



# Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale and Auction

## 2021

### Annual Report

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## **A Memo from the Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale Board Chair**

The 2021 Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale was a refreshing change back to an in-person sale after 2020. This was our first year utilizing the Wayne County Fairgrounds' Event Center and the adjacent Annex Building. The Auctions and the larger sales booths were in the Event Center with the remainder of the product and information booths in the Annex Building with the food and Children's Area. The Rustic Table food truck, and the Smoothie and Lemonade Refreshment stands were outside, between the two buildings. The Bounce House and Mini train as well as the MDS Storm Encounter trailer were also outside. The overall layout of the sale seemed to work very well and those who had booths in the Annex Building were appreciative of the increased foot-traffic from people on their way to get food. Those who were in the Event Center were appreciative of the air-conditioning and the restrooms.

This was also our first year for a combined Quilt and "Wood" Auction. By combining the auctions, we were able to utilize the Event Center better than if we had tried to have the two auctions separately but in the same building at the same time. We had many donations and, in an effort to respect our customers' time, we had to limit the number of items auctioned and move a portion of the items to the Silent Auction or Artisans Marketplace. Overall, it seemed to work out well but, of course, there are things that we will work on to improve next year.

This year, we also had live, on-line bidding, in conjunction with our in-person auction. Twenty unique individuals purchased thirty-five items which accounted for 12% of the money raised by Quilts and 8% of the money raised by the Wood portion of the auction items.

Thanks to all who helped make this year's sale a success. We have wonderful and generous individuals, along with businesses and corporations who donate, time, money, products, talents, and expertise to making this sale happen every year. We appreciate the contribution from each volunteer and donor, from those who quilt, roll eggrolls, serve BBQ chicken, or make wooden toys to those who donate thousands of dollars. Thanks also to those who spread the word about the sale and our customers who purchase the items we offer for sale. Thanks to my fellow Board members who bring all these gifts together and make the sale a reality each year. A special thanks to Sandy Miller who is transitioning off the Board at the end of this year. We especially appreciate her contributions to the Board over the past years.

Brenda Blough LaTulippe,  
2021 Chair

**Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale / Wrap Up Meeting  
November 23, 2020/ Via Zoom**

Brenda LaTulippe, board co-chair, opened the meeting with a welcome and read the agenda for the meeting. Approximately 26 people were logged in to the online meeting.

Sarah Geiser, MCC Great Lakes Church Relations Associate, led a devotional reading Psalm 46:1-5. She also shared a video from MCC which highlighted affects the COVID 19 pandemic has had on the work of MCC and the communities it serves around the world.

Lee Ressler, board secretary, read the minutes of the 2019 Wrap Up meeting. A correction was made to a referenced date in the minutes. With that correction, Susan Hofstetter moved to accept the minutes, Katie Miller seconded, the motion was approved.

Brenda thanked the many people that helped make the sale possible during a difficult time with all the required planning and changes required to have the sale online. Special thanks to John Sprunger, Everence Financial and musical guests A Girl Named Tom and John Schmid.

Melissa Hershberger gave the treasurer's report. 2020 sale receipts were \$169,036.13. Expenses were \$10,299.48 with a net of \$158,736.65. The balance in all accounts as of October 31, 2020, was \$206,399.96. Highlighted receipt areas were My Coins Count \$88,203.94, quilt auction \$39,438.80, wood auction \$36,470.29 and chicken barbeque \$824.45. The board is recommending that \$185,000 be sent to MCC. There was consensus on the recommended amount.

Sandy Miller, board co-chair, gave an auction report. Overall, the sale brought in 66% lower receipts than the 2019 sale. Quilts and wood items were fairly equal in their percentage of lower receipts. Items that needed to be shipped were taken to Lehman's where they were packed and shipped. Everence Financial covered the cost of shipping for all items. Sandy expressed sincere thanks to Lehman's and Everence for donating time and resources to this aspect of the 2020 sale. 8 quilts sold online using buy it now for a total of \$5,150.

Thank you to John Sprunger who graciously donated the use of the Sprunger building at the Kidron Auction Grounds, Kidron OH for almost two weeks at no cost to the relief sale. It was a blessing to not have to pack up the items after the preview and



reorganize the items the following week for when the sale closed the next Saturday and pick up began.

Planning for the 2021 sale was discussed. The dates are August 7 and 8. Planning will move forward with the anticipation of returning to an in-person sale at the Wayne County Fairgrounds utilizing the new Event Center. By spring, depending on the COVID 19 situation, a decision will be made to stay in person or move to an online format.

Sandy reported that she spoke to the relocation committee, and they received very little feedback concerning moving the sale to a different location. Sandy recommended we stay at the Wayne County Fairgrounds.

