



# 2023/2024 Annual Impact Report ALBERTA



*See the impact of your  
generosity in Alberta.*



Vurayayi Pugeni, Jose-Luis Moraga and Ryan Siemens at the Calgary Thrift BBQ. (MCC Photo)



The Wheels of Waterton team arrives in Waterton after biking 100 km for GO!100. (MCC Photo/Alex Heidebrecht)



Share the Harvest/Grow Hope farmers seeding a 280-acre field east of Gibbons, Alberta. (Photo/Shawn Galloway)

We are so glad you are part of the MCC story.

These pages are just a glimpse into how your gifts are impacting people's lives in Alberta and around the world.

Thank you for joining us in this work.

# THANK YOU

## FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In February 2024, 15 Albertans traveled to Rwanda to see the impact of MCC's international work firsthand. To help set the context of MCC's work in Rwanda, the group began the trip by visiting the Kigali Genocide Memorial; a place to commemorate and reflect on the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi, when more than 800,000 citizens were murdered in 100 days. This visit served as a stark reminder of where polarization, and the dehumanization of the other, can lead when taken to violent extremes. The theme "Never Again" reverberated throughout the trip as communities have worked to heal from that violence and build harmony within their homes and communities.

As churches and communities across Alberta feel the growing impact of polarization within our midst, the work of MCC Alberta seeks to turn the tide and draw us back into our common humanity. As we heard from the presenters at our first annual In Tune conference, finding harmony in polarized communities, and hearts, is hard work. And yet, when we open ourselves to the other (the refugee, the inmate, the stranger) through acts of compassion, kindness, and mercy, individuals and communities are transformed. Tareq Hadhad reminded us that it often just takes a simple act of kindness to make that difference. So, thank you. Your simple acts of kindness in sponsoring the refugee, visiting the inmate, sewing a comforter, filling a school kit, and giving a donation makes a difference here and around the world, as we yearn for greater harmony in our polarized communities.

In the name of Christ,



**RYAN SIEMENS**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MCC ALBERTA  
RYANSIEMENS@MCCAB.CA



*“For Christ is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is the hostility between us.”*

— EPHESIANS 2:14 NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION

# MCC ALBERTA WORKS IN TREATY TERRITORIES

In the spirit of respect and truth, we acknowledge and honour that our work is done on the lands of Treaties Six, Seven and Eight. These lands are the traditional home of the Cree, Dene, Inuit, Kainai, Metis, Piikani, Salteaux, Siksika, Stoney Nakoda and Tsuut'ina peoples.

We are grateful to be able to live, work and serve God the Creator here. As a Christian organization committed to right relationships and the Truth & Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, we acknowledge the harm done to the Indigenous peoples of these lands. As Treaty people, we strive towards reconciliation in our words and deeds.



**Andy Arthur**  
Thrift Coordinator (SK/AB)



**Tolulope Babalola**  
Human Resources Director



**Ala Camerzan**  
Financial Assistant



**Cindy Coleman**  
Migration and Resettlement  
Program Coordinator



**Linda Dickinson**  
Material Resources Coordinator



**Joyce Doran**  
Director of Social Enterprise



**Jessica Evans**  
Marketing and Communications  
Coordinator



**Sherry Galan**  
Edmonton Thrift Shop Manager



**Ken Grahman**  
Circles of Support and  
Accountability Coordinator



**Paula Guirguis**  
HR Generalist (SK/AB)



**April Hauck**  
Calgary Thrift Shop Manager



**Alex Heidebrecht**  
Communications and  
Development Director



**José-Luis Moraga**  
Program Director



**Rebecca Schnell**  
Community Engagement  
Coordinator



**Nettie Peters**  
Taber Thrift Shop Manager



**Alex Scott**  
Constituency Relations  
Associate



**Dianne Smith**  
Corporate Services Manager



**Tyler Retzlaff**  
Migration & Resettlement  
Associate



**Renn von Riesen**  
Director of Finance



**Andrea Rueda**  
Database Associate



**Donita Wiebe-Neufeld**  
Church Engagement Coordinator

## MCC ALBERTA 2023/2024 BOARD MEMBERS

**Ernie Engbrecht**  
Chair

**Sharon Penner**  
Treasurer

**Nicole Enns Fehr**  
Director

**Heather Driedger**  
Vice Chair

**Derek Cook**  
Director

**Robert Proudfoot**  
Director

**Timothy Burkholder**  
Secretary

**Gary Friesen**  
Director

**Christina Carpenter**  
Director



## Legacy donor profile:

### Gerhard Bartel

The Gerhard Bartel Foundation has been supporting MCC's work both locally and internationally since 2008.

**"This is the day that the Lord has made let us rejoice and be glad in it."** Psalm 118:24.

"This was one of our dad's favorite verses", says Barb Heidebrecht, Gerhard's daughter. "Part of rejoicing for dad was being able to pass the blessings he received in life to others. We are so grateful to see that continue through the work that MCC does."

(Photo courtesy of Barb Heidebrecht)



## Development highlights:

**4,159,148**

donated to MCC  
Alberta

**7710**

donations in Alberta

**3834**

personal connections  
with donors

**223**

first time gifts to MCC  
Alberta

## DEVELOPMENT



Because of your generosity, we are fostering peace and restoration to relationships and communities.

Photo: 

Cheryl Thiessen and Barb Heidebrecht help with the maize harvest during the Rwanda Learning Tour.

(MCC Photo/Donita Wiebe-Neufeld)

*"They do more than just send money. They give education and the tools to develop their own crops and grow their own food to make sure they can be more successful and sustainable in the future."*

SHAUN GALLOWAY - GROW HOPE FARMER

Photo: 

Paul, Joani, Cayden and Addie Neufeldt pose with Ace to raise money for GO!100.

(MCC Photo/Donita Wiebe-Neufeld)



# Grow hope. Alberta



Scan the QR code to learn about  
Grow Hope.

