From our Executive Director

My heart is filled with gratitude as I write this letter. I plan to retire at the end of July, and I am grateful to have had the opportunity for my path to cross with many of yours.

The trust and admiration you show for MCC continues to exceed my expectations. Your generosity of money, time and prayers has changed many lives. Most of our supporters do not get the opportunity to see the work of MCC firsthand around the globe, and yet you trust MCC and our staff. And we take your trust seriously. We are grateful for your faith in us as we strive to carry out the mission of MCC.

It’s amazing to look at what MCC accomplished last year. Over 1.9 million trees have been planted. MCC-supported education programs benefited 44,580 students. Over 250,000 people received food assistance. Employment trainings taught skills to 10,503 people. Over 13,500 people gained expertise in conflict transformation and peacebuilding. Improved water sources have been connected to 3,737 households.

As we outline in this report, the Great Lakes region is blessed by many of you who volunteer at meat canning sites, thrift shops, relief sales and material resources centers. Our financial report shows that we continue to balance our budget, and we are grateful for your support which enables us to meet our international partners’ commitments around the globe.

Thank you for your continued trust and support!

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
Howard Yoder                                      Conservative Mennonite Conference
Orley W. Yoder

Find us at mcc.org/greatlakes and on Facebook
MCC Great Lakes Staff (listed left to right)

Nadine Zook Miller
Jennifer Steiner
Matthew Tschetter
Jorge Vielman
Joe Christophel

Dove Leinbach
Zenebe Abebe
Amber Falcón
Carl Leinbach
Krista Dutt
Joy Liechty Yoder
Eric Kurtz
Roberta Miller Yoder
Angela Maggard
Nicole Erickson
Louisa Pirozzi-Erb
Steven Erickson
Peter Erb
Charlene Barr
Keith Barr
Les Gustafson-Zook (not pictured)
Laura Lerch Horst (not pictured)
Jackie Joseph (not pictured)
Virgil Troyer (not pictured)

Material Resources Coordinator (Goshen)
Communications Coordinator
Donor Relations Associate (Ohio)
Peace & Justice Coordinator
Former Donor Relations Coordinator (retired Dec. 2015)
SWAP Elkhorn Location Coordinator
Executive Director
Human Resources Coordinator
SWAP Elkhorn Location Coordinator
Chicago Program/Illinois Church Relations
Thrift Shops Coordinator
Assistant Director
Executive Assistant/Accountant
MCC Appalachia Administrative Assistant
SWAP Harlan Location Coordinator
SWAP Hindman Location Coordinator
SWAP Harlan Location Coordinator
SWAP Hindman Location Coordinator
MCC Appalachia Program Coordinator
MCC Appalachia Program Coordinator
Constituent Relations Coordinator
Donor Relations Coordinator
MCC Appalachia Bookkeeper
Material Resources Coordinator (Kidron)
Guilford and Eve Zook recently retired from coordinating the Congerville, Ill., drop-off site for MCC material resources. The Zook have volunteered their time for over 50 years.

### Everyone doing their part

Dedicated volunteers coordinate drop-off site for over 50 years

The two MCC material resources centers in Kidron, Ohio, and Goshen, Ind., are well known as places where kits are assembled. But there are also other locations throughout the Great Lakes region that serve as drop-off sites for donated kit supplies.

Guilford and Eve Zook have coordinated the drop-off site located in Congerville, Ill., for over 50 years. This included helping churches and individuals unload donations, maintaining the building, keeping up the grounds, managing finances and countless other tasks.

“Our continued work gave churches in the area a much more convenient place to donate kits and blankets to MCC,” said Nadine Zook Miller, Material Resources Coordinator in Goshen.

---

It has been very gratifying to know the MCC relief items helped so many people in so many countries.

