

Alberta

2010/2011 Mennonite Central Committee Annual Report



A table of
sharing

Cindy Klassen in Kenya for Cycle for Life.





Joshua Mukusya advising on sand dam construction in Kenya.

MOURNING THE DEATH OF A GOOD FRIEND

We are grieving the death of Joshua Mukusya, a long-time friend of MCC and one of the pioneers in Kenya's sand dam work. He was shot and killed by thugs in early September in Kenya. Mukusya was executive director of Utooni Development Organization, an MCC partner.

We sometimes refer to the work of Joshua and Utooni as "sand dam work," but it is so much more than that. It is also digging terraces, planting trees, establishing nurseries, introducing drought-resistance crops, all the while training self-help groups that are committed to enabling farmers to improve water supplies, food production, income and health in an environmentally conscious way.

Joshua's callous murder will not stop this good work as Joshua was committed to training UDO staff, village leaders and self-help groups. Joshua shared his knowledge and experience freely. We pray for Joshua's family, the staff of UDO and all the people with whom he worked and touched. It is a sad time for them and for us at MCC — a time to weep, mourn — and then we all will continue the good work begun by Joshua.

The generosity of Albertans plays a significant role in carrying on Joshua Mukusya's legacy: \$186,000 was raised for sand dams at golf tournaments in Tofield and La Crete in September.

Goats and disasters: long-term development and urgent response

Joseph Kiranto, a former IVEPer now returned to study at Canadian Mennonite University in Winnipeg, presented Foothills Mennonite Church with a gift from his Maasai community in Kenya. The gift was an ostrich egg, cradled in beautiful Maasai beadwork, given to remind us that life is fragile, and that we need to hold each other carefully, as “treasures.” Thank you to all who help MCC do the work of service as Jesus teaches in Matthew 25, and expressed in the careful way in which He lived among us.

Each year brings many highlights and tremendous opportunities for MCC to be involved here in Alberta, Canada and overseas. This brochure provides a snapshot of the work in which we have engaged this past year.

Six Alberta cyclists travelled to Kenya and cycled with 14 Kenyans to promote peace in a region that was torn apart by violence in 2007. Thrift shops in Alberta are growing tremendously. Volunteers work faithfully. Refugees are coming to Alberta, with sponsoring churches supporting them. Restorative Justice programs are working with people in prison and with released high-risk offenders, a work based on long-term relational investment in people’s lives. This is MCC. This is the work of the church, finding creative and routine ways to look after each other as treasures of God.

The MCCs in North America are engaged in a restructuring process. MCC Canada will be sharing the international work of MCC with MCC USA beginning April 1, 2012. MCC Alberta will work with the other MCCs, with the partners overseas and with the supporting constituencies in Alberta to continue to provide this service in the Name of Christ.

– Abe Janzen, Executive Director, MCC Alberta

Whenever the tissue of life is woven of legalistic relationships, it creates an atmosphere of mediocrity that paralyzes our noblest impulses.

– A. Solzhenitsyn

Board members

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PEACE & JUSTICE

Ten Thousand Villages
tenthousandvillages.ca

Peace program
alberta.mcc.org/programs/peace

Restorative Justice
alberta.mcc.org/programs/rjm



Kenyan and Alberta cyclists heading out on their 480 km ride in Kenya.

In April, six Alberta cyclists travelled to Kenya and cycled with 14 Kenyans through a region that was torn apart by violence in 2007. People crowded around them at every stop, talking and listening to the cyclists encourage a way of peace rather than violence.

MCC supports the work of peacemakers, including local Emergency Preparedness and Response Teams, to network, collaborate and build relationships that reach beyond ethnic and religious identity. MCC supported 17 local teams of people that keep in touch, often via cell phone, text and email, to provide early warnings of violence and to dispel rumours in hopes of preventing violence. MCC also sponsored a forum for MCC partners. At that gathering, people reflected on the increasing hostility toward anyone working for peace, but the work continues.



5 WAYS TO HELP

1. Volunteer to visit a prisoner once a month.
2. Become part of a Circle of Support & Accountability.
3. Learn about restorative justice programs in your community and become involved.
4. Use MCC's Peace toolkit in your Sunday School class or Bible Study group.
5. Pray for people affected by violence and injustice around the world.