## “You can’t have peace when you are hungry”

Grow Hope Alberta is a partnership between MCC Alberta, Canadian Foodgrains Bank, Alberta farmers and donors which works to alleviate food insecurity for the 783 million people worldwide experiencing hunger. In February, a group of 15 Albertans visited Rwanda to see the impact of Grow Hope and conservation agriculture techniques that farmers are learning. Conservation agriculture has led to greater yields and stability for the farmers and families that

MCC works with. “You can’t have peace when you are hungry” was repeated often. It is a reminder that this work not only helps to feed the hungry but also helps to bring peace and restoration to relationships and communities.

This past year 287 acres were sponsored by MCC donors, and another 82 acres were donated directly from the farmers. \$283,950 was raised to support farmers and families around the world. Thank you to all the Grow Hope farmers and donors!

## GO! 100



## GO!ing the distance for MCC!

We are truly grateful for the incredible generosity shown by our donors, their families, and friends. This year, a total of 15 participants and 2 teams engaged in activities such as sewing, reading, and biking to raise an impressive sum of \$123,422. We are especially thankful for the generous \$50,000 match contributed by the Flaman Foundation. Our heartfelt thanks go out to all the dedicated participants who devoted their time to pursue their passions while supporting MCC’s cause of relief, development, and peace.



## In Tune

We hosted our first annual In Tune conference, inviting conversation and learning around the topic of “Finding Harmony in Polarized Communities.”

Adam Dyer, executive director of the Jesus Collective, reminded participants that the church’s goal has never been to have everyone agree on everything.

Betty Pries, an expert in mediation and conflict resolution, discussed embracing a both/and perspective when addressing contentious issues within church settings and relationships.

Ryan Dueck, pastor of Lethbridge Mennonite Church shared his story of sponsorship. “I do this because it is my duty as a follower of Jesus Christ, It’s our sacred duty to leave behind difference, God’s future has a right to make a demand on our present.”

Tareq Hadhad of Peace by Chocolate, shared his powerful migration story as a Syrian refugee with an emphasis on how “small acts of kindness matter.”

Join us for In Tune 2024:  
A Soul’s Cry for Home on  
October 26.



Ryan Dueck and Tareq Hadhad speak at In Tune.  
(MCC Photo/Jessica Evans)

## PROGRAM

Because of your love and support, we are able to provide opportunities for a better future.

*“Success, though it may be far away, does not mean it is not within reach.”*

**CORE MEMBER AND GRADUATE  
- CIRCLES OF SUPPORT AND  
ACCOUNTABILITY**

## Program highlights:

423

program participants through community engagement

35

Indigenous-led organizations engaged

81

circle meetings with core members through the CoSA program

52

refugees and their families settled in Alberta

Top right:   
The Al Hammadi family greeting family and sponsors at the Calgary International Airport in March, 2024.  
(MCC Photo/Jessica Evans)



## INDIGENOUS NEIGHBOURS

By working with local churches and community groups we strive to build respectful relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. MCCA listens deeply to the voices of Indigenous people and communities, works to support Indigenous-led initiatives, advocates for Indigenous people's rights, provides learning experiences to educate congregations and MCC constituency on reconciliation.

Scan the QR code to learn about Indigenous Neighbours workshops and experiences.



## MIGRATION & RESETTLEMENT

MCC Alberta's Migration and Resettlement program is grateful for the opportunity to welcome 52 individuals from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Syria to Lethbridge, Calgary and Edmonton. Through the generous support of donors and sponsors, families were reunited. We are thankful for sponsors who commit time and resources to make a positive impact on the lives of families seeking refuge from turmoil and striving for a new beginning.

## CIRCLES OF SUPPORT AND ACCOUNTABILITY AND CREATING COMMUNITY

CoSA volunteers provided support through 127 hours of circle meetings and 1-on-1s with core members (former offenders who aim to lead responsible, productive, and healthy lives). Beginning in January, 6 volunteers visited with women at Edmonton Institution for Women monthly through our Creating Community visitation program (formerly M2W2). MCC Alberta appreciates our volunteers and donors for contributing numerous hours and funds to aid offenders in their efforts to reconstruct their lives.

Scan the QR code to learn about refugee sponsorship.



Scan the QR code to learn about CoSA and prison visitation.



# MATERIAL RESOURCES



Your support brings relief to those who need it most.

*“The highlight, for me, is the moment of prayer over the completed kits and over the people who will receive them.”*

**BARB WIENS,  
MATERIAL RESOURCES  
VOLUNTEER**

Top right: \_\_\_\_\_ ↗

A group from Calgary First Mennonite Church pack hygiene kits at the Calgary Material Resources Centre. (MCC Photo/Linda Dickinson)



MCC Alberta expresses gratitude for the contributions of time and resources from donors across the province. Over 239 individuals shared their skills and abilities to support Material Resources initiatives.

At the Calgary Material Resources Centre, volunteers dedicated over 373 hours sorting supplies, packing items, and preparing comforters for shipping. In addition, hours were spent quilting, packing kits and shopping for kit items. This year more than 6640 pens, 4070 towels and 10,300 metres of fabric were sent to the Central Canadian Warehouse in Ontario before reaching those who need it most in Zambia, Ukraine, and Guatemala.

## Material resources shipped last year:



**776**  
Relief kits



**1660**  
School kits



**947**  
Hygiene kits



**1716**  
Comforters



Scan the QR code to read about Alberta-made comforters in Zambia.

# THRIFT



Spreading the generosity of our donors to our local and global communities.

*“I love the fact that I can fill my gap year between high school and university with a meaningful volunteer experience.”*

LUCIA DÜCK, EDMONTON THRIFT SHOP VOLUNTEER

Top right:   
Marlene Epp, Ingrid Tiessen, Betty Brown and Mary Lynn Retzlaff enjoy working together at the Calgary MCC Thrift Shop . (MCC Photo/Diane Ho)



“In 2023, we celebrated 50 years of MCC Thrift in Calgary and some of those volunteers still volunteer today. We asked volunteers why they are so committed. Their responses were consistent; helping others locally and internationally, recycling, giving us a purpose, community and of course it’s a lot of fun!”