- Guilford & Eve Zook, long-time volunteers with material resources

### 2015-16 donations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kits</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School Kits</td>
<td>10,670</td>
<td>$65,194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hygiene Kits</td>
<td>5,800</td>
<td>$31,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relief Kits</td>
<td>2,310</td>
<td>$97,020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infant Care Kits</td>
<td>768</td>
<td>$22,387</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sewing Kits</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>$2,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blankets &amp; Comforters</td>
<td>1,740</td>
<td>$35,113</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL estimated value of donations**: $254,364

**Volunteer hours**: 4,378

---

More information about material resources [mcc.org/kits]

---

Find us at [mcc.org/greatlakes](http://mcc.org/greatlakes) and on Facebook
2015-16 Great Lakes Meat Canning
Kidron, OH
13,851 cans of turkey
Middlefield, OH
9,105 cans of chicken
Freeport, IL
18,007 cans of chicken
Goshen, IN
45,374 cans of turkey
Montgomery, IN
12,400 cans of chicken
Berne, IN
7,256 cans of turkey
Berlin, OH
15,899 cans of turkey
Spartansburg, PA
16,823 cans of chicken
TOTAL cans of turkey
82,380
TOTAL cans of chicken
56,335

MCC operated a brand new mobile cannery during the 2015-2016 season.

Feeding hungry people
New mobile meat cannery streamlines the process

The MCC mobile meat cannery is brand new for the 2015-2016 canning season. With the first new equipment since 1993, the new cannery streamlines the meat preparation process and controls.

Although it looks similar to the last model in appearance, new features include adding salt to each can of meat individually instead of to a large kettle of meat. Computerized boiler and steam controls also assure the meat is heated precisely in one process, so volunteers will no longer need to preheat and stir meat.

Thanks to donations, the new cannery is completely paid off, and dedicated volunteers continue their role in feeding hungry people.

More information about meat canning
canning.mcc.org

The new mobile cannery has an increased capacity, and with this, we hope to make the days more flexible for our volunteers.

- John Hillegass, MCC U.S. Meat Canning and Trucking Manager
Celebrating 50 years
Northern Michigan Relief Sale brings community together

Even though the Northern Michigan Relief Sale in Mio, Mich., isn’t located in a heavily Mennonite area, 2016 will mark 50 years of strong community support. “The sale provides a way for residents of northern Michigan to connect to the rest of the world,” said Carl Dube, one of the sale’s organizers. “It’s an opportunity to see what God can do with the efforts of even a few faithful people.”

To celebrate the 50th sale, there will be a memories booth to look back at early years of the sale, as well as special items commemorating the milestone. Buddy Greene will perform a special live concert on Friday evening.

More information about relief sales
reliefsales.mcc.org

One thing that all of the leadership and volunteers try to remember when planning and preparing for the sale is that it is not our sale - it’s God’s sale.

- Carl Dube,
Northern Michigan Relief Sale Chair

2016 Great Lakes Relief Sales dates
Illinois Menn. Relief Sale - Bloomington, IL
March 18-19, 2016
Black Swamp Benefit - Wauseon, OH
June 17-18, 2016
Northern Michigan Relief Sale - Mio, MI
August 5-6, 2016
Ohio Menn. Relief Sale - Wooster, OH
August 5-6, 2016
Daviess County Relief Sale - Odon, IN
August 20, 2016
Arthur Menn. Relief Sale - Arthur, IL
August 26-27, 2016
Michiana Menn. Relief Sale - Goshen, IN
September 23-24, 2016
TOTAL funds to MCC in 2015
$1,036,186

Find us at mcc.org/greatlakes and on Facebook
People see this as a safe place. For some people I meet this ‘coffee corner’ has become a ‘pastor’s corner.’

- Darrell Ediger, MCC Connections Thrift Shop volunteer

More information about thrift shops
thrift.mcc.org

More than a place to shop
Coffee corner offers a place for conversation and prayer

“Would you like a homemade cookie?” Darell Ediger tries to greet each person who comes into MCC Connections Thrift Shop in Kidron, Ohio, with this inviting message. About a year ago, Ediger, a retired pastor, was asked to serve coffee and greet people two mornings a week. Ediger’s daughter and granddaughter provide cookies each week, a total of over 2,500 cookies so far.

Ediger’s mission is simple - to make people feel welcome and to invite conversation. “Each morning I pray ‘Holy Spirit, fill this Coffee Corner with Your loving presence,’” said Ediger. “And that’s what happens. No day or week is ever the same!”

Whether it’s the regulars who visit each week or people just stopping through town, the corner is filled with lots of laughter, sharing and even prayer.

