

Relief, development and peace in the name of Christ

2018 Report to Ohio Conference of Mennonite Church USA

In every country where MCC works, we partner with local churches and organizations with similar values. We are thankful for partnerships that make MCC's projects as reliable, effective and efficient as they can be. And we are grateful to our supporters like you who make this work possible through your time, talents, prayers and financial gifts.

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 over \$1.8 million to MCC in 2017.
- Last year, volunteers helped to process 9,905 cans of chicken in Middlefield, Ohio, and 56,297 cans of turkey in Kidron and Berlin, Ohio, and Spartansburg, Pa.
- The Material Resource Center at MCC Connections in Kidron continues to receive strong support and donations. Last year volunteers processed 1,256 blankets/comforters, 3,520 school kits, 6,140 hygiene kits and 406 relief kits. Virgil Troyer retired as director of MCC Connections at the end of December, and MCC Great Lakes created a new position to coordinate the MRC and serve as a connecting point for Ohio churches.
- The Black Swamp Benefit (Wauseon) and Ohio Mennonite (Wooster) relief sales contributed \$378,500 to MCC's work around the world. My Coins Count contributions continue to be a strong \$185,500 between the two sales.
- In October a five-church gathering of congregations hosted Saulo Padilla, MCC U.S. Immigration Education Coordinator, at Martins Mennonite Church (Orrville) to share his personal story and immigration realities.
- Dan & Jeanne Jantzi, long-time MCCers, spoke at MCC Alumni & Friends gathering at Millersburg Mennonite.
- Eric Kurtz, Executive Director, and Adam Graber Roth, Donor Relations Associate, visited Jubilee Mennonite (Bellefontaine). Les Gustafson-Zook, Constituent Relations Coordinator, spoke at West Clinton Mennonite (Wauseon) and Central Mennonite (Archbold) and represented MCC at the Black Swamp Benefit. Kurtz spoke at Sonnenberg Mennonite's (Kidron) mission weekend where they knotted comforters with Lee Heights (Cleveland).
- Juana Alicia Ruiz, community leader from Mampuján, Colombia, shared about the trauma-healing work of MCC and Sembrandopaz through traditional quilting techniques at Wooster Mennonite, Sonnenberg Mennonite (Kidron), Central Christian School, MCC Connections and Bethel Mennonite, with Jes Stoltzfus Buller, Peace Education Coordinator. Buller also spoke at the MCC Connections volunteer banquet and at Bluffton University.
- Bluffton University hosted Doctrine of Discovery events in November, including the Loss of Turtle Island.
- Lee Heights Community Church (Cleveland) had two participants, KeAndre Underwood and Tyahana Elder, in the Summer Service program.
- Ohio currently has six International Volunteer Exchange Program (IVEP) participants: Hashem Ammari (Jordan) at Central Christian School, Rocky Hembrom (Bangladesh) at Save & Serve Thrift Shop, Mizinga Choompa (Zambia) at Venture Farms, Nasly Moreno Ibrarguen (Colombia) at Lifebridge Church and Alexis Deuzoumbe Chindebya (Chad) at Green Field Farms.
- Valley View Mennonite Church in Spartansburg, Pa. sent a group to volunteer with MCC's Sharing With Appalachian People (SWAP) program in Harlan, Ky.

MCC at work around the world

- Over the past year, with your support, we made a difference in some 56 countries—meeting urgent needs for food in places like South Sudan, increasing our food security initiatives and expanding water- and soil-conservation efforts. We responded to the devastation of Hurricane Matthew in Haiti and continued multimillion dollar efforts to respond to the ongoing crises in Syria and Iraq.

Representatives and contacts

- Ohio Conference is represented on the MCC Great Lakes Board by Emily McKibbin. In addition, Haroldo Nunes is the representative for Iglesia Menonita Hispana, and Sara Obri serves as a member-at-large. Maria Hernandez is the student representative for Bluffton University.
- Sarah Geiser began her new position in late August as Church Relations Associate for Ohio and Material Resource Coordinator at the MRC in Kidron, working from MCC Connections. Contact her to learn more about the work of MCC and how you can partner with MCC to bring relief, development and peace in the name of Christ.

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