- APRIL HAUCK, CALGARY THRIFT SHOP MANAGER



Father and son duo Isayah and Terrawood Juppo sort and organize donation at the Calgary MCC Thrift Shop. (Photo/Eunice Hau)



Scan the QR code to hear why Isayah loves volunteering at MCC Thrift.

## Thrift highlights:

**398**  
active volunteers

**70,098**  
volunteer hours

**3,600,000**  
in thrift revenue

**1,000,000**  
contributed to international programs

# CONNECTIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

**57 churches** are currently partnering with MCC Alberta to deliver programs.

*“We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us.”*

1ST JOHN 1:3

Photo:   
A youth group takes part in Parables, People and Planet, a workshop offered through MCC Alberta.  
(MCC Photo/Jessica Evans)



Vurayayi Pugini, Thelma Sadzamari and Ryan Siemens after a Relief Tour presentation at Coaldale Mennonite Church. (MCC Photo/Donita Wiebe-Neufeld)

## PARTNERING WITH CHURCHES

The year was bookended with wonderful church connections! In a July 2023 itineration, the Area Directors for South and Central Africa and Nigeria shared stories of deep gratitude and hope in Alberta churches.

An online auction in conjunction with the July itineration, In-Tune peace conference event in Calgary in November, church leader gatherings in Calgary and Edmonton, a November donor appreciation event in Edmonton, and a summer GO!100 fundraiser brought local churches together in fellowship and service. MCC Alberta staff spoke in churches 45 times this past year, telling the stories of work done in the name of Christ at home and around the world.



Scan the QR code to learn about MCC Alberta workshops and experiences.



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community Engagement in Alberta is growing as we cast a widening net to build relationships with organizations across the province. Screening MCC's Women Will Renew short film in the Calgary Justice Film Festival and strengthening relationships with Ambrose University through the In Tune conference events were two key opportunities.

The past year also marked the beginning of a new strategic approach to connecting students and young adults to the work of MCC. A menu of creative, interactive presentations that offer thought provoking connections to the work of MCC, with opportunities to take practical action has been developed. Presentations have been facilitated at schools (faith based and public), youth groups, and universities in various communities including Calgary, Edmonton, Medicine Hat, and Taber.

# Financial highlights

We are immensely grateful to our donors, volunteers and shoppers. Thanks to your generous support, MCC is able to share God’s love in practical ways with people around the world and right here in our home communities. Calgary Thrift broke monthly sales records 6 times throughout the year. Overall the four Alberta Thrift Shops raised more than \$1 million (net) for the work of MCC. Grow Hope raised \$283,950 (90% of the previous year) despite drought conditions accross the province. In response to crisis, more than \$130,000 was raised for the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. Thank you for your ongoing support for relief, development and peace in the name of Christ, here and around the world.

## TOTAL EXPENSES: \$7,972,605

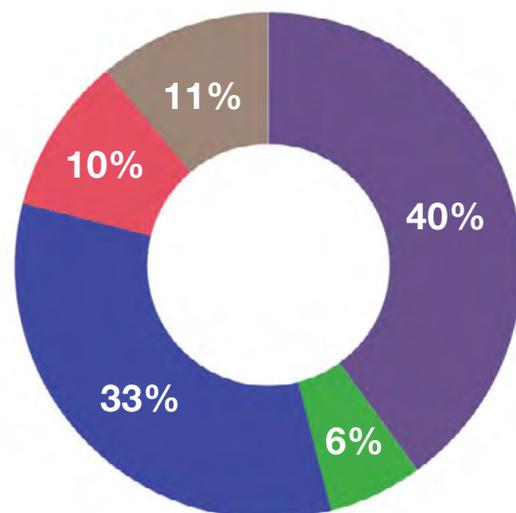
**\$3,182,838**  
Forwarded to MCC Canada for  
International Programs

**\$840,277**  
Administration

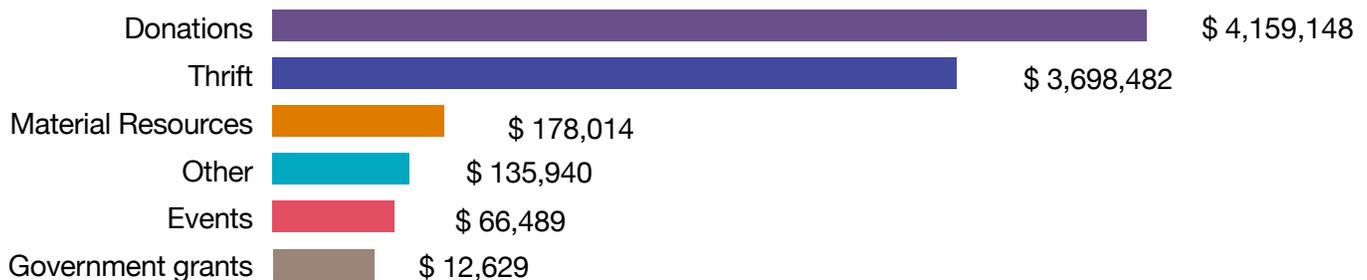
**\$517,162**  
Local Programs

**\$2,601,854**  
Thrift

**\$830,474**  
Development



## TOTAL REVENUE: \$8,250,702





# 2023/2024 Annual Impact Report

**CANADA AND SHARED INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM**



*See the impact of your generosity  
around the world.*





Jean Bosco Nsanzimana is a farmer in Rwanda's Kayonza district. He and his wife participated in conservation agriculture training offered by MCC partner Peace and Development Network (PDN) and increased their crop yield. Through a savings and loan association offered by PDN, the couple were able to rent a larger tract of land to farm. (MCC/Fairpicture photo/ Denyse Kamugwiza Uwera)



MCC partner Remember the Poorest Communities (RPC) provides preschool education in Adama, Ethiopia, for 250 orphaned and vulnerable children. RPC's project increases access to early childhood education, improves literacy and supports the emotional well-being of the children. (MCC photo/Nafkot Gebeyehu)



MCC partner Asociación Nuevo Amanecer de Santiago Atitlán (ANADESA) runs a development program for women in rural communities in Guatemala. ANADESA staff Laura Patricia Choy Tuiz, left, and participant Lucía Chiyal Chavajay display Lucía's *mostacilla* (artisanal beadwork), her personal microenterprise. (Photo credit ANADESA)

Jesus told us that faith, even the size of a mustard seed, can move mountains. Your faith has been anything but small and has accompanied us every step of the way.

