



2019/2020  
Annual Impact Report  
**ONTARIO**



*British Columbia*



*Alberta*



*Ontario*



*Manitoba*



*Quebec*



*Alberta*



*British Columbia*



*Ontario*



*Newfoundland and Labrador*



*Saskatchewan*



*Saskatchewan*



*Manitoba*



*New Brunswick*



MCC  
ONTARIO  
LEADERSHIP  
TEAM



**John Head**  
Executive Director



**Kim Lester**  
Associate Executive Director



**Wendy Adema**  
Program Director



**Michelle Brenneman**  
Director of Human Resources



**Darrell Clarke**  
Director of Social Enterprise

## THANK YOU FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This year has brought tremendous challenge and required unparalleled action to meet needs in Ontario and around the world. And through it all, I've lived each day with one overwhelming feeling: gratitude. I'm grateful for our volunteers, donors, churches and so many others who continue to support this vital ministry. Together we're sharing Christ's love through relief, development and peace – even during the uncertainty of a global pandemic.

Your support is what made Mennonite Central Committee's 100th anniversary possible. Faithful partners like you built this ministry and we were sincerely looking forward to celebrating this milestone anniversary with you throughout the year, as we first launched our centennial celebrations at the MCC Peace Conference last November. Then, in March, the increased threat of COVID-19 brought all these plans to a halt. Though we knew it was required to keep everyone safe, we were deeply saddened to cancel or postpone a number of events.

And although these events would have been wonderful and enjoyable ways for us to come together and support the most vulnerable in our communities and around the world, we continue to trust God will lead us to new and innovative avenues of reaching those whose needs are greater than ever.

From remote First Nations communities, to those experiencing displacement from their homes across the ocean, to the newcomer who just moved in down the street – your faithful encouragement and support continues to provide MCC with the means to share Christ's love. I am humbled and grateful!

**JOHN HEAD**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MCC ONTARIO  
JOHNHEAD@MCCO.CA



With your support we continue to look to the future with hope, knowing God is in control of all. Join us in finding strength in the Book of Isaiah:

*“those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”*

—Isaiah 40:31 New International Version (NIV)

## 2019–2020 Program Highlights



45,723

cans of meat provided emergency food to vulnerable persons around the world



7

churches were part of four learning tours to help restore the Mohawk Institute Indian Residential School\*



97

individuals were supported as they reintegrated into communities after release from prison



29

inmates at the Grand Valley Institution for Women learned valuable sewing skills



173

newcomers were welcomed to our communities through 47 sponsorship groups



375

service providers learned how to better support Low German communities through training initiatives



1,207

vulnerable Low German-speaking adults and children were connected with local resources



309

employers committed to paying a Living Wage in Ontario



32,050

donated purses and bags were sold at Ontario Thrift shops in support of MCC programs



4,989

kilograms of clothing and linens were upcycled into industrial rags at the rePurpose Centre



7,266

fire starters made from repurposed candles and wood chips were distributed through MCC Thrift Shops



3,300

volunteers shared their time and talents to support MCC in Ontario

\*in partnership with Mennonite Disaster Services and the Woodland Cultural Centre.



## Then + Now

In 1945, Alice Snyder (pictured here) took over for her mother as the manager of MCC's Cutting Room which had been moved to Kitchener, not far from where our MCC Ontario offices stand today. Little did these dedicated women know how their efforts would impact so many people in the years to come. (MCC photo)

Today we have thousands of volunteers creating kits and comforters to be shipped around the world. On January 18, 2020, our volunteers joined with people across Canada, the USA and Europe for the Great Winter Warm-up and created 9,504 comforters! We're grateful for the 30 churches and individuals in Ontario who participated in this world-wide event. (MCC photo/Ken Ogasawara)

### MATERIAL RESOURCES

Throughout the year, more than 900 individuals learned about the vital relief needs that are met when Material Resource supplies are shipped by MCC to individuals and families in crisis. We are grateful to supporters and volunteers whose compassion and generosity showed these families that their needs are not forgotten. With your support through collecting supplies, creating comforters and packing kits, MCC Ontario shipped:

- 7,923 comforters
- 2,630 relief kits
- 7,000 hygiene kits
- 9,351 school kits
- 744 infant care kits

### WALKING WITH PEOPLE IN POVERTY

In our poverty program, the Raw Carrot Soup Enterprise received an award from the Community Employment Literacy Committee for providing meaningful employment opportunities for people with disabilities. Circle of Friends staff completed training in conflict resolution and plan to equip participants and volunteers with these skills. Our TOOLS (Toronto Ontario Opportunity for Learning and Service) program continued to provide hands-on opportunities to learn, experience and reflect on the ongoing issues of poverty and homelessness in Ontario.



Because of you, families and individuals in crisis feel supported and loved when they receive handmade comforters.

### REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP

The Refugee Sponsorship program of MCC Ontario was granted 159 spaces this year for named refugee sponsorship cases, a notable increase from previous years, which will help refugees in need of protection to resettle in Canada. A very well-received pilot project took place in the Niagara region to support children of newcomer families both educationally and emotionally. These efforts are part of the overall refugee sponsorship program goals designed to help settle and integrate refugee newcomers into the community.

### LOW GERMAN

MCC continued to strengthen the capacity of service providers and organizations who deliver vital health, education and other services to Low German families. For example, educators developed non-traditional supports for Low German students, prompting an increase in high school completion. A partnership with Ontario school boards and MCC Mexico improved educational outcomes for children who migrate.