Brenda explained the plans and workings of the online store front. The basic framework is in place, but more time is required to get it up and running and secure someone to manage it. Plans are to have the buyer pay for shipping costs for their purchases.

Brenda outlined the personnel needs for the coming year, both board members and sub committees. Suggestions for individuals should be forwarded to Brenda.

Brenda gave a status report on combining the quilt and wood auctions. It was mentioned the board had a number of discussions looking at the advantages and disadvantages of having one auction. Several other MCC Relief Sales use the one auction format, and it seems to work well. Sandy said she will continue to explore the possibility of one auction, get feedback from the subcommittees and take that information to the board for a decision.

Ways to improve or modify Proxibid were discussed. Some functions seemed cumbersome and searching for a specific item was a lengthy process. This entire process will be reviewed, and changes will be explored.

Paul Bontrager closed the meeting with the prayer of St. Francis.

Brenda adjourned the meeting at 8:08 pm

Respectfully Submitted  
Lee Ressler

## **Advertising – Submitted by Beth Miller**

### **Print Advertising**

- Carlisle Printing of Walnut Creek prints all our brochures, posters and catalogs at a reasonable cost, and we thank them for generously helping the Ohio Relief Sale.
- **Sale Catalogs:** Ads were sold in the sale catalog to help pay for our advertising and printing costs. Seventeen paid advertisers from Holmes, Stark, and Wayne counties placed ads with us this year. 1,100 catalogs were printed.
- 
- **Sale Bills/Newspaper Ads:** Color display ads ran for several weeks before the Sale in the Bargain Hunter Auction section of the Holmes and Wayne editions.
- **Brochures:** 21,000 brochures were printed in March and distributed in Holmes, Wayne and Stark Counties. In Holmes County, they were distributed by a service, Backroads Advertising. We need a distributor for Wayne and Stark Counties.
- **Posters:** 500 color posters were printed in March.
- **Direct Mailings**
  - Carlisle Printing was contracted to address and mail our brochures to the lists of registered buyers from the last several years.
  - A church mailing was sent out with brochures, Posters and a newsletter to Mennonite churches in Ohio and eastern Pennsylvania.

### **Radio Advertising**

Radio spots WQKT 104.5 (Wooster) were purchased by the Relief Sale. These spots ran the week prior to the Sale. WQKT offers us a very reasonable non-profit rate.

### **Press Release**

Emailed to 60 radio stations and newspapers.

### **Digital Advertising**

- **Facebook** Daily posts were scheduled in the last month and a half before the sale. We have 1,462 fans as of the end of November 2021. We also posted to an **Instagram** account.
- We spent \$125 on paid Facebook campaigns and reached a total of 74,043 people. We select targeted people to promote the home appliances, quilts, hotels and general audiences. Paid campaigns were paid for with donated funds.



- **Email Lists and Newsletters**

- We have been actively collecting email addresses from volunteers, 5K Runners, media and guests to the auction. Newsletter emails were emailed through our Constant Contact account. These emails are also automatically posted to our Facebook account.
- We sent 12 email campaigns for the year from the Kick-off Meeting (March) through Wrap-up Meeting (October).
- To date, our email list totals 2,038 contacts. Sending emails costs us nothing except for our monthly service fee (approximately \$45). Our Constant Contact account monthly subscription fees are donated.

- **Website**

- From January 1 to October 31, there were 8,022 visits to our website and 11,394 page views. The highest traffic days were Tuesday, July 27 and Friday, August 6.
- 54% of web traffic was from Ohio, 7% from Virginia, 5% from Pennsylvania, and 4% from Virginia. The figure below shows the highest traffic density in Ohio.
- 39% of web traffic was the result of Organic Search (Google). 32% of traffic came from directly typing in [ohiomccreliefsale.org](http://ohiomccreliefsale.org). 15% came from social media and 15% from referring sites (such as Wayne County and Holmes County travel sites.)
- Our website host, Birdeye, was bought out by CrossBridge Marketing this year.

- **Buy It Now**

- We had to switch our method of offering “Buy It Now” this year because Steve Chupp’s auction online platform no longer offers it. Instead, we used a separate website with an Online Store Shopping Cart to offer the Buy It Now quilts. The payments go directly into our Paypal account.
- This Shopping Cart can be used in the future to sell items all year long. We can share this shopping cart with MCC Connections if they wish to participate.