These are the stories of your impact over the past year.

Thank you for your act of faith and generosity.

# THANK YOU

## FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

One of the privileges of my job is to offer you thanks. But think of this as a note of thanks coming from thousands of people you have never met. Your generosity matters deeply — to partners, communities and families around the world. Your gifts to MCC are making a real and lasting impact in communities from Myanmar to Afghanistan to Zimbabwe.

How does that impact happen? Through MCC partners.

A partner is one expression of a community's desire to improve their lives. A partner may be a church, a women's cooperative or a community agricultural organization. Your gift allows MCC to partner with these organizations that are already at work in their communities.

These partnerships are built on trust, allowing us to take cues from a partner's vision for change and offer support in the ways they tell us they need it.

Your gift was life-giving. It empowered partners to provide water, trauma care and disaster relief for their communities, our global neighbours.

As you read the following pages, I hope you experience a sense of our gratitude and the gratitude of MCC partners. And I hope you can take a few moments to celebrate what your giving has enabled our partners to do.

We are deeply grateful for your support. Your gift is vital, with far-reaching impact.

Thank you, and thanks be to God.



**RICK COBER BAUMAN**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MCC CANADA

**This report was written to reflect the 2023/2024 fiscal year, which ended March 31, 2024. To read an online version visit [mcc.org/about/reports](https://mcc.org/about/reports)**



**MCC envisions communities worldwide in right relationship with God, one another and creation.** In our second century of service, we reaffirm our Christ-led commitment to serve and learn from vulnerable people around the world.

In Chacaya, Guatemala, Lilian Osorio (left) stands with her daughter Luna Isel Choy Osorio in front of the restaurant Lilian opened with support from MCC partner ANADESA (New Dawn Association of Santiago Atitlán). With your support, MCC projects and partners are encouraging women to carve out new opportunities for themselves and their families.

## MCC CANADA 2023/2024 BOARD MEMBERS

**Ron Ratzlaff**  
Chair, CCAL\*

**Eleanor Andres**  
Member-at-large

**Selena Friesen**  
CCAL\*

**Thoven Pierre**  
Quebec

**Catherine Enns**  
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MCC Ontario

**Louise Larsen**  
MCC British Columbia

**Janet Plenert**  
MCC Manitoba

**Sandra Bunnett**  
Secretary, Atlantic Canada

**Jacqueline Block**  
MCC Saskatchewan

**Fiona Mo**  
CCAL\*

**Mark Sawatzky**  
Treasurer, Member-at-large

**Ernie Engbrecht**  
MCC Alberta

\*Appointed by the Canadian Council of Anabaptist Leaders (CCAL), which includes Mennonite Church Canada, Be in Christ Church of Canada, Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches and Evangelical Mennonite Conference.

# Global disaster response



A woman walks by a pile of rubble left from the February 2023 earthquake along the streets of Jableh, a remote city in Latakia, Syria. Nearly 9,000 people received monthly food supplies from MCC partners after the earthquakes.\* (FDCD photo/Mohammad Said)



In Amman, Jordan, MCC and Jordan Hashemite Charity Organization staff inspect items from the initial shipment of 665 food packages for dispatch to Gaza.\* (MCC photo/Marc Falconer)

## Response to earthquakes in Syria and Türkiye

In February 2023, two significant earthquakes in Syria and Türkiye caused massive destruction in the lives of more than 14 million people, compounding an already significant humanitarian crisis there. But in the months after, MCC's response in Syria has continued, providing food baskets, hygiene kits and cash distributions to thousands whose lives were affected. MCC partner Forum for Development, Culture and Dialogue (FDCD) provided monthly food baskets to 1,600 households — nearly 9,000 individuals. Their response focused on households whose homes were destroyed or damaged by the earthquakes.

## Inter-agency cooperation for Gaza

Part of MCC's emergency response in Gaza was funded by matching donations from the Government of Canada and the Humanitarian Coalition (HC), a collaboration of 12 Canadian international relief organizations. MCC participates in the HC through our membership in Canadian Foodgrains Bank. Every dollar you gave in the earliest days of the appeal for Gaza was doubled, significantly increasing the scope of the response. Emergency relief has been highly restricted in Gaza, so every shipment that crosses the borders makes a significant impact. This type of cooperation is fueled by donors like you and shows that when we work together, we can do more good than when we work alone.

\*Names have been withheld for security purposes.



Two women receive MCC comforters in the Zaporizhzhia region of Ukraine. Because of your support, more than 332,000 hungry people have been served meals, and more than 60,000 comforters have kept people warm.\* (Photo: Association of Mennonite Brethren Churches of Ukraine)



An MCC partner staff prepares food parcels for distribution to internally displaced people in Myanmar.\* (MCC photo)

## Continued relief and development in Ukraine

While the Russian military invasion of Ukraine faded from headlines this year, the needs remain high. MCC partners continue to supply emergency relief to people displaced from their homes by the fighting. Since 2022, MCC has spent nearly \$17 million on locally purchased goods and program costs in Ukraine. Peacebuilding projects have seen a boost in the last year, with many projects aimed at helping adults and children work through the trauma of war and displacement in supportive environments. Horse therapy, art therapy and massage therapy are a few of the ways MCC partners are helping Ukrainians address their emotional and spiritual needs in addition to their physical needs.

## Emergency relief in Myanmar

In 2021, a military coup overthrew Myanmar's first democratic government in decades. Since then, the country has witnessed a humanitarian catastrophe and has become dangerous for our partners to provide relief. But Mr. Khong\* recently shared on an episode of *Relief, Development and Podcast* how he is navigating these dangerous conditions. He talks about the moral obligation he feels as a peace worker, the livelihoods being impacted, families fleeing from their homes, the unpredictability of the army and the constant worry about being a target.

