

2017 Report to Ohio Conference of Mennonite Church USA

Thank you for partnering with us to support the work of Mennonite Central Committee. We can't do it alone. In every country where MCC works, we partner with local churches and organizations with similar values. And here locally so many of you give of your time, your talents, your prayers and your financial resources.

Our connections

- MCC appreciates the seven MCC thrift shops and their volunteers in Ohio in Archbold, Bluffton, West Liberty, Plain City, Kidron, Millersburg and Hartville, who gave more than \$1.8 million to MCC in 2016.
- Last year, volunteers helped to process 25,928 cans of chicken in Middlefield, Ohio, and Spartansburg, Pa., and 29,750 cans of turkey in Kidron and Berlin, Ohio.
- The Material Resource Center at MCC Connections in Kidron continues to receive strong support and donations.
- The Black Swamp Benefit (Wauseon) and Ohio Mennonite (Wooster) relief sales contributed \$406,000 to MCC's work around the world, with the Ohio sale successfully changing venues to the Wayne County Fairgrounds. My Coins Count contributions continue to be a strong \$169,403 between the two sales.
- Ben and Beth Weisbrod, Area Directors for Central and West Africa, met with individuals from area congregations in May. Grace Mennonite and Berlin Mennonite hosted alumni and friends gatherings, including an international potluck. The Weisbrods also spoke at Central Christian School and Lake Center Christian School, as well as visited with MCC thrift shop volunteers across Ohio.
- Kidron Mennonite Church hosted an MCC Peace Gathering on April 16 featuring speakers and discussion on the U.S. criminal justice system, conflict resolution in schools, immigration and racial profiling.
- Lee Heights Community Church in Cleveland had two participants, Daniella Smith and Taylor Ward, in the Summer Service program.
- Thank you to the individuals and congregations who are hosting six International Volunteer Exchange Program (IVEP) participants: Sam (Indonesia) and JJ (DR Congo) at Lake Center Christian School, QingRun (China) at Hartville Thrift Shoppe, Proshongsita (Bangladesh) at Save & Serve Thrift Shop, Barbara (Brazil) at Central Christian School and Abenezer (Ethiopia) at Mennonite Disaster Service.
- Lockport Mennonite (Archbold, Ohio), Orrville Mennonite (Orrville, Ohio) and Valley View Mennonite (Spartansburg, Pa.,) sent groups to volunteer with MCC's Sharing With Appalachian People (SWAP) program.
- MCC is grateful for the ongoing gifts of funds from Ohio Conference churches, whether through the conference office, directly from individuals to MCC or by estate bequests.

MCC at work around the world

- MCC and its partners are addressing conflict-related needs in Syria and Iraq, and among refugees and host communities in Lebanon and Jordan. Projects provide food, water, rent assistance, cash assistance, education support, trauma care and more.

Representatives and contacts

- Ohio Conference is represented on the MCC Great Lakes Board by Rachel Kauffman. In addition, Haroldo Nunes is the representative for Iglesia Menonita Hispana, and Sara Obri serves as a member-at-large.
- MCC Great Lakes staff are available to speak to your congregation and connect you with resources. Please contact our office, and subscribe to MCC's *In Touch* monthly e-newsletter to get the latest news and information.

Thank you for being part of MCC's ministry in the name of Christ,
Eric Kurtz, Executive Director for MCC Great Lakes

*Mennonite Central Committee, a worldwide ministry of Anabaptist churches,
shares God's love and compassion for all in the name of Christ
by responding to basic human needs and working for peace and justice.*