## **Artisan's Marketplace – Submitted by Rachel Neiswander**

This year the Artisan's Market saw major increase in the amount of donations and sales. We were able to raise \$5,100.00 for MCC this year. It was really nice to be in air conditioning and in the same location as the live auction. This increased foot traffic and some repeat customers. We are continuing to add and expand our display of large quilts, wall hangings, handmade purses, and artwork as they attract more and more attention, especially on Friday night. We heard many visitors comment that they appreciated the opportunity to buy a quality larger item (quilt, wooden item, picture) without waiting for the auction. This is just another way to reach buyers. Our goal in the coming year is to attract new and trendy items. Articles we haven't seen before so there will always be something for everyone who visits the MCC Relief Sale.

Once again, the Artisan Market partnered with the Quilt committee and offered large quilts, wall hangings and comforters for sale. I am pleased to say they were all sold except for a couple small comforters. Those items that did not sell at the sale have all been donated back to MCC through its thrift stores in Millersburg and Kidron. As a committee we are looking at the best way to display and sell these items to ensure they raise the most funds possible for MCC. We continually strive to communicate this clearly to donors. In addition to the quilt committee, we were blessed with some great wood items and toys this year. The unique marble tracks and wooden airplanes were a source of much entertainment and interest. It's always exciting to see new donations come in each year

We have learned a lot the past years as we have tried new ideas. It has been exciting and informative to see and hear from new volunteers in this area. They have provided a fresh outsider's perspective to the way things are done at the Artisans Market, the OMR Sale, and the overall mission of MCC.

Thank you to all of you who have donated, volunteered, and guided our team. It has been much appreciated.

## **Building and Grounds – Submitted by Jerry Horst**

2021 Relief Sale Set up and tear down went well and relatively smoothly for moving into the new buildings. Labor is always a concern but with the size and location we were able to make quick work of many things. I was pleased with how things went and also with the ease at which people work together.



Special thanks to Mark and Jim Johnston for donating the use of their Semi truck and trailer for hauling items back and forth to the Gerber Building! Leaving a trailer sit for a number of days is not easy right now!

Following a good year back in person, I feel it is time to step away from the responsibilities of set up and tear down. I sat down and looked back at the years and have calculated that for over 30 years without missing one I have helped set up and tear down. I am tired and need a break. The sale needs a fresh set of lungs in this position as well. Certainly, over the years with moves into buildings this job has gotten much easier and less taxing. I will help this coming year with set up and lots of explanations for the next person to take the reins. I look back with much fondness and joy at the time spent helping out!

### **Children's Activities – Submitted by Jeanne Jantzi**

Children's Activities fulfill several important objectives. They provide a way for children to participate in hands-on ways in serving and giving, they educate children about MCC, and they provide a child-centered area for children from toddler age through about 4th grade. Children's activities let children know that the Relief Sale is not only for grown-ups, but is for them, as well. This year, we grouped all the Children's Activities at the end of the Auxiliary Building which helped to create focus. The area included the "MCC Express" train, a corn-filled sandbox with hidden coins to find and give in the "My Coins Count" vortex, the Children's Auction, the Children's Service Project of packing MCC Hygiene Kits, and some looping MCC videos about children and kits.

#### **Observations:**

1. Many parent/child and grandparent/child partners participated in the kit packing. We packed 200 kits. We could have done more if there were additional sponsors for materials. We could also have stretched it out into a more come-and-go activity. More advertising of the Service Project could have served to educate more about MCC and brought in more people wanting a hands-on activity. Interested parents are always looking for age-appropriate service opportunities for kids.
2. The Children's Auction had some really under-sold items. Big farm equipment sandbox-type toys, STEM kits, and craft items seemed to sell better than baby toys or books. Introducing the Auction with background on where the money goes is important.

3. Tired parents and children seemed to really enjoy hanging out with the sensory experience at the corn box. It was quiet and low key in a way that was good for children who had been dragged around all morning.
4. The vortex got a lot of attention for both children, parents, and grandparents. It would be good to have another "My Coins Count" standing sign to put near the vortex to explain where the money is going.

## **Food Stands – Submitted by Delo Blough**

### **Special thanks to:**

- Mark Stutzman who was a wealth of knowledge on the set up, layout and function of the food stands.
- Ken Neuenschwander for working on the electricity and making sure we could run the coolers, roasters and freezers without interruption.
- Vernon Sommers, Hartville Kitchen for working with us to come up with an innovative way to prepare the eggroll ingredients and for donating a majority of the ingredients
- Jill Hartzler for ordering and managing the paper products
- Our many food donors who donated products or sold them at a reduced rate
- All the food stand coordinators and the many volunteers for their flexibility and hard work to fill in the gaps
- A special thanks to all the volunteers of the Swiss Pantry for helping to sell an extremely high volume of granola bars along with all the other items they had. (Due to an order error, we had 204 dozen granola bars instead of only 204 individual bars and this team did an admirable job at making sure there were none left at the end of the day.)