*Podcast: listen to Mr. Khong describe the situation in Myanmar.*



# Spotlight: Jonathan works for peace

On *Relief, Development and Podcast*, human rights lawyer and former MCC service worker Jonathan Kuttab (below) speaks about why understanding the context of the conflict in Palestine and Israel is essential to providing effective relief in the region. “I often say there’s a clear distinction between optimism and hope. I am not optimistic; this situation looks horrible. But I am full of hope that things can and will change.”

Listen to Jonathan describe the context of peace efforts in Palestine and Israel. (MCC photo/Christy Kauffman)



# RELIEF



## You're offering relief to those facing disaster or war

In October 2023, Firas Hamlawi, right, a volunteer, and Rifqah Hamlawi, centre, a staff member with MCC partner AI-Najd Developmental Forum, helped distribute food packages to 35 families and bedding to 10 families displaced by the increased violence in Gaza. (Photo courtesy of AI-Najd Developmental Forum)

### Relief program highlights:

**299,458**

people received emergency food assistance

**11,805**

people received financial support or rent

**46,300**

people provided with temporary shelter

**202**

homes repaired or reconstructed

*“It’s really only possible to respond in situations like this with trusted, existing partners.”*

SARAH FUNKHOUSER WHO IS THE MCC REPRESENTATIVE FOR JORDAN, PALESTINE, AND ISRAEL ALONG WITH HER HUSBAND SETH MALONE



Following the Hamas attacks on Israel last fall, the Israeli military response in Gaza launched one of the direst humanitarian crises of the last year. MCC staff overseeing projects in Gaza say the level of destruction is unfathomable.

**Your love in action empowered an immediate response.**

Your donations to MCC's Gaza response allowed our partners to hand out emergency food supplies and bedding for hundreds of displaced and terrified families with no delay. Support has since taken the form of cash transfers and cross-border food shipments when humanitarian aid is permitted to flow.

Your faithful support builds on MCC's 75 years of working in Palestine and Israel, which has allowed us to grow long-term relationships with our partners. Many MCC partners on the ground in Gaza have continued working, even with their own lives in danger. Their years of experience are essential in times of disaster.

"It's really only possible to respond in situations like this with trusted, existing partners," says Sarah Funkhouser, who, together with her husband, Seth Malone, is the MCC representative for Jordan, Palestine and Israel.

## Spotlight: Barbara shares her table

As a *Share Your Table* donor, Barbara Gagne-Gottel receives update emails with videos, recipes and much more. Barbara has been a *Share Your Table* donor since March 2021. She is one of more than 600 Canadians helping feed people around the world each month. “When I first heard of *Share Your Table*, immediately I felt it was an extension of my personal desire to practice hospitality.”

Barbara Gagne-Gottel, Quebec  
(MCC photo/ Mackenzie Schwarz)



## FOOD



### You're helping farmers respond to climate change and feed their families

Ovagini Rani tends to seedlings in her hanging garden at home. Hung from supports, her garden is protected from flood waters that would otherwise destroy it.

## Food program highlights:

**40,726**

people trained in climate-adaptive agriculture practices

**1,515**

farmers in a project in Mozambique say they can now control pests on the majority of their plots — a 400% increase from last year

**26,850**

people received agricultural supplies, including seeds and tools

**38**

projects in 20 countries are supported through MCC's account at Canadian Foodgrains Bank

**337,234**

trees planted

*“Now vegetables, fruits, other things, everything is here. Now I am getting enough.”*

NIKHIL CHANDRA MONDOL,  
A BANGLADESHI FARMER



Ovagini Rani has seen five homes washed away into the Jamuna River over her lifetime. Her current home sits on the banks of the Jamuna in Bogura, Bangladesh, and every year she hopes it remains there after the rainy season. Two recent rainy seasons have brought so much flooding that Ovagini has found fish at her doorstep more than once. In those conditions, there's almost no way to reliably grow anything.

But your generous support has equipped her with a life-changing solution and a creative approach.

MCC partner Maitree Palli Unnayan Sangathon (MPUS) is teaching farmers like Ovagini to think vertically. By building simple triangular frames from bamboo and planting crops that thrive

vertically, Ovagini doesn't have to worry about losing her crops when the river rises. Now, not only can she grow more food for her family, but she can also sell seedlings and compost to her neighbours, increasing the amount of money she can bring in for her family.

Ovagini can make 5,000 takas (\$58) most months on top of the 10,000 takas her husband makes from working day labour jobs. **Your support has empowered MPUS to innovate, which has enabled Ovagini to support her daughter's studies at university in Dhaka in ways she couldn't before.**

## Spotlight: Ken and Cheryl leave a legacy

Ken Ogasawara and Cheryl Lee are MCC supporters from Kitchener, Ontario, who have committed to leaving a legacy to MCC. “In our estate, we know that there will be space to give generously to our family, and space to give generously to our global family.”

(Photo courtesy of Ken Ogasawara)



# WATER



## You're bringing life-giving water to those who need it

Deepa Mandal Paswan washes her face with clean water from the borewell constructed by an MCC partner in Nepal. (MCC/Fairpicture photo/Uma Bista)

## Water program highlights:

### 46,247

people now have access to an improved water source

### 6,985

people now have access to a new or improved latrine or sanitation facility

### 40,092

people received water, sanitation or hygiene training

### 72%

of households in one project in Nepal now have drinking water available on their yard

*“I feel more at ease having my own water pump.”*

**DEEPA MANDAL PASWAN, RECIPIENT OF A BOREWELL IN RURAL NEPAL**



Access to clean water is essential for living a healthy life, something Deepa Mandal Paswan knows firsthand. She's a farmer in the Jahada district of Nepal and had to rely on her neighbours' offer to use their wells and pumps so she could access clean, safe water. Without convenient access to clean water at her own home, her children's health was suffering.

**But because you gave to MCC, Deepa and her children now have the security of their own safe water point.**

MCC partner SAHAS (Helping Hands) dug a borehole well 100 feet down into fresh, clear groundwater that now provides water that is

safe for drinking, cooking and bathing, with no treatment needed. This well is one of 53 under the current project, and Deepa says her life is noticeably better as a result.