10 HIGHLIGHTS



1. **Cycling** in Kenya with Cindy Klassen and MCC staff to raise awareness of peace work in Kenya.
2. **Building** trusting relationships between inmates and visitors, one visit at a time.
3. **Baptizing** an ex-offender, a participant in MCC's prison chaplaincy program, who said, "Dunk me good!"
4. **Receiving** strong support for Community Conferencing by Youth Court judges in Calgary.
5. **Providing** stories about MCC peace work at Daily Vacation Bible School at Calgary First Mennonite Church.
6. **Partnering** with Menno Simons Christian School in chapels focusing on peace and justice work.
7. **Meeting** between youth responsible for hate crime against Calgary Jewish community and two Holocaust survivors in a community conference.
8. **Moving** "1000 Acts of Peace" onto a social network page involving children, youth and adults.
9. **Supporting** the church in Iraq with workers and funding for education and peace projects.
10. **Supporting** church and community efforts for lasting and peaceful progress in South Sudan.

Sometimes, while violence is raging, you can only preserve the fire burning for peace inside you or meet with others in order to borrow hope.

– Gopar Tapkida, MCC's regional peace advisor for central and west Africa

FOOD, WATER & EMERGENCIES

Food, Disaster & Material Resources
canada.mcc.org/food

Water
canada.mcc.org/water

Material Resources
alberta.mcc.org/programs/materialresources

Resource Generation
alberta.mcc.org



Volunteers from Sudanese Highland MB Church packing school kits in the Calgary Material Resource Centre.

An estimated 12 million people in the Horn of Africa have been affected by drought this year. Conflict and skyrocketing food prices have added to the crisis. In addition to providing much needed emergency food assistance, MCC is helping communities adapt to drought, high food prices, climate change and other causes of hunger. This greatly reduces the need for food assistance in the future.

One way that MCC does this is through promoting conservation agricultural practices, also known in Africa as Farming God's Way. The three fundamental principles of conservation agriculture are reduced or zero tillage, maintaining a permanent organic ground cover, and managing soil fertility through biological means, such as composting, crop rotation and green manure. Farmers are very interested in this model of farming because they understand the important connection between soil health and crop yields, said Dan Wiens, coordinator of MCC's water and agriculture programs.



We are both elated and humbled by people's willingness to entrust MCC with their contributions.

– Willie Reimer, director of MCC's food and disaster program

5 WAYS TO HELP



1. **Purchase school kit or relief kit supplies.**
2. **Attend a concert, golf tournament, or other fundraising event.**
3. **Donate "where needed most."**
4. **Volunteer at the Material Resources Centre.**
5. **Pray for the people involved in the international and local work of MCC.**

10 HIGHLIGHTS



1. **Visiting** a school for 500 street children in Haiti who received school kits.
2. **Working** with Canadian Foodgrains Bank to address global food policies.
3. **Promoting** sustainable agricultural practices reducing the effects of drought in East Africa.
4. **Providing** easier access to water for Low German Mennonites and indigenous Guarani communities in Bolivia.
5. **Training** Haitian builders in earthquake-resistant building techniques.
6. **Supporting** clean-up and trauma healing following the earthquake in Japan.
7. **Helping** build sand dams in Kenya.
8. **Supporting** small-scale farmers in the newly formed nation of South Sudan.
9. **Packing** relief kits with groups in Calgary Material Resource Centre.
10. **Golfing** in the fundraising tournaments in La Crete, Tofield and Nanton.

LOCAL & GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

Thrift
thrift.mcc.org

Refugee Assistance
alberta.mcc.org/programs/
refugee



Amer Melhem is welcomed by the refugee sponsorship committee from Edmonton First Mennonite Church.

When First Mennonite Church in Edmonton was asked about the possibility of sponsoring a Palestinian refugee family, the church welcomed the idea with open arms. Later they were notified of Amer's disability, and became even more committed to make this sponsorship work.

When Amer, his wife and daughter arrived, the church was ready. They welcomed Amer's family and helped them settle in Canada. The gratitude that the family showed toward the church was immense. It is amazing how a complete stranger becomes part of the community and is embraced in friendship. MCC Alberta is blessed to have the church community partner in these ventures.