### INDIGENOUS NEIGHBOURS

Niska artisans hosted a Niska Noel event in partnership with the Timmins Museum. Visitors to the event watched demonstrations of beading, carving and tamarack bird making, while browsing many handcrafted items for sale by the artisans. In ongoing efforts to ensure northern Ontario's First Nations residents have access to nutritious food, MCC Ontario joined with Niagara Gleaners to facilitate shipments of dried vegetables and fruit to Food Banks and Friendship Centres in Timmins, South Porcupine, Cochrane, Hearst, Kapuskasing and Kirkland Lake communities.

### RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

The Restorative Justice program continued Circles of Support and Accountability, Dismas Fellowship and Faith Reintegration initiatives to restore relationships and support participants across Hamilton, Kitchener and the GTA. Handmade for Change continued to successfully sew and sell handmade items to support MCC while providing practical training for inmates at the Grand Valley Institution for Women. Training Active Bystanders was launched to teach bystanders to interrupt harm-doing and generate positive actions when they witness something they feel is unfair, wrong or troubling.



## Then + Now

The Circle of Friends program started in 2000 as a partnership between YWCA in Kitchener and MCC in Ontario. Ineke and Lydia (pictured above) received support from the Circle of Friends program but also found friendship with each other and the broader Circle of Friends community. (MCC photo)

Today Circle of Friends has expanded to include men who are in need of community. As well, program activities have grown to include diverse opportunities that foster belonging and wellness. (MCC photo/Kim Walker)



Because you care, men and women who have experienced homelessness feel loved and respected.

## EVERYDAY PEOPLE WITH WILLING HEARTS: CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Carol is in her mid-sixties – tall, with silver hair and a kind smile. She shares candidly about a painful memory from over 10 years ago. “When I became homeless, I don’t think my friends knew how to handle me and they just walked away. It was hurtful and it made me angry for a while because I’m still the same person. Why are you leaving me alone?”

During her stay at Mary’s Place, a women’s shelter in downtown Kitchener run by the YWCA, Carol connected with Circle of Friends. “They asked if I needed help with budgeting or grocery shopping,” recalls Carol. “I said, ‘no, not

really. What I need are friends.” Just ten years before, in 2000, Margaret Nally was serving both on the board of MCC Ontario and as Chair of the YWCA in Kitchener. From this unique perspective she noticed that although many women found housing and left Mary’s Place, they would come back regularly due to loneliness. And many of them would end up living back at the shelter again.

The model of Circle of Friends, developed in response to this need, was intentionally “unprofessional.” “We were looking for ordinary people, not social workers

or professional therapists or counsellors necessarily,” recalls Margaret.

*“Everyday people with good and willing hearts who wanted to be friends. That was the requirement.”*

The objective was simple: to keep people housed with the power of friendship.

Cindy MacRae was one of the early volunteers in this new program. For Cindy, volunteering for Circle of Friends was personal. At the time she started volunteering, she was herself living in a rooming house, having come through her own period of homelessness. Cindy could empathize profoundly with the

challenges these women were facing and was able to share her journey with them. Carol was one of the women Cindy helped support, and one who deeply appreciated the candor and intimacy Cindy provided.

After volunteering for 14 years with Circle of Friends, Cindy’s role changed in 2018 in a new and rewarding way: she was hired to join the staff as a Circle of Friends Facilitator. She is almost at a loss for words as she marvels at the journey God has taken her on. “What can I say... it’s all a part of my story,” she says with a smile.

Today, ten years after her Circle formed, Carol and her

friends, including Cindy, still meet monthly for dinner. Their friendship has grown and changed over time. “At the beginning it was me, I was the centre of the focus,” recalls Carol. But now she feels the relationship is more balanced and personal and they have become true friends.

Twenty years after connecting MCC and Mary’s Place, Margaret Nally is still deeply moved by what Circle of Friends represents for so many. “It’s such a gift in a world where we put a price on so much. How can you put a price on friendship? There’s such love in that space, there’s acceptance and belonging in the centre of that circle. It’s a very beautiful thing.”

*“It made me stronger to know that they were there supporting me – more than anyone I had ever been friends with.”*

Carol  
Circle of Friends participant

Because of your support, we could quickly adapt to meet changing needs during the pandemic.

*“Over the years I have heard about MCC’s work around the world and here in Ontario and am happy to be a part of the MCC story and to contribute to this important work.”*

Margie Steingart  
Volunteer, MCC Christian Benefit Thrift Shop  
St. Catharines



### Then + Now

The first MCC Thrift Shop in Ontario opened its doors in St. Catharines on January 12, 1974. Modelled after similar MCC Thrift shops in Manitoba, the MCC Christian Benefit Thrift Shop first opened at 77 Pelham Road and raised \$11,000 in their first year. MCC Thrift shops are not only about raising funds for MCC, they are community hubs – gathering places that come alive with volunteers, bargain seekers and treasure hunters. (MCC photo)

Each year through the diligent work of MCC Ontario’s Social Enterprise team, millions of kilograms of donated goods are given a new life and purpose. MCC Ontario’s Social Enterprise department now supports six MCC Thrift shops, two associate shops and the rePurpose Centre, and they continue to develop new and innovative ways to support MCC and the community. (MCC photo/Lynda Lynch)

## SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

Despite being required to close a few weeks before the end of the fiscal year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, MCC Ontario’s Social Enterprise department realized a record \$7.95 million in revenue through our six Thrift shops, rePurpose Centre and two associate shops. Volunteers who donate their time and talents are a crucial part of this success. Altogether, 1,975 social enterprise volunteers contributed 219,996 hours, continuing to build a lasting legacy for which MCC is very grateful.