“It will be easier for me because I had to go [to my neighbours] and sometimes I had to disturb them,” says Deepa. “I’m very happy about having my personal water point.”

With that barrier removed, her daily life has gotten easier and safer.

## Spotlight: Lil bakes pies

Lil Grove has been baking pies for MCC relief sales in Toronto for nearly 50 years. She says the total number differs every year, but conservatively, she's baked more than 10,000 pies over the years to raise money for MCC's global work.

When asked what's kept her baking over the years, she said, "It feels really good to share and I believe in MCC."

Photo courtesy of Lil Grove



# HEALTH

## You're keeping mothers and their babies healthy

Lidya Shiferaw, 27, is a social health worker for a maternal and child health project with MCC partner Meserete Kristos Church Development Commission in Batu, Ethiopia. (MCC photo/Nafkot Gebeyehu)

## Health program highlights:

**38,836**

people received direct clinical care

**116,125**

people received hygiene items, including menstrual health supplies

**29,432**

people received psychosocial support care

**96%**

of supported ex-detainee children in a Palestinian project reported reduced PTSD-related symptoms

*"My child was malnourished before I started the program, but now his condition has become history. Both my children are healthy and clean."*

**DESELECH ALEMU, RECIPIENT OF MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH SUPPORT IN BATU, ETHIOPIA**



Deselech Alemu's second child, Aberham, was only three months old when he started to get sick. Deselech thought it was probably a result of his being malnourished, but she couldn't afford to make any changes to his diet. Living on only her husband's day labour wages — around \$2 a day — in Batu, Ethiopia, meant that affording enough food to survive was already a challenge, never mind medicine for a newborn baby.

**But because of you, today, her little boy is happier and healthier than ever.**

The staff of MCC partner Meserete Kristos Church Development Commission (MKCDC)

knows the needs of the community and moms like Deselech who need support the most. They provide food or cash to handle the most immediate needs but also offer support for breastfeeding, child vaccination and hygiene to keep babies safe and healthy long-term.

Without MKCDC's help, Deselech would have been totally on her own, with no support. But because you generously gave, she and both her children are healthy and able to stay in their community.

## Spotlight: Jennifer helps refugees settle

Jennifer Bell formed Lake Front Refugee Project after she and some friends in Ontario decided to take action to help refugees in 2015. In 2017, they sponsored a trio of adult siblings from the Democratic Republic of the Congo who'd been separated from their parents 20 years ago. Through a set of miraculous circumstances, the children's parents were located in a Ugandan refugee camp and successfully sponsored to come to Canada this year.

Jennifer Bell (second from left) on a trip to Mbarara, Uganda, to visit the family of a group of refugees she was part of sponsoring in 2019. (Photo courtesy of Jennifer Bell)



## Migration program highlights:

# 452

refugees from these countries were resettled in Canada through MCC-supported sponsorship:

Syria **120**

Afghanistan **101**

Eritrea **82**

DR Congo **37**

Iraq **26**

Other countries include:  
Somalia,  
Burundi,  
Ethiopia,  
Iran,  
South Sudan,  
Myanmar and many more

# MIGRATION



## You're creating homes for those who've lost theirs

Members of the Calgary First Mennonite Church refugee sponsorship group meet with Alsar Zarour and her mother Mannal Khchfa. (L to R) Jake Wiebe, Elsie Wiebe, Mannal Khchfa, Alsar Zarour, Karen Janz. (MCC photo/Jessica Evans)

*“[My children] have a future, they are attending school for the first time in their lives.... They love the newness of this life.”*

**ALSAR ZAROOR, A SYRIAN REFUGEE WHO WAS SPONSORED TO COME TO CANADA THROUGH MCC**



In December 2016, Alsar Zarour and her family were getting off a plane in Calgary, Alberta, feeling cold and alone. They'd fled their home in Syria into Türkiye, where they received news that they'd been sponsored to come to Canada by a group of total strangers.

Alsar remembers looking at her mother and saying, "Who would be waiting for us?"

Meanwhile, a refugee sponsorship group from Calgary's First Mennonite Church was eagerly awaiting their arrival, excited to show the family their new home.

"When we got into our house that night, I will never forget," Alsar recalls. "They asked us if we have everything we need. We didn't even know

we had a house! We had spoons, everything was there, we didn't need anything. We only came with our clothes."

Today, eight years later, long after the formal sponsorship support ended, Alsar counts many from that group among her closest friends. They visit regularly, sharing the ups and downs of life.

**Every year, the incredible generosity of MCC refugee sponsorship groups creates lifelong friendships and changes the lives of hundreds of people who have been forced from their homes.**

## Spotlight: Mackenzie advocates in Canada

In the newly created position of domestic advocacy specialist at MCC's Peace & Justice Office in Ottawa, Mackenzie Graham focuses on advocating for policies that affect the work of MCC and our partners here in Canada. In this role, he is supporting the work being done in restorative justice, reconciliation between Indigenous and settler peoples and environmental justice in Canada.



(Photo courtesy of Mackenzie Graham)

## Peace & Justice program highlights:

20,581

people around the world received peacebuilding training

50

meetings between Ottawa policymakers and MCC staff

44,358

people globally received training in human rights

560

people in Canada signed up for a **Month of Climate Actions**

485

peace clubs active this year



# PEACE & JUSTICE



## You're equipping peacemakers and advocating for lasting change

A group of MCC staff and executive directors rallied for peace at the Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage at Parliament Hill in Ottawa, Ontario. (MCC photo/Annalee Giesbrecht)

*“We can’t always see the connections between our advocacy and clear outcomes and changes, so it was a huge win to see the calls for a ceasefire heard and turned into action in Canada.”*

**ANNA VOGT, DIRECTOR OF ADVOCACY AND PUBLIC POLICY AT MCC CANADA'S PEACE & JUSTICE OFFICE**



MCC has been working in Palestine and Israel for 75 years, but there’s one thing that hasn’t changed in all that time — our commitment to non-violence as the foundation of every step toward peace. For months after the reignited violence in Gaza after October 7, it seemed like our calls for an end to the violence were ignored by the Canadian government.

