From our Executive Director

Stories that start at the other side of the world suddenly become our stories. “Relief, development and peace in the name of Christ” triggers our human response as it links to our faith.

This past year, individuals, churches, service workers and local volunteers were moved to respond at meat canning events, thrift shops, relief sales, material resource centers and in their own homes and congregations.

The ongoing crisis in Syria with millions of refugees in Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey, along with the typhoon in the Philippines, moved us to our core. You responded through your prayers, with your finances and by sending kits and blankets to meet humanitarian needs. Even children in our region responded in a significant way through Penny Power activities at many of our relief sales.

MCC Great Lakes Board members and staff work tirelessly, and their commitment to MCC work has never been stronger. Their hard work and support keep the mission of MCC alive.

As outlined on the last several pages of this annual report, you generously contributed to our annual income to help us meet our financial goals. We balanced our operating budget by keeping expenses under budget.

We thank you for your prayers, financial support and time. We are blessed by your faith and generosity.

Zenebe Abebe, Executive Director, MCC Great Lakes

Board members

Milton Borntrager (Chair)
Philip Dick (Secretary)
Joan Gerig
Sabrina Gipson (Vice Chair)
Rachel Kauffman
Brenda Meyer
Haroldo Sérgio Martins Nunes
Sara Obri
Willis Sommer (Treasurer)
Cynthia Weisel
Freeman Yoder

Member-at-large
Illinois Mennonite Conference
Member-at-large
African-American Mennonite Association
Ohio Conference
Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference
Iglesia Menonita Hispana
Member-at-large
Central District Conference
Brethren in Christ
Conservative Mennonite Conference

Find us at greatlakes.mcc.org and on Facebook
Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) is a worldwide ministry of Anabaptist churches sharing 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 has workers or financial commitments in more than 60 countries around the world, including the U.S. and Canada.

MCC is working right here in the Great Lakes region. We at MCC Great Lakes are grateful for the dedicated volunteers, donors, staff and board who serve and give generously. Thank you for partnering with MCC!

Staff members

Zenebe Abebe  Executive Director
Charlene & Keith Barr  MCC Appalachia Program Coordinators
Carrie Billet  SWAP Harlan Location Coordinator
Joe Christophel  Donor Relations Coordinator
Nicole & Steven Erickson  SWAP Harlan Location Coordinators
Colettia Estep  MCC Appalachia Administrative Assistant
Heather Gross  SWAP Harlan Location Coordinator
Les Gustafson-Zook  Constituent Relations Coordinator
Roy Jiménez  Donor Relations Associate
Jackie Joseph  MCC Appalachia Bookkeeper
Carl & Dove Leinbach  SWAP Elkhorn Location Coordinators
Roberta Miller  Executive Assistant/Accountant
Jennifer Steiner  Communications Coordinator
Joan & Phil Steininger  SWAP Hindman Location Coordinators
Virgil Troyer  Material Resource Center Director (Kidron)
Jorge Vielman  Peace & Justice Coordinator
Joy Liechty Yoder  Thrift Shops Coordinator
Marlin Yoder  Donor Relations Associate
Nadine Zook Miller  Material Resource Coordinator (Goshen)
Helping hands reach around the world

Volunteers are key in MCC Material Resource Centers

Each year, volunteers donate thousands of hours in the two MCC Material Resource Centers in the Great Lakes region. They perform a variety of tasks, from taping pencils for school kits, to folding and baling comforters, to filling relief kit buckets.

Wayne Sommers, who is 91 years old, is one of these volunteers. He and Mike Yoder are part of a group that can be found each Tuesday morning at The Depot Material Resource Center in Goshen, Ind. Sommers and Yoder have become a well-oiled machine, working together to pack school and hygiene kits into boxes for shipping. The two have developed a close relationship, while volunteering their time.

Volunteering gives me something worthwhile to do. As long as the Lord gives me strength, I’ll continue to do it.

