



SOUNDING BOARD

Newsletter of the North American Relief Sale Board

March 2008

Coordinators' Report

Relief Sales provide an opportunity for many folks to support MCC in many different and unique ways. These ways are as diverse as grandmothers meeting in church basements to produce quilts, families running a popcorn stand at the sale or children bringing pennies from their piggy banks to church for the Penny Power jar. Each gift is special and each gift makes a difference in the lives of others.

In recent years "bidding on absolutely nothing" has become popular at sales. In 2007 many sales offered bidders the opportunity to bid on projects and thus make a donation to MCC. Traveling quilts like the AIDS Quilt, Heart Block Quilt, House Block Quilt and the Good Shepherd Quilt have been especially popular with people who have enough stuff but still want to participate in the auction.

Last year Dr. Dwight Kauffman from Pandora, Ohio, made the All My Children Peace Candle Holder available to any sale that wished to use it to raise funds to advance peace around the world. This project was featured in the March 2007 issue of *The Sounding Board*, and the result has been terrific. During the past two years, 31 relief sales sponsored this project and raised a total of \$72,300 for MCC peace projects.

As we all start working on our plans for the 2008 Relief Sales, let us look for avenues for everyone to support the work of MCC in their own unique way.

Blessings,
Doug & Harriet Berg, Relief Sale Coordinators

Resources Available:

The brochure listing all of the relief sales in Canada and the United States as well as a brief explanation of MCC and relief sales is available. If you would like additional copies, please contact either your local MCC office or the Bergs (contact information on the side bar.)

To review relief sale downloadable resources online, go to <http://mcc.org/reliefsales/resources/> or contact the Bergs. Items such as printed posters and cards, banner templates, tips on creating web sites, legal issues, and information blurbs for 2008 are included. Each relief sale chairman was sent a list of relief sale resources in February and where to find them.

The MCC web site www.mcc.org is full of useful information and around the world updates. **Also, a *Common Place Magazine***, a free magazine full of stories and details of MCC's work is available. Contact your MCC office.

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WOULD – WOOD?
(a.k.a. WOULD your sale like more
WOOD items to auction?)



During the Urban Roundtable Discussions held in Atlanta in October 2006, the need for good quality wood items to sell at the auction was raised.

Many sales benefit from having quilts that were crafted in the quilt rooms of their regional or provincial offices available for their auctions. However they have a difficult time finding unique wood items. Therefore the NAMRSB is providing a new program this year to help your sale get unique wood items from Ohio!

Rich Horst is responsible for the wood item auction at the Ohio Relief Sale (which sells about 400 items each year). As a result of this Rich knows which items sell and how to spot a good deal when he attends other benefit auctions in the northeast Ohio area. Rich has agreed to sell items to other sales (via presale sponsorship dollars) at his purchase cost plus shipping expenses. To see if this concept was viable we tried it at three test sales this past year (TriState, Peach Cobbler and Texas). At all three of these sales they were able to at least double their money for MCC! The results are as follows:

<u>SALE</u>	<u>COST</u>	<u>SHIPPING</u>	<u>AUCTION \$</u>
TriState	\$232	\$ 0	\$530
Peach Cobbler	\$1,170	\$484	\$2,547
Texas	\$110	\$27	\$302

Based upon these results we plan to offer this opportunity to all of the sales in 2008. One key to making this program work for you is to plan ahead!! Shipping wood items is more expensive than shipping quilts. Thus if you plan ahead, perhaps someone from your sale will be traveling to or from the Kidron, Ohio, area and could bring the items you have purchased back with them. To view the items that Rich currently has available for your Relief Sale you can contact him at (330) 682-4843 or horsts@bright.net. GOOD LUCK in 2008!!

Insurance Should be Reviewed Annually.
 During the night, a fire caused damage to property at the Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale.

Fortunately, no one was injured and they carried insurance, but there was a significant loss to buildings and contents. Your insurance policy should be reviewed annually with your agent to review if your sale is carrying adequate coverage on any contents owned and to make sure your sale is protected if you would be responsible for damage to the property of others.

The "Up and Back, Lift and Dust" children's verenika books have been reprinted. The cost is \$5 per book to have them reprinted. The West Coast Sale owns the books and will make them available at the cost of \$5.00 per book plus shipping. Each box contains 40 books. Thus, each box lot costs \$200 plus shipping. Shipping is approximately \$40 per box.

The suggested retail price per book is at least \$15. For further information or to place an order, contact Jerry Linscheid, West Coast MCC. Phone (559-638-6911) or email Jerry_Linscheid@mcc.org.

Ten Reasons Why Volunteers Leave

1. The reality of their experience is not what they expected when they signed on.
2. They don't like the work they are being asked to do nor how it is being done.
3. Veteran or leadership volunteers won't let them into the "insider" group.
4. They spend more time meeting than doing.
5. No one listens to their suggestions.
6. They feel unrecognized, and see that thanks are unfairly given to everyone, no matter who did the most work or none at all.
7. They are no longer asked to participate.
8. They do not actually understand how to get more involved.
9. They can no longer see how their involvement makes a difference.
And the #1 reason volunteers leave is:
10. It stopped being fun. *Energize, Inc.*



A new set of resources for Penny Power was mailed to each Penny Power Coordinator or Sale Contact in February. The new materials focus on MCC Food Projects and

are a collection of past and current stories and activities. The resources include stories of Food Projects in North Korea and Tanzania, with activities for children and adults – in small groups or perhaps even sale day activities. If your Sale chooses to focus on Food Projects, we hope these resources will be helpful to you.