But you raised your voice and the government listened.

**Hundreds of you sent letters or emails to government officials telling them clearly that Canada should be calling for a ceasefire in Gaza and they listened.** MCC staff in Ottawa engaged in press conferences and multiple

behind-the-scenes meetings with members of multiple political parties. In December, Canada’s government joined the growing group of nations calling for the end to violence in Palestine and Israel and voted in favour of a UN resolution calling for the same.

Peace still hasn’t come to Gaza, but your support of MCC’s advocacy work has brought our calls for peace into the halls of government and made significant steps in Canada’s support for a non-violent end to the conflict in Palestine and Israel.

## Spotlight: *Die Post* informs

*Die Mennonitische Post* (The Mennonite Post) is a German-language newspaper produced biweekly by MCC for Low German-speaking communities across the Americas. It is an important literacy tool and source of outside news for thousands of Low German-speaking Mennonites. Produced alongside it is *Das Blatt*, a German magazine for kids and their teachers. Between both publications, they reach around 30,000 people every month.

Staff and supporters at the grand opening of the new office of *Die Mennonitische Post* (The Mennonite Post) in Steinbach, Manitoba. (MCC photo/Fredy Hiebert)



# EDUCATION



## You're empowering women by tearing down barriers to education

Women and teenage girls participate in a literacy learning circle in Kabul, Afghanistan. These learning circles provide education on topics like literacy, child protection, health and conflict resolution. Names have been withheld for security reasons. (MCC photo)

## Education program highlights:

**25,674**

children and youth participated in K-12 education supported by MCC

**75%**

of students in an Egyptian school program for Sudanese refugees passed the Grade 6 national exam

**26,313**

children and youth received education supplies, including MCC school kits and locally purchased items

**100%**

of students in a Ugandan early child development program got passing grades for cognitive and social development

*“You can see that they have the desire to learn, they do not come for anything else. They come to get the education, to learn.”*

**AN MCC PARTNER\* IN AFGHANISTAN  
TEACHING WOMEN TO READ**



Less than 30% of women in Afghanistan over age 15 are literate. Decades of conflict and the Taliban’s increasing influence have prevented generations of girls from attending school. Without basic education, many Afghan women can’t earn money or access essential information on their own.

**But with your help, women and girls in Afghanistan are finding ways to get the education they need to empower future generations of women.**

An MCC partner\* in Afghanistan has developed a curriculum to teach skills such as literacy, peacebuilding and child protection to groups of women. Classes run for an hour each day, over

three years. It’s all done at great risk, as Taliban laws have banned most education for women across the country.

A staff member\* with MCC’s partner says by ensuring women have access to education, the ripple effects go beyond the immediate benefits.

“If you want to educate [the next] generation, you have to educate a woman because, especially in Afghanistan, women are all the time with their children.”

\*Names have been withheld for security purposes

# MATERIAL RESOURCES



## You're helping girls stay in school

Millicent Otieno, a sewing instructor at Loreto Rumbek School, South Sudan, holds an example of the reusable menstrual pad finished by the school dignity kit sewing project. With your support, over 3,000 dignity kits were distributed to female high school students in South Sudan. (MCC photo/Christy Kauffman)

*“For the girls who are receiving the dignity kit.... [I say] keep at your education, because education is the light of your life.”*

**REBECCA DENG,  
A RESETTLED REFUGEE  
FROM SOUTH SUDAN  
WHO COLLECTS DIGNITY  
KITS FOR MCC**



In countries like South Sudan, a girl's period is one of the biggest barriers she will face in continuing her education. One-time-use pads from stores are prohibitively expensive. Without access to the basic tools to manage their menstrual cycles with dignity, many girls will skip school and even drop out altogether.

But thanks to your support of MCC's dignity kits, more girls can attend school without worrying about their period. The kits contain several reusable pads, underwear, towels and cleaning supplies, all designed so the pads last for years before needing to be replaced.

**With dignity kits, girls are empowered to take charge of their own health and can pursue their education with one less barrier.**

### Material resources shipped last year with your support:



**298,827**  
Kilograms of  
canned meat



**81,048**  
School kits



**28,583**  
Relief kits



**8,641**  
Infant care kits



**80,060**  
Hygiene kits



**53,601**  
Comforters



**2,602**  
Sewing kits



**10,541**  
Dignity kits



## You're putting creativity into sustainability

Grace Bayles wearing the wedding dress she bought at the MCC Thrift shop in Warman, Saskatchewan, on her wedding day in Ontario in July 2023. (Photo courtesy of Grace Bayles)



Grace Bayles knew she wanted to keep her wedding budget low. She's a regular thrift shopper, so she knew what kinds of deals she could get if she kept her options open. But even she was surprised when she found the perfect wedding dress hanging on a rack, just a week before her wedding, at the MCC Thrift shop in Warman, Saskatchewan.

"I decided so late in the summer to look for another dress, so I only had a few days to find something," said Grace. "It was magical because it felt like another affirmation that God can provide for us.... It was a sign of his provision."

Grace and her husband Bob held their wedding last summer in Ontario, and her story is a great reminder that you never know what you may find when you need it at an MCC Thrift shop.

*"They pulled it off the rack and brought it to me... and I thought 'Oh my goodness, this is it!'"*

GRACE BAYLES, REGULAR  
MCC THRIFT SHOPPER

# 5,100

active MCC Thrift  
volunteers across Canada

# \$39,565,000

donated by MCC Thrift shops  
in Canada and the U.S. to  
support the work of MCC in  
the 2023/2024 fiscal year.

# GLOBAL SERVICE LEARNING



You're giving young adults the opportunity to grow and learn together



Madeline Simons (far left) and other members of the 2024 Seek cohort in front of the Banteay Srei temple in Siem Reap province during their term in Cambodia. (Photo courtesy of Madeline Simons)

*“I think [Seek] is a wonderful way to expand your worldview and build a really strong sense of community.”*

**MADLINE SIMONS, FROM DUNEDIN, NEW ZEALAND, ON HER EXPERIENCE DOING SEEK**

Seek, MCC's newest young adult service program, is a discipleship experience that invites young adults to explore, engage and reflect more deeply on what it means to be an Anabaptist follower of Jesus in a complicated world. Over a period of six months, a small group of 18-to-20-year-olds live and learn together in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, with many opportunities to explore their faith and the beauty of Cambodia.

