collaboration enables the Goshen site to take advantage of their broad volunteer base and enables Berne to spread their funds.

More information about meat canning
canning.mcc.org

Volunteers of all ages help with the MCC meat canning at First Mennonite Church in Berne, Ind.
Regional relief sale highlights

Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale famous for cheesecakes

As with each of the seven relief sales in the Great Lakes region, the Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale is well-known throughout the area. Of course one of the highlights is the wide array of food. The pancake and sausage breakfast, homemade pies, fish and barbeque chicken dinner and whole hog sausage are always big draws. But the strawberry cheesecakes are on a level all their own. They are so sought after, that the last cake is auctioned off to the highest bidder, sometimes bringing as much as $150 for MCC.

According to Jess Slager, sale chair, it takes lots of volunteers to make the sale successful. The local Apostolic church has joined with the Mennonite churches, and local businesses donate lots of supplies.

More information about relief sales
reliefsales.mcc.org

2015 Great Lakes Relief Sales dates

Illinois Menn. Relief Sale - Bloomington, IL
March 20-21, 2015

Black Swamp Benefit - Wauseon, OH
June 19-20, 2015

Northern Michigan Relief Sale - Mio, MI
July 31-August 1, 2015

Ohio Menn. Relief Sale - Dalton, OH
July 31-August 1, 2015

Daviess County Relief Sale - Odon, IN
August 15, 2015

Arthur Menn. Relief Sale - Arthur, IL
August 28-29, 2015

Michiana Menn. Relief Sale - Goshen, IN
September 25-26, 2015

TOTAL funds to MCC
$1,111,554

Twenty years ago I decided to donate a week each year to the relief sale. I enjoy it, and it’s a way to serve the Lord.

- Jess Slager, Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale Chair

A wide array of foods are popular at the Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale, including their famous strawberry cheesecakes and pies. The last strawberry cheesecake is auctioned to the highest bidder each year during the auction.

Find us at mcc.org/greatlakes and on Facebook
I feel everyone has pulled together and worked really hard to get this shop up and running for the same common goal.

- Nadine Miller, manager of the Arthur MCC Thrift Shop
Building hope in Appalachia

SWAP’s home repair program has 30-year history

The roof of the house trailer where Barney Combs lived was leaking and the front door and flooring around it were rotted. Steps to the house were gone, as was the skirting. He had depleted his savings by purchasing and moving the trailer to his Hindman, Ky., home land, and his health prevented him from making repairs. The situation didn’t look hopeful.

But ten days after Sharing With Appalachia People (SWAP) staff visited Combs, SWAP received an unexpected financial gift that could be used in combination with a scheduled group of skilled volunteers. Two weeks later, all the necessary repairs had been made. Combs now has hope that he can live out his life on his family property.

More information about SWAP

swap.mcc.org

“Words cannot describe the look on his face or the choked sound of his voice as he told us we had been his last hope, and he never thought we would come back.”

- Joan Steininger, SWAP Hindman location coordinator

Find us at mcc.org/greatlakes and on Facebook
**IVEP is an excellent program that gives me the opportunity to learn, share about my country and meet other people from different countries and cultures.**

- Mbaidiro Taambaidjim, IVEP participant from Chad serving in Ohio

Mbaidiro Taambaidjim, from Chad, is participating in MCC’s International Volunteer Exchange (IVEP) Program. He works at an Amish organic food cooperative in Wayne County, Ohio.
April 1, 2014 - March 31, 2015

Contribution Income from Great Lakes
Constituents: $8,526,618

Contribution Dispersement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contribution Dispersement</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MCC Great Lakes allocation</td>
<td>$1,838,546</td>
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<tr>
<td>MCC U.S. allocation (for international programs and administration)</td>
<td>$6,685,072</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Great Lakes contributions</td>
<td>$8,523,618</td>
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*MCC received an unusually large estate gift from a Great Lakes donor during this fiscal year. Therefore contributions reported for our region are higher than normal. MCC U.S. and MCC Great Lakes are exploring ways to be good stewards of these unexpected funds over the next several years.*
Great Lakes Regional Expenses: $1,191,941 (preliminary and unaudited)

8% Other programs, including Peace & Justice
8% Material Resource Centers
18% Donor Relations
27% Regional Office
39% Appalachia

Great Lakes Funding Sources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Appalachia income</td>
<td>$299,197</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other income</td>
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<td>MCC Great Lakes allocation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total funds available</td>
<td>$2,138,863</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total expenses, FYE 2015</td>
<td>$1,191,941</td>
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<tr>
<td>Great Lakes reserve</td>
<td>$946,922</td>
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