5 WAYS TO HELP



1. **Make a donation to MCC** designated for the refugee program.
2. **Start a refugee committee in your church.**
3. **Volunteer at a thrift shop.**
4. **Downsize your closet, and donate to a thrift shop.**
5. **Befriend and pray for newcomers.**

10 HIGHLIGHTS



1. **Raising** \$1 million in less than a year at the Calgary Thrift Shop.
2. **Enabling** churches and community groups to continue resettling Palestinian refugees from Iraq.
3. **Exploring** complex global emergencies at a conference for Canadian and international development workers.
4. **Conducting** five sponsorship workshops in churches and with community groups.
5. **Welcoming** nine new families and 15 singles to Alberta.
6. **Delivering** sponsorship information to approximately 25 people per week.
7. **Being** blessed with approximately 400 volunteers in the four thrift shops in Alberta.
8. **Working** to secure support for five Iraqi refugee sponsorships to Alberta.
9. **Planning** possible relocation and expansion of thrift shops in Edmonton and Lethbridge.
10. **Donating** monthly to MCC from increased Taber Thrift Shop sales.

I witnessed how love was the catalyst in helping this complete stranger and his family.

– Orlando Vasquez,
Edmonton Refugee
Coordinator

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Low German program

alberta.mcc.org/programs/lowgerman

Indigenous Work

mythperceptions.ca

Aboriginal Neighbours

alberta.mcc.org/programs/aboriginal

HIV and AIDS

alberta.mcc.org/programs/generationsatrisk

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)

alberta.mcc.org/programs/health



Eight-year-old Ben and his father Heinrich Neufeld on their yard in the Swift Current Colony, Bolivia.

Orchards of grapefruit, mango, papaya, avocado and other fruits will soon produce fruit on Heinrich and Sara Neufeld's large farmyard in the Swift Current Colony 40 kilometres south of Santa Cruz, Bolivia. "I want our children to be able to go into the orchard and eat as much as they want," said Neufeld, a father of seven children ages one to 11. "When all the trees produce fruit and the fruit is ripe, it will be better than medicine."

During the past five years, more than 7,000 fruit trees have been planted in Mennonite colonies and communities through a partnership between MCC Bolivia and a local provider of citrus trees, Vivero Citrico. Families generally order the trees through store managers in their villages who then order the trees and pick them up at MCC's drop-in resource centres in Santa Cruz and Charagua.



**Sixty farmyards
around here
now have fruit
orchards.**

– Heinrich Neufeld

5 WAYS TO HELP



1. **Buy a CD and support MCC's HIV and AIDS work around the world.**
2. **Arrange for an MCC Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) workshop.**
3. **Learn about First Nations communities in Alberta.**
4. **Learn about the work of the Low German Mennonite program in Southern Alberta.**
5. **Pray for AIDS orphans and their caregivers.**

10 HIGHLIGHTS



1. **Connecting** Low German Mennonites to the Taber Thrift Shop.
2. **Working** with 110 Low German Mennonite families per month on documentation and 320 families annually on employment resources.
3. **Releasing** the fourth CD, "Take Your Place," recorded in Kenya, as an AIDS fundraiser and selling more than \$75,000 worth to date.
4. **Raising** \$238,000 for MCC's AIDS work through the 12-day Cycle for Life ride in Alberta.
5. **Presenting** workshops in several churches on understanding the needs of those with FASD.
6. **Delivering** nutrition training for people living with HIV to build strong immune systems.
7. **Partnering** with Menno Simons Christian School on a 40 km AIDS awareness cycle through Calgary.
8. **Working** with Low German Mennonite parents to encourage their children to attend school.
9. **Listening** to the stories of Low German Mennonite people's experiences and challenges.
10. **Supporting** HIV and AIDS awareness programs in schools, parishes and youth centres in Jordan.

EDUCATION & SERVICE

Global Family
globalfamily.mcc.org

IVEP
ivep.mcc.org

Summerbridge
mcc.org/serve/programs/summerbridge

Service Workers
mcc.org/serve

SOOP
soop.mcc.org

SALT
salt.mcc.org

YAMEN
yamen.mcc.org

seed
seed.mcc.org

Youth
alberta.mcc.org/programs/youth

**Community Awareness through Service
& Action (CASA)**
alberta.mcc.org/programs/youth

Simunye
alberta.mcc.org/programs/simunye



Tiera Goertz, a Simunye participant, with children at the Children's Care Centre in Durban, South Africa.