Madeline Simons recently finished her term with Seek and says the thing she thinks will stay with her most is the sense of community they built together.

“We heard everyone’s own testimonies and stories about their lives — that was really special because you just get to know people on such a deeper level. And you have so much perspective on their life. I think every time I heard someone’s story, I was kind of in awe of what they had to go through, how strong they are now. That was really valuable.”



*Listen to a podcast to hear more from Seek participants.*





Gratitude and generosity have always been important values for Dan and Erica Block. With a gift in their will, those values will continue (MCC photo/Meghan Mast)

# Leaving a legacy of hope

Dan and Erica Block of Winnipeg, Manitoba, have decided to add a gift in their will for MCC.

While they don't consider themselves wealthy, they recognize that they have something to share.

"We're among the privileged," says Dan. "[Leaving a gift in our will is] a marvellous opportunity for us to practice generosity."

Their legacy gift ensures that the values they supported throughout their lives will continue to make an impact in years to come.

*Watch this video where Dan and Erica tell their story.*



## *Frequently Asked Questions*

### **I don't consider myself wealthy – can my gift still have an impact?**

Absolutely! Leaving a gift in your will isn't just for the wealthy. It's a way to support causes you care about, regardless of your current financial status. Every contribution, no matter the size, helps support meaningful work.

### **How do I include a gift in my will?**

There are several ways to set up a legacy gift. Some people specify a fixed dollar amount, while others designate a percentage of their estate after providing for their loved ones. We'd love to help you figure out what is right for you.

For more information visit [mcc.org/legacy](https://mcc.org/legacy) or call Rosie at **844-732-2346**.



## Canada

513 MCC workers\*

\$14.5 million

\*includes MCC Thrift staff

## United States

208 MCC workers

\$14.9 million

## Latin America & the Caribbean

80 MCC workers

\$7.8 million

## Europe & the Middle East

43 MCC workers

\$24.9 million

## Africa

166 MCC workers

\$26.5 million

Dollar figures on map represent direct program expenses without fundraising and administration costs.

Map uses Equal Earth projection

# MCC around the world

## FINANCES

The financial information on these pages presents the combined operations in Canadian dollars of the MCCs in Canada and the U.S. for the year ended March 31, 2024. More detailed financial and program reporting, as well as complete audited financial statements are available at [mcc.org/about/reports](http://mcc.org/about/reports).

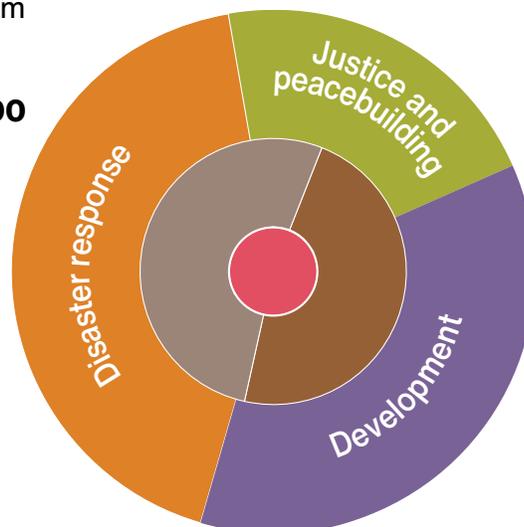
For a detailed list of funding sources see the electronic annual impact report appendix online at [mcc.org/about/reports](http://mcc.org/about/reports).

### TOTAL EXPENSES:

# \$151,725,000

Direct program expenses (outer ring total) **\$109,911,000** **72.44%**

The three sections of the outer ring are a total of direct program expenses





**Asia**  
140 MCC workers  
\$8.5 million

**Multi-Region**  
\$12.8 million

**45**  
countries

**353**  
partners

**452**  
projects

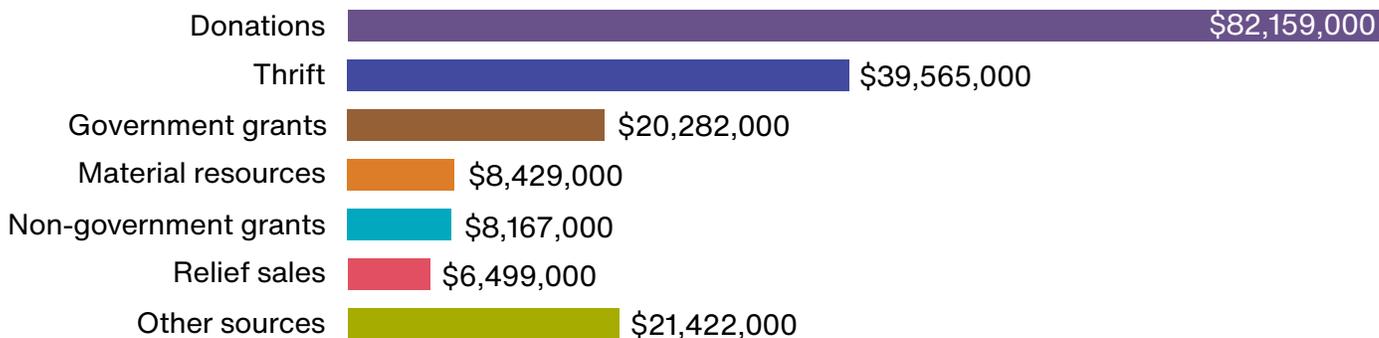
**1,150**  
workers

**123**  
participants in Global Service Learning  
programs as of March 31, 2024:

YAMEN	24
IVEP	23
SALT	14
Seed	21
Seek	6
Summerbridge	14
SOOP	21

**TOTAL REVENUE:**  
**186,523,000\***

**Funding sources**



\* A gift of capital property of \$56.6 million to MCC B.C., managed by HyLand Properties, is excluded from the above graph to make financials comparable year-over-year.

**Space reserved for FSC stamp**