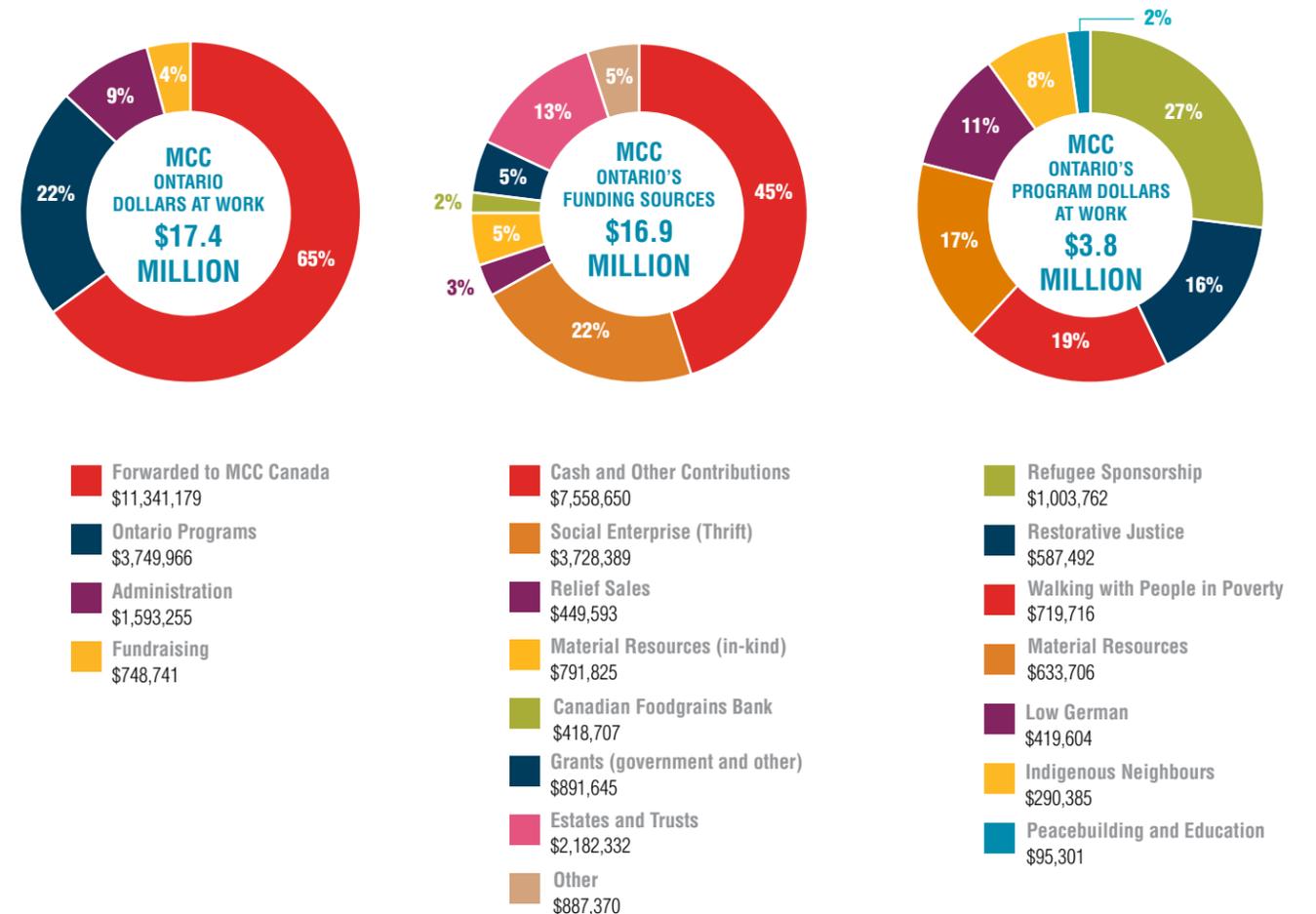
MCC Thrift shops continue to provide affordable and sustainable household goods to their communities, with the MCC rePurpose Centre leading the way in environmental sustainability. Over 900,000 kgs of Thrift shop donations were forwarded to the

rePurpose Centre for by-the-pound/kilogram sales, recycling and repurposing. Two of our popular repurposing initiatives include the industrial rag-making operation, which continues to expand, and the recycled fire starters, now available at many conservation areas in southwestern Ontario and in all MCC Thrift shops. (MCC photo/Lynda Lynch)



## 2019/2020 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The financial information on this page represents the operations of MCC Ontario for the year ended March 31, 2020 and has been prepared from the audited financial statements. Complete audited financial statements are available upon request or at [mcco.ca/annual-report](http://mcco.ca/annual-report).



