Greetings from MCC Great Lakes

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.

As I complete my second year as Executive Director for MCC Great Lakes, I am grateful to the Board of Directors for their leadership and to the staff for their continued commitment to the vision of MCC. Much appreciation goes to our supportive constituencies, without whom we can’t do this important work.

There have been several important administrative developments in the past year. First, with good leadership and support from the Board, MCC Great Lakes is now incorporated and has been granted 501(c)(3) status by the Internal Revenue Service. This entitles us to certain benefits, including tax exemptions and eligibility for grants.

Second, MCC Great Lakes has now developed a multi-year strategic plan, which has been reviewed and approved by the Board at their October 2012 meeting. This integrated plan will replace our annual program plans going forward.

The staff continues to stay informed about issues around the world by listening to experiences from returning service workers and administrators. This year we had the privilege to meet with SALTers who served in Palestine/Jerusalem and Ethiopia and service workers from Uganda, Honduras, the Middle East, the Caribbean and Guatemala. We also had Congolese visitors who told stories from their organization’s long history working with MCC. These conversations continually prove to be both educational and energizing to our regional work.

Despite the economic slowdown in our Great Lakes region, we are blessed to be able keep expenses on target and meet our budget because of committed and loyal MCC Great Lakes constituents, Board and staff.

We are grateful to the congregations and individuals who sustain MCC both financially and with your prayer support. Thank you for all the ways you are involved in thrift shops, relief sales, meat canning and material resources.

We have enjoyed making connections with some of you through our visits with congregations, and we look forward to building on those connections in the future. Thank you for joining with us in MCC’s mission of sharing God’s love and compassion for all.

In the name of Christ,

Zenebe Abebe
Executive Director
Mennonite Central Committee Great Lakes
Annual Report 2012-2013
for MCC Great Lakes

Material Resources............................................................2
Meat Canning....................................................................3
Relief Sales........................................................................4
Thrift Shops.......................................................................5
MCC Great Lakes Appalachia....................................6 - 7
MCC Great Lakes Around the World..............................8 - 9
Contribution Income Report...........................................10
Expense Report..................................................................11
MCC Great Lakes Board................................................12
MCC Great Lakes Staff...................................................13
Ada Short has sewn over 10,000 drawstring bags for MCC which are used for school, hygiene and sewing kits.

Material Resources

Imagine what 10,200 drawstring bags might look like. That’s how many school, hygiene and sewing kit bags Ada Short, from Archbold, Ohio, has sewn for MCC since 2001.

Short got started sewing bags for MCC material resources with her sewing group at Central Mennonite Church. Twelve years ago, she decided to get more involved and began sewing the kit bags in her home. According to Short, she can make ten or more bags on a given day. And she diligently records each bag in a notebook she keeps nearby.

“I always like to sew, and I have time to do what I want to do,” said Short, who is 92 years old. The material she uses comes from MCC relief sale auctions, drapery stores or Care & Share Thrift Shop.

She listens to a lot of music while she sews, but she also likes the quiet sometimes. “When I’m sewing the kit bags, I often think of the boys and girls who will receive them and lift them up in prayer,” said Short.

MCC is grateful to the many people like Short who volunteer their time to sew, sort and pack kits, as well as those who donate the supplies.

For more information about MCC material resources and how you can get involved, visit mcc.org/kits.

2012 Great Lakes Material Resource Donations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material Resources</th>
<th>Donations</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School Kits</td>
<td>27,322</td>
<td>$136,610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hygiene Kits</td>
<td>3,918</td>
<td>$21,549</td>
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<tr>
<td>Relief Kits</td>
<td>1,039</td>
<td>$24,936</td>
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<td>Infant Care Kits</td>
<td>827</td>
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<td>Sewing Kits</td>
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<td>AIDS Caregiver Kits</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>$240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blankets and Comforters</td>
<td>2,825</td>
<td>$46,161</td>
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<tr>
<td>Towels</td>
<td>265</td>
<td>$1,428</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheets</td>
<td>342</td>
<td>$2,380</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Estimated value of donations in 2012: $250,005

Estimated value of donations in 2011: $351,020

Volunteer hours in 2012: 4,145

Volunteer hours in 2011: 4,413
Meat Canning

2011-2012 Great Lakes Meat Canning Season

Middlefield, Ohio
8,869 cans of turkey

Kidron, Ohio
11,243 cans of turkey

Montgomery, Indiana
9,839 cans of turkey

Freeport, Illinois
11,117 cans of turkey

Goshen, Indiana
37,137 cans of turkey

Berlin, Ohio
15,266 cans of turkey

Spartansburg, Pennsylvania
15,979 cans of turkey

Berne, Indiana
6,377 cans of turkey

Total cans of turkey for MCC from Great Lakes in 2011-2012: 115,827

Total cans of turkey for MCC from Great Lakes in 2010-2011: 132,241

The MCC meat canning program has a way of bringing people together from all ages and backgrounds. In the midst of producing 115,827 cans of turkey in our region last year, there was plenty of time for conversation and laughter with friends both old and new.

