



**Mennonite
Central
Committee**

MCC Manitoba Report

Ron Janzen, Executive Director

“Here is my servant whom I have chosen, the one I love, in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will proclaim justice to the nations.”

Matthew 12:18

“If you have come to help us you are wasting your time. But if you have come because your liberation is bound up with ours, then let us work together.” - Lila Watson, Australian Aboriginal

MCC approaches its work with an attitude of listening and learning from what we hear. We recognize that we don't bring all the answers and that we may find more questions as we carry out our work. This concept is foundational to why we focus on partnerships and relationships in our work around the world.

We place trust in the community development already going on and we ask how we can support it.

Respecting the priorities of local leadership is important. Also, as we express ourselves in a faith movement we are called to acts of compassion. We desire to express Christ's love, mercy, forgiveness and redemption through our acts of service. Our listening and our service are grounded in the good news of the gospel message.

Following are just a few of the ways in which we have spread this message and this work in the past year:

- Our Aboriginal Neighbours program builds relationships with the Aboriginal community and resources our constituency in matters of understanding Aboriginal culture and social justice issues. We are currently engaged in a program review and a co-ordinator recruitment process. The review indicates strong appreciation for our work from the Aboriginal partners we relate to.
- Five new International Volunteer Exchange participants arrived in Manitoba. They represent the countries of Uganda, Honduras, Lesotho, China, Haiti and are involved in service assignments at Winnipeg Harvest, Sam's Place Café and Bookstore, Family Community Centre and MCC Kildonan Thrift Shop.
- Our office in Winkler provides documentation support to Low German Mennonites arriving in Canada from countries such as Mexico, Bolivia and Paraguay. Large numbers of newcomers continue to be served and there is much appreciation for the work.
- Through our Peace Program, we provided resources and dialogue with schools, college and universities, churches and community groups on current issues of social justice and peace making.
- The Board of Directors added student representatives to the board and launched a bursary awards program to encourage and affirm future service workers and leaders.
- Sam's Place is a café/used bookstore/music venue operating as a social enterprise in the Elmwood/Chalmers neighborhood of Winnipeg. This program provides outreach to at-risk youth, effectively engages young adults, and provides a unique venue to encounter MCC's mission.
- The Voices for Non Violence program provides resources on domestic abuse in Mennonite homes and churches. Significant efforts were put into providing a parenting resource for an Orthodox Mennonite community in western Manitoba.

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- Initiatives for Just Communities operates the restorative justice programs of Circles of Support & Accountability, Open Circle, Touchstone FASD, and El'Dad Ranch. These programs focus on support to individuals with intellectual disabilities and/or fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, as well as people who were formerly or are currently in prison. These are highly effective programs that restore hope, relationships, and faith for many of the clients and families. We continued to provide core funding support to this important community partner.
 - The Communications and Donor Relations team keeps constituents and churches informed about the opportunities MCC has for people to learn about, get involved with and support MCC. A major international focus this year was the relief campaign for Syria and typhoon Haiyan for Philippines. Manitoba has donated nearly \$1 million for Syria and the Philippines this year (as of Dec, 2013).
 - This year we launched a new fundraising activity called Thrift Shop Recycle: Journey For Justice. During a six day 650 kilometer bicycle ride, the Executive Director visited 15 thrift shops. We celebrated the volunteers and community outreach of thrift shops and raised funds for restorative justice programs. Over \$45,000 was raised and it was a wonderful week of celebration!
 - The service of volunteers through activities such as the relief sales, thrift shops, banquets, meat canning, quilt show and more, gives opportunity for the MCC message to be conveyed to many people while raising over \$9 million annually in support of our work. Several thrift shops celebrated anniversaries, debt retirements and increased sales this year. The shops are also vital community ministries that spread God's love and mercy to individuals in need – often in life changing ways.
 - Fundraising and expenditures for this fiscal year are forecast to be within budget. The ownership and support of our member churches informs and guides the mission of MCC Manitoba. We deeply appreciate the many volunteers, financial support, and continued prayers as we seek to share God's love and compassion for all, in the name of Christ, by responding to basic human needs and working for peace and justice.

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