If you would like additional copies of the Food Story Cards for your supporting groups, just let us know. The poster is a sample and we will gladly customize it to your sale and provide a digital copy to your printer. The new materials are currently being posted to the Penny Power website and more will be added in the next few weeks. Visit the website at www.pennypower.org to download copies of these materials. Spanish versions of the new resources are being added also.

If your sale's Penny Power funds support MCC Food Projects, please mark donations on your reporting form as MCC Food Projects. We welcome your comments, stories and suggestions about Penny Power. To comment by email, visit pennypower.org and click on "Contact Us".

Susan Wadel, MCC Penny Power Coordinator

Ask Farmer Dan. MCC staff member and food activist Dan Wiens is visiting with farmers in Kenya, Mozambique and Zambia this spring. From now through April 15, ask Farmer Dan your questions and he will relay them to local farmers and respond online.

<http://www.mcc.org/food/ask/answer.html>

The Sounding Board and Love, Joy, Piece newsletters are available online as well as back

issues. www.mcc.org/reliefsales Please make these copies available or alert your committees that they are available on line.

Details for the two current traveling quilts Homes for Bangladesh and the Good Shepherd quilt are listed in the enclosed Love, Joy, Piece newsletter.

Dr. Dwight Kauffman has created another series of **Peace Candleholders** to raise funds for MCC Peace Projects and will send each relief sale a candleholder to be sold at their sale prior to the event. Any questions, please call (814) 445-6945.



Edgar Lehman of Chambersburg, PA has created a **model of the MCC mobile meat canner**

from wood, including tractor and trailer containing the canning equipment. This model will be available to travel among relief sales in 2008 and 2009 to raise funds for MCC's food assistance program. If you would like to book this item for your sale to take donations, please contact the Bergs. *Contact information on front side panel.*

MCC Has Been Busy!

MCC increases response to violence in Kenya.

In Kenya, violence that began in late December following disputed national elections continues to flare. Some 1,000 people have been killed, and some 300,000 people have been forced to flee their homes. MCC is committing more than \$150,000 to help Kenyan partners meet immediate needs and begin the work of rebuilding shattered relationships and trust.

MCC responds to flooding in Mozambique

MCC is purchasing plastic sheeting and other items to help shelter families in Mozambique whose homes have been destroyed by heavy flooding. MCC has also sent a shipment of relief supplies including comforters, MCC kits and canned turkey.



Zimbabwe's Brethren in Christ alleviate hunger



MCC is helping Zimbabwe's Brethren in Christ Church distribute seeds to farmers who are struggling with drought and economic turmoil. Members of the

Brethren in Christ Church (BICC) are distributing 25 metric tons of sorghum and maize seeds to 2,000 farm families in Zimbabwe's Matabeleland South province.

What is Happening at Relief Sales?

Arthur Mennonite Relief Sale attendance was increased due to the expanded advertising campaign. Interviews with several newspapers (both prior and after the event) created an awareness of the event and the purpose of the benefit.

Morris MCC Auction & Relief Sale included a giant produce auction held under the tent that was very successful.

Black Creek Pioneer Village Relief Sale offered a wide selection of food that included everything from corn-on-the cob, to borscht, to spring rolls & samosas. The BBQ chicken legs were done by a family group that had their members traveling from as far away as Abbotsford, BC to help in the preparation.

Central Fraser Valley MCC Relief Sale, Auction & Festival offers a separate donation booth where people could make donations. This booth caught the eye of people who did not attend the auction.

Brandon MCC Relief Sale hosted a Kiddies' Corner table that was well attended. Fifty-seven donated hogs were processed and the meat was frozen. All was sold by mid-morning.

Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale was aided by 140 runners who ran for relief. Next year the committee is considering hosting volleyball tournaments for the young.

Peach Cobbler Mennonite Relief Sale was attended by the "Good Sam RV" group who schedule its event for the same week as the sale - resulting in revenue increases.

Mennonite Fall Fair sold lunch tickets at the MCC booth that resulted in shorter food lines and created more awareness of MCC. The crafts did well due to a young mother organizing a Wednesday evening craft bee, inviting other young mothers to join in making crafts, many of which were donated to the sale.

Virginia Mennonite Relief Sale presented the "Down Home Shenandoah" radio program broadcast live from the sale and featured information about the work of MCC, the history of the Anabaptist Faith, and local histories of Mennonites in the Shenandoah Valley. The show's publicity resulted in a very large crowd.

Mennonite Country Auction & Relief Sale's specialty items helped raise its revenue by 20%.

Arkansas-Missouri Mennonite Relief Sale sold buckets of peanuts for \$45 a bucket and their pickle champ came through with several quarts of pickles that sold for \$65 per quart.

Rocky Mountain Mennonite Relief Sale sold the Loaf of Bread for \$1,050. Then the buyer had them slice the bread, spread it with apple butter and they sold it by the slice to raise another \$400!

Oregon Mennonite Festival for World Relief was featured in local newspapers, focusing on the making of peppernuts that gave their attendance a big boost.

Oklahoma Mennonite Relief Sale invited attendants to vote for their favorite quilt. This is then auctioned as the People's Choice quilt that does quite well.

Texas Mennonite Sale & Auction for World Relief presented a new coffee bar that was successful.

The Rio Grande Valley Mennonite Relief Sale raised over \$2,000 to benefit street children around the world through taking donations via the Good Shepherd traveling quilt.

Ontario Mennonite Relief Heifer Sale sold a model horse-drawn wagon for \$600, created by a 102-year old gentleman.



**Mennonite
Central
Committee**

.....in the name of Christ