\*April 1, 2019 through March 31, 2020



2019/2020  
Annual Impact Report  
CANADA



*DR Congo*



*southern Russia*



*Palestine and Israel*



*Vietnam*



*South Africa*



*Jordan*



*Haiti*



*Canada*



*Chad*



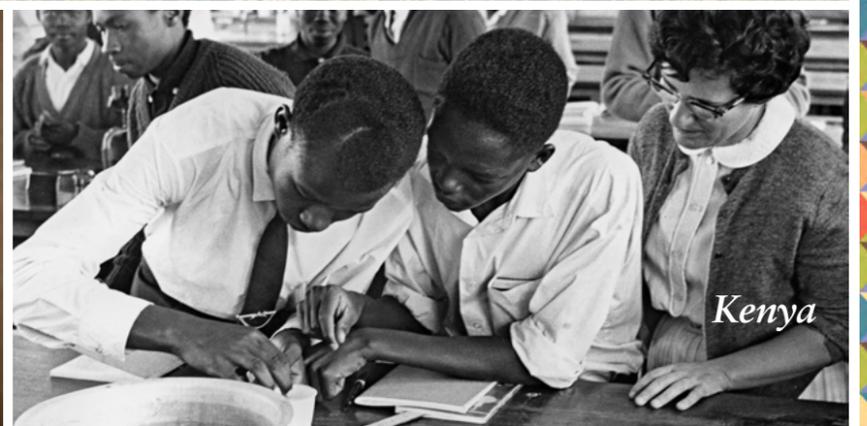
*Guatemala*



*India*



*Ukraine*



*Kenya*





Staff members\* from an MCC partner, Popular Aid for Relief and Development, distribute MCC comforters and relief kits to people in a low-income neighbourhood in Tyre, Lebanon. The majority of the recipients are Palestinian and Syrian refugees who face increasingly difficult times due to the economic crisis in Lebanon. \*Names withheld for security. (MCC photo/Evangeline Hammond)

**In 2020, MCC is celebrating its centennial. At the start of our next 100 years, we want to renew our identity and our mission to see communities worldwide in right relationship with God, one another and creation.**

**The MCC Canada board of directors has decided that over the next five years the organization will focus on these four strategic directions:**

1. Increasing the capacity of our partners to help uprooted and vulnerable people
2. Improving communication with churches and constituents
3. Increasing peacebuilding and justice work
4. Caring for God's creation and supporting communities harmed by climate change

To read an online version of this report visit [mcccanada.ca/annual-impact-report-2020](http://mcccanada.ca/annual-impact-report-2020)

## A THANK YOU FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

One hundred years ago, MCC began in response to drought, hunger and violence. Canadians were quick to respond even while they were recovering from a flu pandemic.

Now we mark our centennial in the midst of another pandemic with the world on the brink of a food shortage due to COVID-19. This 100-year comparison reminds us that the world continues to be haunted by disparity, with many people vulnerable to disease and hunger.

At the same time, I am so thankful for generous supporters like you who reach out with God's love to these neighbours. With your help, our vital, Jesus-following ministry continues into another century.

When the pandemic shutdown began in Canada, we were within days of approving a new strategic plan. It was a strange time to look into the future. But I believe the strategic directions (on the opposite page) will be a strong guide.

This is the MCC I see moving into our next century: **Deepening our gospel roots. Strengthening Anabaptist communities. Communicating with supporters with excellence and transparency. Supporting the uprooted with fierce commitment. Responding to climate change. Pressing for the peace of Jesus Christ.**

Thank you so much for helping us come this far. I hope you will feel invited into a second century of MCC ministry, rooted in the peace Jesus gave us.

*Rick Cober Bauman*  
**RICK COBER BAUMAN**  
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MCC CANADA



*“God is our refuge and strength,  
 a very present help in trouble.”*  
 —Psalm 46:1 (NRSV)

## MCC CANADA 2019/2020 BOARD MEMBERS

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**Cindy Klassen**  
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**Oscar Cardozo**  
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 CCAL\*

**Laura Hanna**  
 CCAL\*

**Lynn Rempel**  
 MCC Ontario

**Dan Siebert**  
 MCC Saskatchewan

**Peter Wolfe**  
 MCC British Columbia

\*Appointed by Canadian Council  
 of Anabaptist Leaders



# FOOD

Living in rural Cambodia, Chim Yean\* had an empty fishpond, a handful of chickens and no hope for things to improve.

During the rice growing season, he could harvest enough so his family wouldn't starve. But during the dry season, there were many days where his family didn't have enough food.

But your act of kindness planted a seed of hope for Yean. Through MCC's account at Canadian Foodgrains Bank, you've enabled our local partners to form and support farm co-operatives. For \$120, one family is equipped with all the seeds, tools and materials they need to farm. And \$360 can provide a new fishpond.

Yean's fishpond allows him to both raise and sell fish and keep a supply of water for his crops during the dry season. He now has a busy and full chicken coop, a stocked fishpond and a healthy garden year-round. He has enough food for his family and enough to store up and sell too.

"If people want fish, I will catch fish for them," he says. "If people want vegetables, I will bring vegetables to sell to them. Sometimes people want chickens. So, I will sell the chickens."

\* In Cambodia, family names are written before first names.



Your donations helped Yean grow enough food to feed his family.