Eddie Martin, a sixteen-year-old from Goshen, Indiana, decided to get in on the action with some others from his home congregation of Benton Mennonite Church. “I helped with the canning because I enjoy working at The Depot and meeting new people,” said Martin. It was an added bonus that he got out of school classes for the day in order to help.

“It was a great environment with lots of willing people from different backgrounds to socialize with,” he said. “And there was an absolutely delicious lunch.”

It takes thousands of volunteers, along with dedicated local canning committees, for the MCC meat canning program to be successful. Not to mention generous donations from individuals and churches that cover the costs for the turkey and operating the canner. The canned meat produced in Great Lakes and throughout the U.S. and Canada helps provide much-needed protein to those who receive it.

For more information on meat canning and to find out when the canner will be in your area, visit canning.mcc.org.
If you’ve ever been to an MCC relief sale, you know Penny Power is a key component. The Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale in Kidron, Ohio, has made a concerted effort to grow their Penny Power program.

Three men from Kidron Mennonite Church embraced the challenge and formed a committee to encourage their congregation to get more involved. For five Sundays beginning in July, the children’s time was focused on stories about water, including hands on activities with a water pump and wishing well. Children collected their pennies and coins throughout the week.

But it wasn’t just the children who got excited about the project. The committee decided to challenge the adults in the congregation to match what was collected - from 25-cents for every dollar, all the way up to a full dollar-for-dollar match.

Trying to build on their previous year’s total of $1,000, the committee set out to collect $4,000 in regular donations. Their hope was that with the matching pledges, they might reach their lofty total goal of $15,000. With the support of their pastor, Carl Wiebe, the congregation blew by their goal and raised over $30,000. “It was unbelievable!” said one of the committee members. “We had some fun with it, too. We can’t expect this every year, but we’re certainly going to try!”

For resources to encourage your congregation to get more involved in Penny Power, visit pennypower.org. For more information about MCC relief sales, visit reliefsales.mcc.org.

**MCC Relief Sales in the Great Lakes region**

**Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale**  
March 15-16, 2013  
Bloomington, Illinois

**Black Swamp Benefit**  
June 14-15, 2013  
Wauseon, Ohio

**Northern Michigan Relief Sale**  
August 2-3, 2013  
Mio, Michigan

**Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale**  
August 2-3, 2013  
Kidron, Ohio

**Daviess County Relief Sale**  
August 16-17, 2013  
Odon, Indiana

**Arthur Mennonite Relief Sale**  
August 23-24, 2013  
Arthur, Illinois

**Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale**  
September 27-28, 2013  
Goshen, Indiana

**Total funds from Great Lakes relief sales given to MCC in 2012: $999,628**

**Total funds from Great Lakes relief sales given to MCC in 2011: $949,554**

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Penny Power involves people of all ages collecting coins and other donations for MCC’s water and food projects. Some congregations have initiated their own matching grants to increase their donations at their local relief sales.
Board members help with the ribbon cutting at the dedication for the new Spare & Share Shoppe building in Gridley, Illinois.

The past year has been an exciting one for Spare & Share Shoppe in Gridley, Illinois. In the middle of November, the shop moved into their newly constructed building which doubled their space.

But the move wasn’t without glitches. Rolland Lowen, president of the thrift shop board, passed away early in the process. A dedicated leader and visionary, this was a huge blow. Delays in paperwork also meant the construction dates kept getting pushed back farther and farther.

Katie Martin, manager of the thrift shop, was the energetic force behind the move. When it seemed like they wouldn’t meet their opening day deadline, she said, “We’re a go...no matter what!” Martin spent a lot of time getting fixtures from stores who were going out of business. And in the midst of the move, the Martin’s garage turned into a makeshift storage center for donations waiting to go into the new store.