More than a place to shop
Coffee corner offers a place for conversation and prayer

“Would you like a homemade cookie?” Darell Ediger tries to greet each person who comes into MCC Connections Thrift Shop in Kidron, Ohio, with this inviting message. About a year ago, Ediger, a retired pastor, was asked to serve coffee and greet people two mornings a week. Ediger’s daughter and granddaughter provide cookies each week, a total of over 2,500 cookies so far.

Ediger’s mission is simple - to make people feel welcome and to invite conversation. “Each morning I pray ‘Holy Spirit, fill this Coffee Corner with Your loving presence,’” said Ediger. “And that’s what happens. No day or week is ever the same!”

Whether it’s the regulars who visit each week or people just stopping through town, the corner is filled with lots of laughter, sharing and even prayer.

More information about thrift shops
thrift.mcc.org

Arthur MCC Thrift Shop - Arthur, IL
Care & Share Thrift Shop - Archbold, OH
Country Closet - Plain City, OH
Depot MCC Thrift Shops - Goshen, IN
The Dove’s Nest Thrift Shop - Fort Wayne, IN
Et Cetera Ecke - Berne, IN
Et Cetera Shop & Book Reviews - Bluffton, OH
Eureka Et Cetera Shop - Eureka, IL
Hartville Thrift Shoppe - Hartville, OH
MCC Connections - Kidron, OH
MCC Thrift Shop - West Liberty, OH
Save & Serve Thrift Shop - Millersburg, OH
Spare & Share Shoppe - Gridley, IL
TOTAL funds to MCC in 2015-2016
$2,979,383
Building relationships

SWAP volunteers and homeowners lift each other up

While most volunteer groups come to work with SWAP (Sharing With Appalachian People) for a week during the summer, a group of students from Eastern Mennonite University volunteered at SWAP in March during their spring break. In addition to the typical home repair work and learning about the culture of Appalachia, the group was made aware of a prayer request for a homeowner.

Despite them not working directly with the homeowner, the students took it upon themselves to go visit her to sing and pray with her. The homeowner said it was a blessing during a time of discouragement, and the students clearly saw God in this time of relationship building.

More information about SWAP

swap.mcc.org

Talk about mutually transforming. We praise God for opening people’s hearts to the needs of others, even strangers.

- Dove Leinbach, SWAP Elkhorn location coordinator

2015 SWAP volunteers

Elkhorn, WV
14 groups
168 volunteers

Harlan, KY
22 groups
384 volunteers

Hindman, KY
11 groups
184 volunteers

TOTAL groups
47

TOTAL volunteers
736

Summer staff
(including SOOP and short-term volunteers)
32

Households served
65
Teaching has given me plenty of opportunities to reflect on how children work and on life in general.

- Cara Paden, SALT participant in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe

Great Lakes constituents serving around the world

SALT program offers service opportunities for young adults

MCC is grateful for the service of the dedicated individuals and families who are serving with MCC both locally and around the world.

Cara Paden, from Belmont Mennonite Church in Elkhart, Ind., spent a year in Bulwayo, Zimbabwe with the SALT (Serving and Learning Together) program. Despite not having taught children in a school setting previously, Paden found herself teaching music to young children.

“Creativity serves the teacher’s needs in realms where resources lack and situations do not go as planned,” she said. While it was a challenge, Paden learned from other teachers and discovered how to best engage the children.

More information about serving with MCC serve.mcc.org

Students practice playing their recorders in a music class taught by SALTer Cara Paden in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.
Contribution Income from Great Lakes Constituents: $7,849,541

Contribution Income Disbursement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MCC Great Lakes allocation</td>
<td>$1,441,221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCC U.S. allocation (for international programs and administration)</td>
<td>$6,408,320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Great Lakes contributions</td>
<td>$7,849,541</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Great Lakes Regional Expenses: $1,476,138 (preliminary and unaudited)

Great Lakes Funding Sources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Appalachia income</td>
<td>$249,410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other program income</td>
<td>$3,990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCC Great Lakes allocation</td>
<td>$1,441,221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total funds available</td>
<td>$1,694,621</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenses, FYE 2016</strong></td>
<td><strong>($1,476,138)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Lakes reserve</td>
<td>$218,483</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>