1948

## Then + Now

Children at Lohfelden refugee camp in Germany in 1948 play with grain sacks from different international relief agencies. In addition to MCC (right) are CARE (Cooperative for American Remittances to Europe) and CRALOG (Council of Relief Agencies Licensed to Operate in Germany). (MCC photo)

Chim Yean and Reach Koeun with chickens at their farm in the village of Prey Toun, Cambodia. Your support has allowed them to purchase the tools, seeds and other necessities to build a thriving farm. (MCC photo/ Matthew Lester)

*"I bought everything at market before, the vegetable, fish and chicken. Now I grow everything."*

Chim Yean, Cambodia

Food program highlights: **58,075**

People attended agriculture and animal production training

**22,302**

People received agricultural supplies including seeds and tools

**79%**

Of women in a farming group in Burkina Faso were able to access a loan when they couldn't before

**398 to 6,747**

The increase in number of farmers practicing sustainable agriculture in a project in Ethiopia

Igor Semyonov's smile has a comforting warmth to it. Most would never guess he spent five terms in prison before turning his life around. He loved helping people, prisoners especially. But when war came to his doorstep in Donetsk, Ukraine, he found himself needing help he never imagined.

He fled to Zaporizhzhia where an MCC church partner fed and sheltered him until he was able to get back on his feet.

Now he and his wife Larisa have their own apartment. On their bed is an MCC comforter. Their shelves hold cans of meat with the words "In the name of Christ" donated and canned by volunteers and then shipped to Ukraine. Sending one shipping container of food and relief supplies to help Igor and others like him costs \$7,800.

After training from another MCC partner, Igor now works as a trauma counsellor. He helps people who also were displaced from their homes. **A ripple effect of caring set off by you.**

"The training has also helped me leave the past behind. Because our life in the past was quite hard, it was hard to do," says Igor. "Really for two years there was such turmoil inside, we really needed to leave that and regain ourselves."



RELIEF

**Your support provided food and shelter when Igor was forced to flee his home.**



1959

### Then + Now

Two women received MCC-distributed relief supplies including canned meat in Vienna, Austria, in 1959. (MCC photo)

Igor Semyonov and his wife Larisa received MCC canned meat and comforters after fleeing conflict in eastern Ukraine. Thanks to your support, they were given food and shelter when they had none. (MCC photo/Matthew Sawatzky)

*"It was very scary to move to an unknown place.... [MCC's partner] was really taking care of us."*

Igor Semyonov, Ukraine

Relief program highlights: **27**

Number of disasters MCC responded to

**158,021**

People received emergency food

**46,171**

People received emergency supplies including clothing, relief kits and hygiene supplies

**6,062**

People trained in disaster risk reduction

Naomi Bakeka Anuarite was used to feeling hopeless. Raised in Mubimbi, a camp for displaced people in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, it was hard some days to imagine surviving to 18, never mind graduating from high school.

Naomi had no access to education and no way to secure a good job. But that's no longer her reality.

Your support means Naomi and children from a few nearby camps can access a full Grade 1–12 education at the nearby Rutshunda Primary School. For \$78, a single child can attend a year of school and have the equipment they need to succeed.

Naomi graduated from Rutshunda and is now attending medical school at the Evangelical University in Africa. With education in math and science and the ability to read and write in both French and Swahili, Naomi now has opportunities for well-paying jobs and careers that would never have been open to her before. She is determined to become a doctor and help others, including her mother and younger siblings who still live in Mubimbi.

“Our joy is to see displaced children taught,” says Rutshunda’s principal Joel Maombi Fikiri. “Instead of seeing those children in the town, among the armed groups... we want to see them in the classroom.”



## EDUCATION

Because of your gifts, Naomi has been able to reach medical school.



### Then + Now

Teachers Abroad Program (TAP) participant David Ritter (third from left) works with students in a classroom in Nyanga, in what is now the Democratic Republic of the Congo. (MCC photo)

Naomi Bakeka Anuarite outside the Evangelical University in Africa in Bukavu, Democratic Republic of the Congo where she attends medical school. She received her MCC-supported primary education at Rutshunda Primary School. (MCC photo/Matthew Lester)

*“I just look at the benefits I’ve gotten from my supporters, because they are preparing me to be a great leader.”*

Naomi Bakeka Anuarite, The Democratic Republic of the Congo

Education program highlights: **3,067**

Teachers participated in professional development

**20,552**

Children and youth participated in K–12 formal education

**62%**

Decrease in absenteeism at eight schools in Zambia that provide meals and other supports

**100%**

Of students at an education project in South Sudan passed a Grade 8 national exam



# WATER

**Aïchatou Hamidou hated giving her grandchildren water that tasted like rust and dirt. She hated more that they barely knew the taste of safe, clean drinking water.**

She lives in a refugee camp in Chad called Kobiteye. Until recently, a handful of barely functioning hand pumps were the only way to collect water that was mostly safe to drink.

A new, more reliable hand pump costs \$1,983. **Your generous support means that more than a dozen new pumps now provide clean, safe water for Aïchatou, her grand-children and the 6,000 others living in Kobiteye.**

And along with lifegiving water, you've also provided Kobiteye with latrines and WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) training for Aïchatou. She leads Kobiteye's WASH team and ensures waste is safely cleaned up and the pumps stay in repair.

"We have seen such a positive impact," she says. "We now have clean water to drink and there is less sickness. I hope it means my grandchildren will have opportunities that I didn't."