- Wayne Sommers, 91 year-old volunteer

More information about material resources
mcc.org/kits

2013-14 donations

School Kits
28,514 kits ($142,570)

Hygiene Kits
7,469 kits ($41,079)

Relief Kits
1,422 kits ($59,724)

Infant Care Kits
595 kits ($11,305)

Sewing Kits
125 kits ($2,500)

AIDS Caregiver Kits
18 kits ($720)

Blankets & Comforters
2,067 blankets ($33,072)

Towels
313 towels ($1,565)

Sheets
64 sheets ($448)

Soap
970 bars ($485)

TOTAL estimated value of donations
$293,468

Volunteer hours
4,798

Find us at greatlakes.mcc.org and on Facebook
Canning in the cold
Illinois volunteers brave bitter weather to help others

During the two days the MCC mobile meat canner was stationed at Freeport (Ill.) Mennonite Church, temperatures ranged between zero to 24 below, with dangerous wind chills down to 43 below. Although the weather presented challenges with fog on the canner, volunteers made the best of the situation and worked around the clock to can 25,500 pounds of turkey in only two days.

While the weather kept some volunteers away, it enabled children with cancelled school to add their enthusiasm to the multi-generational event.

The MCC meat canner made eight stops throughout the Great Lakes region last year, relying on the help of dedicated local canning committees and thousands of volunteers.

Read more about meat canning
canning.mcc.org

I grew up canning, and now my children are doing the same. This project is something we can do as a family to help reach out to those in need.

- Chad Weber, Freeport, Ill., meat canning committee

2013-14 Great Lakes Meat Canning
Kidron, OH
14,202 cans of turkey
Middlefield, OH
9,016 cans of turkey
Freeport, IL
14,014 cans of turkey
Goshen, IN
42,972 cans of turkey
Montgomery, IN
10,140 cans of turkey
Berne, IN
6,552 cans of turkey
Berlin, OH
16,783 cans of turkey
Spartansburg, PA
16,330 cans of turkey
TOTAL cans of turkey
130,009

(From left to right) Paige Weber, 12, Ethan Graybill, 11, and Faith Weber, 10, helped pack cans of meat in Freeport, Ill., on their day off school.
Relief sales take on local flavor
Black Swamp Benefit holds first BSB Jam concert

Each of the seven relief sales throughout the Great Lakes region has its own flavor, from food to activities. This past year, the Black Swamp Benefit in Wauseon, Ohio, added a new element to their annual sale traditions.

For the first time they hosted BSB Jam, a Christian music concert, featuring popular artists Brandon Heath, Seth Abram Bible and the group Citizen Way. According to Ron Short, chairman of the Black Swamp Benefit, almost 1,000 people attended the concert in the grandstand at the Fulton County Fairgrounds.

With the goal to attract a younger audience and people who had not attend the relief sale in the past, organizers deemed it a success and will host the second annual event in 2014.

More information about relief sales
reliefsales.mcc.org

"There were more people than I expected, and the support for our first year was great. It’s a lot of work, but a lot of fun, too!"
- Jason Mansfield, BSB Jam organizer

2014 Great Lakes Relief Sales

Illinois Menn. Relief Sale - Bloomington, IL
March 14-15, 2014

Black Swamp Benefit - Wauseon, OH
June 20-21, 2014

Northern Michigan Relief Sale - Mio, MI
August 1-2, 2014

Ohio Menn. Relief Sale - Kidron, OH
August 1-2, 2014

Daviess County Relief Sale - Odon, IN
August 16, 2014

Arthur Menn. Relief Sale - Arthur, IL
August 22-23, 2014

Michiana Menn. Relief Sale - Goshen, IN
September 26-27, 2014

TOTAL funds given to MCC
$1,073,598
My grandparents spent countless hours and days working at the thrift shop. They left a legacy for our family, and there are many others in our community who have done the same.