Simion Sitonik was introduced to war and fighting as part of his cultural upbringing. But he resisted this, saying, "Fighting just leads to more fighting." His year in IVEP broadened his already thoughtful way of living and he left Alberta saying he intends to work in Kenya with his people, to find long-term, helpful solutions to the poverty, the scarcity of resources, and the lack of education, all of which contribute to creating situations that often have led to tensions and violence.

In Ankawa, a suburb in the city of Erbil, Iraq, children find a safe haven for play and learning at Kids House, a kindergarten run by Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Support from MCC's Global Family education sponsorship program makes it possible for the Sisters to accept students who cannot afford to pay tuition fees.



5 WAYS TO HELP



1. **Host an IVEPer.**
2. **Sponsor a Global Family project.**
3. **Consider sharing your skills with the SALT program.**
4. **Volunteer with SOOP in your retirement.**
5. **Consider a three-year term working overseas with MCC.**

10 HIGHLIGHTS



1. **Providing** 60 young adults from Alberta and Saskatchewan the opportunity to learn more about urban poverty issues through CASA.
2. **Piloting** a new program with MCC Saskatchewan called Simunye, for young adults to spend a month learning and serving in southern Africa.
3. **Providing** solar water disinfection technology in Kenya through Global Family.
4. **Giving** eight students access to quality education with every Global Family sponsorship.
5. **Sponsoring** 616 Global Family projects worldwide through Alberta donors.
6. **Celebrating** 60 years of service with the IVEP program.
7. **Placing** four willing, enthusiastic IVEPers throughout the province.
8. **Connecting** and visiting with the family of an IVEPer during a trip to Kenya.
9. **Meeting** with returning and outgoing SALTERs and listening to the stories of their experiences.
10. **Placing** 107 Canadians to share skills, serve and learn through SOOP, SALT and Summerbridge.

Children are eager to learn. Our biggest problem is that we don't have enough room for all the children that want to come.