**Because of your support, Aïchatou has clean water for her grandchildren to drink.**



1972

## Then + Now

Keith Krehbeil (left) and Orie Friesen finish the first hand-dug well in the San Julian colony in Bolivia in 1972. Wells like these were dug by hand using a metal drill bit. They provided improved drinking water and enabled farmers to increase livestock and crops. (MCC photo/Cecil Graber)

Aïchatou Hamidou was displaced from Central African Republic to a refugee camp in Chad. Through your support, she now leads the WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) team, a group of women who maintain the latrines and keep the water pumps clean. (MCC photo/Colin Vandenberg)

*"More latrines and pumps mean people are living with better water and more hygiene."*

Aïchatou Hamidou, Chad

**Water program highlights: 68%**

Of households in one community in Haiti now have access to latrines, up from 8%

**22,443**

People have access to a new or improved latrine or sanitation facility

**4**

The number of hours women and girls in some small communities in Egypt spent daily collecting water before new water and sewage pipelines were installed

**48,065**

People have access to an improved water source

In rural Nepal, resources for mental health support are few and far between. There are many stories of people being imprisoned or worse in response to their trauma.

Your support meant that Kamala Sapkota could attend a mental health and rehabilitation program, which costs approximately \$1,300 per person. And when she graduated, Kamala was no longer defined by her mental health. Her family was also taught how they could best support her.

Upon graduating the program, she received two baby goats that allow her to create income for herself. With supports in place and financial independence, Kamala's life was in her own hands once again.

"We have realized that medicines are not the only thing that is needed and there is much more all of us as a family, friends and neighbours can do to support people going through these difficulties to help them be healthy. We are her supports now. We are with her," says Kamala's sister Pompa Humagaim.



Your gifts provided Kamala with mental health support.



1955

### Then + Now

MCC nurse Lois Kuhns (third from left) works with nurses in South Korea in 1955. They are preparing cotton balls and bandages in the central supply bandage room at Taegu Medical College Hospital. (MCC photo)

Kamala Sapkota (right), with her sister Pompa Humagaim, at her home in the hills of Kavrepalanchok, Nepal. With your support, Kamala graduated from a mental health program. They are holding baby goats that Kamala was given through the project which allow her to earn income and live independently. (MCC photo/Paul Shetler Fast)

*"Supporting innovative, local solutions to health care needs helps increase our impact and builds on the strength of the communities we serve."*

Paul Shetler Fast,  
MCC health coordinator

## Health program highlights:

**41,484**

People received direct clinical care

**89,649**

People received hygiene items, including feminine hygiene supplies

**95%**

Of participants in one Nepal mental health project now have a stable source of income

**10,615**

People received training as health care workers, community health promoters and caregivers

There was one strong image that Hannah Gray held in her heart after attending the MCC Ottawa Office student seminar. A kaleidoscope of monarch butterflies safely carrying a humpback whale through the air.

When she painted the image for an art exhibit, she explained the imagery. The butterflies represent the dignity and resilience of migrants and the right that all beings have to move freely. She added the humpback whale, which also migrates, precisely because it's so different from the butterflies.

"I wanted this painting to emphasize that sometimes we are taken off of our regular routes of migration and that people can end up in unexpected or difficult situations and that it is important for us to work together (as the butterflies in this picture) to help our fellow migrants on their journey even if they are very different from us," she says.

Your faithful donations meant Hannah could attend the student peace seminar last year. The theme was People on the Move: Human Rights and Global Migration.

Hannah left the seminar feeling more empowered than ever to seek justice.

"I wanted to compel people to a global and personal action based on our faith," said Hannah. "We're beneficiaries of our culture and our history, and we have to recognize that means participating in the story of migration."



### Then + Now

Pax man Elwin LeFevre works at a housing project in Bielefeld, Germany. The MCC Pax program provided an alternative service option for conscientious objectors drafted into the U.S. military, with some Canadians also participating. Pax began in Germany after the Second World War, but by the time the program ended in 1976 approximately 1,150 people served in over 40 countries. (MCC photo)

Wes Braun, Hannah Gray and Zlata Zolotarova pose for a photo on Parliament Hill while they attended the 2019 MCC student peace seminar in Ottawa, Ontario. The theme of the seminar was People on the Move: Human Rights and Global Migration. (Photo courtesy of Hannah Gray)

Inset: Drawing by Hannah Gray

## PEACE + JUSTICE



Because of your donations, Hannah is more empowered to work for justice.

*"It is important for us to work together ... to help our fellow migrants on their journey."*

Hannah Gray, Canada

Peace + Justice highlights: **22,951**

People trained in conflict transformation, peacebuilding or mediation

**1,321**

Emails sent by Canadians to MPs and senators using MCC's letter writing tool

**100%**

Of members in one South Sudan peace club applied peacebuilding or conflict resolution in their lives

**65%**

Of parents saw improvement in how their daughters handled challenges after an empowerment project in Jordan called *SuperGirls*



# MIGRATION

No matter what she tried, Gilchen Davalillo couldn't make enough money to feed her family. The Venezuelan economy was in shambles, with hyperinflation pricing even daily bread beyond her reach.

So, she made a brave and incredibly difficult choice. She left to seek opportunity somewhere else. When she arrived in Quito, the capital of Ecuador, her family was one of thousands who'd fled for the same reasons. Jobs, housing and hope seemed just as impossible to find.

But because of your support, Gilchen's journey did not end there.

You've empowered a partner church in Quito to support Gilchen and her family with housing, trauma support and food. It costs \$98 for the church to provide families like Gilchen's with monthly food baskets. Without this food, many families could not survive in Quito.

Your act of love means her family, and many others, have new opportunities to thrive.