The dedication for the new building was held on November 17, followed by an open house and shopping. In just two hours, the shop had $1,100 in sales! Sales continue to be higher in the first few months in the new space. “Everybody that walks in the door for the first time just stands there and says ‘Oh my goodness, this is beautiful!’” said Martin.

The amazing thing about this whole process is that Spare & Share has had no paid employees in their 30 year history. MCC is grateful to volunteers like these who give so much time and energy to raise money for MCC in thrift shops throughout the Great Lakes region.

For more information about MCC thrift shops, visit thrift.mcc.org.
When lunch lady Billie Noe would give a huge plate of spaghetti and extra fries to Harlan (Ky.) Independent High School basketball player Anne Corey Johnson, she never expected that a few years later Johnson would be climbing over the roof of her house to fix a few things.

Johnson, now a junior at Asbury University, spent four weeks last summer coordinating a crew of volunteers who repaired and improved Noe’s house so that her husband, Robert, who has diabetes and congestive heart failure, can maneuver in his electric wheelchair.

The youth and adults, who were volunteering with Sharing with Appalachian People (SWAP), a home repair program, added a carport and a roofed back porch and replaced the rotting kitchen floor. But just as important to Noe as the home improvements are the relationships built in the process. As the crew worked, Noe fostered those connections with food like fried chicken, cornbread, mac and cheese and applesauce cake, served with a heaping helping of conversation.

“These groups have been my godsend,” Noe said in July. “When they leave on Friday, I feel like my kids are leaving. I got their addresses so I can send them Christmas cards. I robbed the bees yesterday so that I can give them honey. It’s amazing that they give up their time with what they could do at home, to come and help strangers – but we’re not strangers when they leave.”

Volunteers, predominantly from churches in eastern U.S., have been coming to Appalachia every summer since 1985 to work with SWAP. Last summer, 868 volunteers worked on 80 houses at SWAP’s four locations, also including Hindman and Eolia, Kentucky, and Elkhorn.
For information about bringing a group to SWAP or serving as summer staff, visit swap.mcc.org or call (606) 633-5065.

Check out photos and updates on the SWAP Facebook page: facebook.com/MCCAppalachiaSWAP.

MCC Great Lakes Appalachia

Homeowner Elma de la Cruz, right, and Kenneth Moyer, First Mennonite Church of Champaign - Urbana youth sponsor, laugh with Chloe Schrieber, left, as she tries to untangle an extension cord during a week volunteering at SWAP in Harlan, Kentucky. As the youth put a sloped roof over Cruz’s house, she befriended many of the volunteers.

West Virginia. Each site is directed year-round by MCC workers who live in the community and meet with potential homeowners to assess requests for repairs. The goal of each project is for each home to be “warm, safe and dry,” a refrain repeated by Harlan SWAP directors Carrie Anne Billett, York, Pa., and Heather Lee Gross, Harlan.

It was relationships with Harlan youth that helped draw Berlin (Ohio) Mennonite Church youth group leaders Joy and Tim Zuercher back to SWAP. After they brought a different youth group from Illinois to Harlan four years ago, they maintained Facebook friendships with several local youth from Harlan Christian Church, including Anne Corey Johnson.

Joy Zuercher remembers how the Harlan teens challenged stereotypes the volunteers had of people living in Appalachia. “They (Harlan teens) were educated, liked to have fun and liked to play football. They whined about the fact that there’s nothing to do on Friday night, just like us in our rural area. It helped our kids to realize by hanging out with them, that we’re all very, very similar.”

At the local lumberyard where SWAP buys most of its supplies, part-owner Aimee Blanton said she is grateful for SWAP, not just for their business, but for the way they relate to the community. “It’s like this is their home,” Blanton said. “They have a vested interest in helping the families because this is their home. They’ve built relationships with the community that help in general. SWAP, they come in and they’re just us.”

- Linda Espenshade
MCC strives to share 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 is grateful to the many people who serve with MCC, whether within the United States and Canada or internationally. MCC works in about 60 countries around the world, with over 1,000 people serving with MCC.

A number of these people are from right here in the Great Lakes region. The map above highlights areas of the world where MCC workers from Great Lakes are currently located. Some of these individuals are serving in long-term international placements or are young adults participating in SALT (Serving And Learning Together). Others are regional staff or Appalachia service workers.

These MCCers are involved in a wide range of activities such as conflict transformation, community development, food security and HIV/AIDS education.