- Kurt Stutzman, bank manager
Fifty years and counting
Appalachia program continues to build relationships

In 2014, MCC will celebrate 50 years of service in Appalachia. The program began in response to the shortage of medical personnel, but by 1964 had metamorphosed into providing longterm health care, social work, community development and education workers.

SWAP (Sharing With Appalachian People) is MCC’s home repair ministry in eastern Kentucky and West Virginia, growing from disaster relief into a permanent presence dedicated to helping people stay safe, warm and dry. In Hindman and Harlan, Ky., and in Elkhorn, W. Va., MCC staff coordinate volunteer groups.

With its emphasis on building relationships and encouraging servanthood, SWAP is committed to continuing the 50-year legacy of MCC in Appalachia.

More information about SWAP
swap.mcc.org

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. - Bille Noe, SWAP homeowner

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2013 SWAP volunteers
Elkhorn, WV
12 groups
168 volunteers

Eolia, KY
7 groups
86 volunteers

Harlan, KY
10 groups
162 volunteers

Hindman, KY
9 groups
150 volunteers

TOTAL groups
38

TOTAL volunteers
566

Summer Staff
21

Families served
50+
Great Lakes constituents serving overseas

SALT and IVEP programs offer opportunities for young adults

MCC workers serve with local churches and community groups in the United States, Canada and more than 50 countries around the world addressing issues of peace, health, education, migration, justice, food and disasters. Many of these workers come from congregations within the Great Lakes region, and MCC is grateful for the service of these dedicated individuals and families.

SALT (Serving and Learning Together) and IVEP (International Volunteer Exchange Program) offer cross-cultural service experiences for young adults through year-long placements.

More information about serving with MCC
serve.mcc.org

There is no qualification for serving with deep love and learning with deep understanding.

- Mara Weaver, SALT participant in Mexico City

Mara Weaver (front left) shares in the annual Christmas meal and gift exchange with the volunteers and staff of Casa de los Amigos where she is serving with MCC’s SALT program in Mexico City.

2013-2014 SALTers
Michael Bass
Holland, MI
Lee Bohlke
Grand Rapids, MI
Hans Bontrager-Singer
Goshen, IN
Stacey Eyman
W. Lafayette, IN
Charles (Alex) Hurst
Cleveland, OH
Lisa Kay
East Peoria, IL
Christine Kindler
Lexington, KY
Elena Nussbaum
Apple Creek, OH
Kristen Rohdes
Bluffton, OH
Mara Weaver
Bloomington, IL
Nigel Wright
Orrville, OH
Melissa Zehr
Tiskilwa, IL

2013-2014 IVEPers
Bouthsaba Marry Chouthathay
from Laos
Sokkeymina Hem
from Cambodia
YuanYuan Jiang
from China
Wayne Falk Krahn
from Paraguay
Jacques Louis-Jeune
from Haiti
Fringilla Mayela
from Zambia
Padma Sawitri
from Indonesia
Contribution Income from Great Lakes Constituents: $5,828,281

- Individuals: $1,525,736
- Thrift Shops: $1,870,280
- Churches: $370,841
- Estates: $247,618
- Foundations: $136,584
- Organizations: $55,960
- Other: $12,836
- Companies: $5,828,281

Contribution Dispersement

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<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>MCC Great Lakes allocation</td>
<td>$936,532</td>
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<tr>
<td>MCC U.S. allocation (for international programs and administration)</td>
<td>$4,891,749</td>
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<td>Total Great Lakes contributions</td>
<td>$5,828,281</td>
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Great Lakes Regional Expenses: $1,158,974 (preliminary and unaudited)

- Other programs, including Peace & Justice: $69,520
- Material Resource Centers: $101,068
- Donor Relations: $208,473
- Regional Office: $282,713
- Appalachia: $497,200

Great Lakes Funding Sources

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<td>Other program income</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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<td>Great Lakes reserve</td>
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