Your donations provide shelter, food and counselling as Gilchen seeks opportunities for her family.



1985

## Then + Now

Victor Neumann (second left), MCC representative in Thailand, with refugees who fled Vietnam in 1985. MCC partnered with the Government of Canada to create the first private sponsorship agreement in 1979 in response to the refugee crisis after the end of the Vietnam War. (MCC photo)

Gilchen Davalillo (centre) with her family at their new home in Quito, Ecuador. They fled the collapsing economy in Venezuela. Your donations empowered our partners in Quito to provide housing and other support. (MCC photo/Annalee Giesbrecht)

*“Through local partners, MCC donors support people through all stages of their journey: providing shelter and welcome and addressing root causes of migration.”*

Annalee Giesbrecht, Advocacy and Communications coordinator in Latin America and the Caribbean

## Migration program highlights: 32

Students attended an Ottawa Office seminar on root causes of migration and displacement

## 521

Refugees came to Canada through MCC's sponsorship program from:

Syria 39% DR Congo 6%  
Eritrea 20% Somalia 6%

Other countries (Ethiopia, Iraq, Pakistan, Myanmar (Burma), Sudan, South Sudan, Burundi, Afghanistan, Iran and more) – 29%

# MATERIAL RESOURCES

A TANGIBLE SIGN OF GOD'S LOVE IN TIMES OF CRISIS



Amal Abujayyab, Shergo Ibrahim, Donna Entz and Sedra Mustafa work on a comforter together at The Great Winter Warm-up event in Edmonton, Alta. (MCC photo/Donita Wiebe-Neufeld).

To celebrate MCC's centennial, we set out to collect 6,500 comforters at The Great Winter Warm-up events across Canada, the U.S. and Europe. Though January 18, 2020 saw major winter storms at many locations, hard-working volunteers helped us surpass the goal: we collected more than 9,400 comforters! Thanks to everyone who helped cut, sew and tie these blankets. They will provide warmth and comfort to displaced and vulnerable people around the world.

We are so thankful for the families, churches and volunteers that pack, sew and donate relief supplies to be shared with our global neighbours.

### Material resources shipped last year:



**849,024**  
Canned meat (lbs)



**94,073**  
School kits



**55,180**  
Hygiene kits



**47,830**  
Comforters



**21,724**  
Relief kits



**6,289**  
Infant care kits



**1,200**  
Sewing kits



Minear Mak

(Photo courtesy of Minear Mak)

## Global Service Learning

YOUNG ADULTS VOLUNTEERING IN THE NAME OF CHRIST

One evening, Minear Mak's Colombian host family made spaghetti for dinner. But Minear, from Cambodia, was surprised to see they were going to use a fork instead of chopsticks to eat noodles. What followed was a giggle-filled evening as Minear shared chopstick lessons and a part of her culture.

This is the kind of cross-cultural exchange Minear experienced through the Young Anabaptist Mennonite Exchange Network (YAMEN). The program also helped her learn about her faith identity. "It's not about being Asian or Latina but being a woman who is adorned with the beauty of Christ," she says.



Jacob Fehr

(Photo courtesy of Jacob Fehr)

## MCC Thrift Shops

WHERE EVERY PURCHASE IS A GIFT TO THE WORLD

Every year MCC Thrift shops help reduce clothing waste and raise millions of dollars to support MCC's work around the world. This is only possible because of volunteers like 93-year-old Jacob Fehr.

Jacob spends many of his free hours cutting denim squares out of old pairs of jeans. Those squares are packaged and sold through MCC Thrift shops. This is great for thrifty quilters, and it helps keep clothes that might otherwise be thrown away out of the landfill. Since 2017, Jacob has delivered more than 700 bundles of denim squares to Thrift shops — around 90,000 squares.



**\$19,717,000**

Donated by MCC Thrift shops in Canada and the U.S. to support the work of MCC in 2019/2020 fiscal year.

Your support is a sign of hope in times of crisis.

*"Your help is immeasurable. In each can of meat, in each blanket we see God's love. We see your love."*

Natalia Mezentseva,  
Director of MCC partner  
New Life Charitable Fund  
in Ukraine