Service with MCC is one way to put your faith in action. To learn more about serving with MCC and to see current service opportunities, visit serve.mcc.org.
Petronellar Mathe steams clothing donations at The Depot MCC Thrift Shops in Goshen, where she worked as part of IVEP last year.

Petronellar Mathe, from Zimbabwe, participated in MCC’s International Volunteer Exchange Program (IVEP) in 2011-2012. She lived in Goshen, Indiana, and worked for MCC Great Lakes in the regional office, material resource center and The Depot MCC Thrift Shops.

My service year was filled with a lot of inspiration. I was welcomed into my host families with much joy and love, and the community embraced me as one of their own. Making new friends with people from all over the world was one of the unforgettable experiences. Today when I hear about wars or natural disasters in other countries, I think about my dear friends who might be affected. The globe is so big, but yet so small.

As I was working in the office, I learned work ethics from my colleagues. But it was when I was working with other volunteers at the material resource center and thrift store that I found my long forgotten dreams. The volunteers inspired me to become the best I can be. The joy, laughter and smiles that we shared as we worked will forever be cherished.

I can’t fail to mention all the fun and refreshing moments - First Fridays, contra dancing, the MCC relief sale, traveling and many other social events. These made me share a smile and shake hands with strangers, sharing my experiences and learning more about the culture.

This kind of experience is invaluable; one cannot trade it for anything. I am and will forever be grateful that I got a chance to participate in this program. I will forever cherish the memories!

- Petronellar Mathe
We are grateful for the many ways you contribute financially to the work of MCC, whether by direct donations, by giving through your congregation or conference, by participating in relief sales or by shopping at MCC thrift shops. On behalf of our many partners and programs around the world, we sincerely thank you.

Below is a graph of the contributions from the Great Lakes region for the first nine months of the 2012-2013 fiscal year.

Total contribution income through December 2012: $4,377,767
We appreciate the trust that you give to us an organization, and we continue to work hard to be good stewards of the donations we receive.

Below is a graph of the total expenses for MCC Great Lakes in the first nine months of the 2012-2013 fiscal year.

YTD Expenses for MCC Great Lakes
April 2012 - December 2012

Through December 2012, we received program income of $334,166 to support the work of MCC Great Lakes.

Total expenses through December 2012: $902,008
Annual budget for FYE March 31, 2013: $1,251,393
MCC Great Lakes Board

Milton Borntrager
Vice Chair, Incoming Chair
Member-at-large
Louisville, KY
Feb. 2011 - Feb. 2014 (Term 1)

Philip Dick
Incoming Secretary
Illinois Conference
Bloomington, IL
July 2007 - Feb. 2013 (Term 2)

Joan Gerig
Member-at-large
Chicago, IL
Feb. 2012 - Feb. 2015 (Term 1)

Sabrina Gipson
Incoming Vice Chair
African-American Mennonite Association
Elkhart, IN
Oct. 2011 - Feb. 2014 (Term 1)

Conrado Grimolizzi-Jensen
Ohio
Wauseon, OH
Sept. 2004 - Feb. 2013 (Term 3)

Rachel Kauffman
Ohio Conference
Bellefontaine, OH
Feb. 2009 - Feb. 2015 (Term 2)

Brenda Meyer
Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference
Millersburg, IN
July 2007 - Feb. 2013 (Term 2)

Rod Meyer
Treasurer
Fellowship of Evangelical Churches
Albany, IN
July 2010 - Feb. 2013 (Term 1)

Haroldo Sergio Martins Nunes
Iglesia Menonita Hispana
Apple Creek, OH
Feb. 2012 - Feb. 2015 (Term 1)

Sara Joy N Obri
Member-at-large
Cleveland Heights, OH
Feb. 2011 - Feb. 2014 (Term 1)

Claude Schrock
Chair
Member-at-large
Grabill, IN
July 2004 - Feb. 2013 (Term 3)

Missy Kauffman Schrock
Indiana
Goshen, IN
July 2007 - Feb. 2013 (Term 2)

Willis Sommer
Central District Conference
Bluffton, OH
Oct. 2012 - Feb. 2015 (Term 1)

Cynthia Weisel
Brethren in Christ
Morrison, IL
July 2009 - Feb. 2015 (Term 2)

Freeman E. Yoder
Conservative Conference
Goshen, IN
Feb. 2012 - Feb. 2015 (Term 1)

Joyce Yoder
Secretary
Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA)
Bryan, OH
March 2007 - Feb. 2013 (Term 2)
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