– Sister Azhar,
Sisters of the Sacred
Heart of Jesus

● Offices/staff

● Thrift shops

Taber \$ 3,000 †35

Lethbridge \$ 90,000 †95

Edmonton \$ 1,750 †32

Calgary \$ 650,000 †240

Thrift shops total contributions \$ 744,750

● Material resource centre

Calgary †220

● Ten Thousand Villages

● Relief sale

Coaldale \$ 163,000

● Service workers

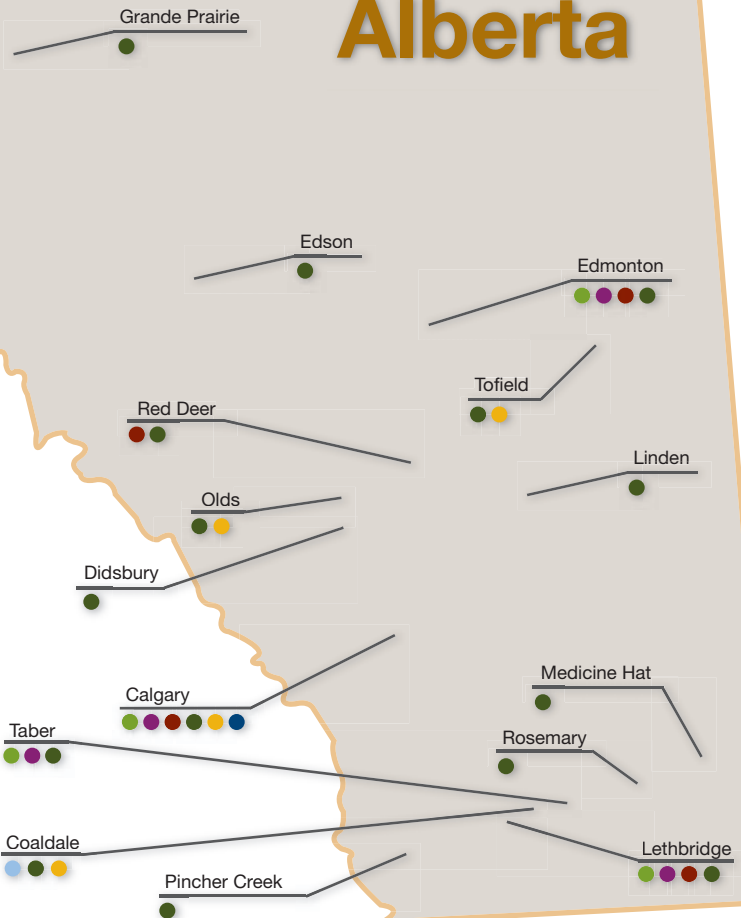
● Golf tournaments \$ 191,000

● Communities (total) \$ 3.6 million

□ Material resources

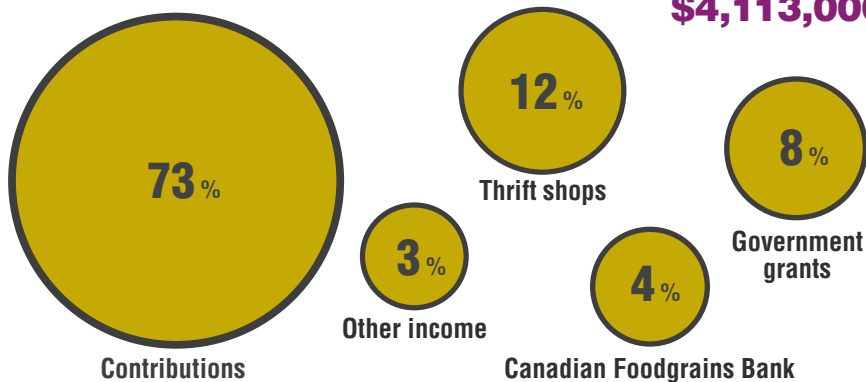
† Volunteers

Alberta



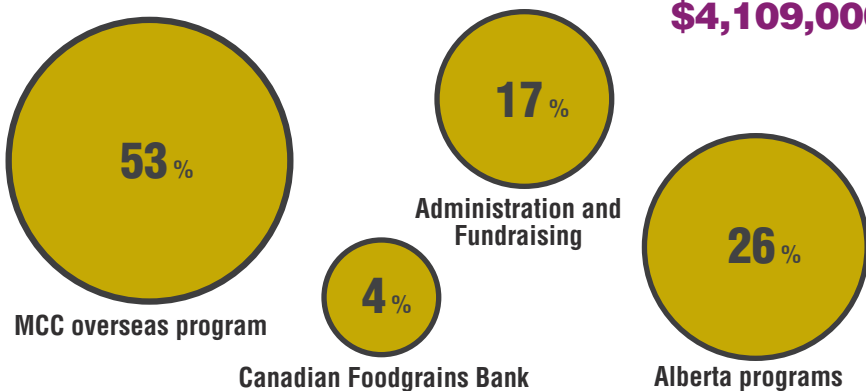
2010-11 BUDGETED INCOME

\$4,113,000



2010-11 BUDGETED EXPENSES

\$4,109,000



National and international support

MCC operates at the provincial, national and international level. The numbers above explain MCC income and expenses in Alberta. About two-thirds of the funds raised in Alberta also support MCC's national and international work.

This past year the budget for MCC's national body—MCC Canada—was \$46.3 million. This includes donations to MCC's account at Canadian Foodgrains Bank, Ten Thousand Villages sales, government grants, and forwardings from the provincial MCCs. Of this, approximately \$1.6 million supported MCC Canada's national work. Total income for MCC globally this past fiscal year was approximately \$76.8 million.

Due to publishing deadlines, actual income and expense figures for the fiscal year ending August 31 are not included in this report. However, the current financial statements are available at the Annual Celebrations or by contacting the accountant at the MCC office 1-888-622-6337.

What is Mennonite Central Committee?

MCC is a non-profit relief, peace and development agency with more than 1,000 workers around the world. It is a ministry of Anabaptist churches which includes Mennonites and Brethren in Christ. In Canada, MCC operates at both a provincial and national level.

Purpose

MCC 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. MCC envisions communities worldwide in right relationship with God, one another and creation.



8 WAYS TO CONNECT

1. **Make kits or blankets**
mcc.org/kits
2. **Find a relief sale in your area**
reliefsales.mcc.org/date
3. **Order resources**
resources@mennonitecc.ca
4. **Find thrift shops in your area**
thrift.mcc.org/shop/canada
5. **Order Hello magazine**
hello.mcc.org
6. **Order A Common Place magazine**
acommonplace.mcc.org
7. **Work or serve with MCC**
mcc.org/serve
8. **Donate**
donate.mcc.org



Learn more or volunteer

alberta.mcc.org | 403.275.6935 | 1.888.622.6337
210 2946 32 St NE, Calgary, Alberta T1Y 6J7