## MCC around the world

### Canada

475 MCC workers\*  
\$11 million  
\*includes Thrift

### United States

205 MCC workers  
\$8.7 million

### Latin America & the Caribbean

90 MCC workers  
\$7.2 million

### Europe & the Middle East

54 MCC workers  
\$16.1 million

### Africa

152 MCC workers  
\$19.6 million

### Multi-Region

\$10.8 million

### Asia

158 MCC workers  
\$10.4 million

51 countries

511 partners

619 projects

1,134 workers

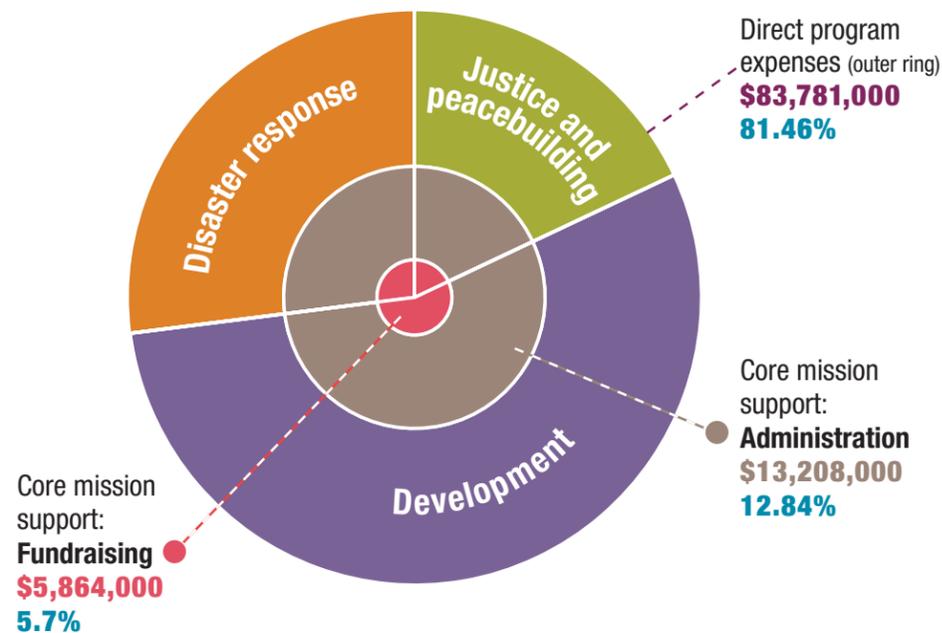
Global Service and Learning participants

YAMEN	33
IVEP	24
SALT	39
Seed	13
Summerbridge	14
SOOP	45

## Finances

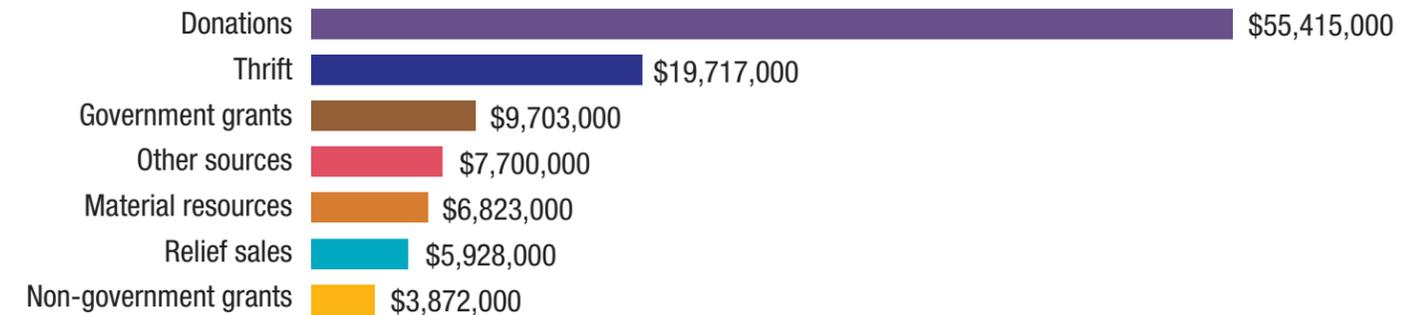
The financial information on these pages presents the combined operations in Canadian dollars of the MCCs in Canada and the U.S. (excluding Ten Thousand Villages Canada) for the year ended March 31, 2020. More detailed financial and program reporting as well as complete audited financial statements are available at [mcccanada.ca/annual-report](http://mcccanada.ca/annual-report)

TOTAL EXPENSES:  
**\$102,853,000**



TOTAL REVENUE:  
**\$109,158,000**

### Funding Sources





1960s

## Then + Now

Palestinian women doing needlework in Jericho, West Bank around the 1960s. The MCC needlework project provided income for displaced women, and their work was sold by Edna Ruth Byler through what would later become Ten Thousand Villages. (MCC photo/Ernest Lehman)

A group of artisans from the Hajiganj Handicrafts crochet unit sit outside their workshop stitching blankets from recycled saris in 2018. These artisans sold many blankets through Ten Thousand Villages. (Photo courtesy of Ten Thousand Villages)



## Ten Thousand Villages

**With heavy hearts, MCC announced the closure of Ten Thousand Villages Canada corporate operations in early 2020.**

The beginnings of Ten Thousand Villages in 1946 – when Edna Ruth Byler first sold handicrafts from the trunk of her car – launched a global fair-trade movement. For 74 years, the stores have helped ensure artisans all over the world are paid first and fairly for their work. These values helped spark a movement that saw more and more people embrace ethical and sustainable shopping.

We are grateful for the faithful work of every single Ten Thousand Villages Canada artisan, staff member and volunteer who contributed to this legacy. And don't forget, you can still shop online at [tenthousandvillages.com](http://tenthousandvillages.com) or at one of the four independent stores still open in Canada (or in shops across the U.S.).

Ten Thousand Villages used its **Artisan Relief Fund** to help ensure the legacy of fair trade after Canadian shops closed. The fund provided artisans with financial support as they found new avenues to sell their crafts.

A representative from an artisan group in Bali says, "Thank you very much.... You're really a fair trade soul. Words are not enough to describe; your support comes at the right time."

# Give a special gift to help Celebrate 100 Years

Thank you for being part of the MCC story. The work and ministry of MCC is only possible thanks to the faithful support of people like you.

To mark MCC's centennial, we're inviting you to make a special gift. Your support is needed now more than ever. Join us to bring hope, dignity and peace for the next 100 years.

[mcccanada.ca/our-faith-our-future](http://mcccanada.ca/our-faith-our-future)