### **What worked well:**

- The Overall Layout
  - The Annex Building housed most of the food stands
  - Noodles were prepared in a kitchen trailer next to the Annex Building
  - Outside, between the two buildings were:
    - Smoothies, which were prepared and served out of a kitchen trailer
    - Lemonade and Drink Refreshment stand, located right next to a cooler truck
    - The Rustic Table was a stand-alone Food Truck



- Swiss Pantry was located in the Event Center (which was air-conditioned, so most products did not need to be stored in a cooler trailer).
- The entire food preparation team-so many people stepped in and helped out where needed (thanks especially to Leroy Yoder for sourcing bags of ice when our original vendor went out of business at the last minute)
- Division of duties on procurement-it worked well for one person (Jill) to purchase all the paper products and the Food Coordinator to purchase all the food products from common vendors (products used by more than one food stand).

#### **Room for Improvement and suggestions for future years:**

- Food Coordinator needs to be identified and involved long before May
- **THE WATER**-the noodles, smoothies, lemonade, coffee and sausage gravy all need to be made with bottled water (the “city” water had a chlorine taste to it).
- In the annex room, along the outside wall, pull all the tables in several feet to allow for volunteers to pass behind the food stands.
- Have another row of tables for eating; there seemed to be plenty of room, we just didn’t have enough tables
- For all Food Stands-have one or two churches working together, take responsibility for the stand all the way through (for instance, egg rolls: prep work, egg rolling and getting volunteers for serving, as well as managing the serving be done by one or two of the Hartville churches). If there are no church/es willing to be responsible for a food stand, we just should not have that food stand that year. The Food Coordinator cannot reasonably be responsible for getting volunteers for the stands as well as coordinating the other logistics.
- Create a Transportation position to work with the Food Coordinator-that person would go to the different food vendors to pick up products when that vendor doesn’t deliver, pick up volunteers who need a ride in; go out and pick up emergency products, etc.
- If we’re going to get “greener” the paper products person and the person coordinating waste collection should work together before products are ordered so that we have the correct items ordered and used.
- Include more gluten free and vegetarian food options.

I accepted the challenge of being Food Coordinator in June of 2021 and there was a fairly steep learning curve. Thanks to Jill Hartzler, Mark Stutzman, all the Food Stand Leads and Volunteers with their help in making this event a big success!!

## **Friday Evening Program – submitted by Brenda LaTulippe**

“The best laid plans of mice and men....”, even though the Friday night program didn’t turn out the way it was originally planned, it was informative and entertaining. In February or so, we booked A Girl Named Tom as our entertainment for the evening. However, as we know now, we were preempted by a little show called The Voice. John Schmid graciously rearranged his schedule on short notice to entertain the Relief Sale crowd and it was much appreciated. Mark Zimmerman from Heartfelt Radio was the MC; Sarah Geiser welcomed everyone and lead us in prayer and Victoria Callow, a SALTER who served in Columbia in 2019-2020 spoke. Thanks to Everence who sponsored the evening.

## **Information Booth – Submitted by Randy Janson**

1. The biggest questions were; where do we sign up for the #s, where is the bathroom, where is the food, and where is the entertainment performing Friday night?
2. I feel we need to be across from the registration table as I felt it was confusing to have both tables side by side.
3. The programs were well received but there were a couple boxes left over.
4. I feel the information booth would be a good place to sell bottled water and soft drinks.
5. Many compliments on the air-conditioned building.
6. The information table needs pens first thing Friday night, I did not get any until Saturday morning when Steve brought them.

## **MCC Information Table – Submitted by Sarah Geiser Doerksen**

Since 1920, MCC has worked with the church, partner organizations and supporters to share God’s love and compassion by responding to basic human needs and working for peace and justice. The hard work and dedication of so many volunteers make the Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale successful, and the funds raised from the relief sale are an important part of supporting MCC’s work around the world in the name of Christ.

### **MCC booth**

Sarah Geiser, church relations associate and material resources coordinator, managed the MCC booth at the sale. She was joined by Danae King, donor relations associate, and Jennifer Steiner, communications coordinator. Sharing With Appalachian People (SWAP) staff members Lee and Peg Martin also displayed information for folks interested in volunteering with MCC’s home repair program in Appalachia.



The location in the food building brought lots of traffic to the booth and gave staff the chance to interact with more sale goers.

### **MCC speakers**

Victoria Callow, who participated in MCC's Serving And Learning Together (SALT) program, shared stories on Friday evening from her experiences with MCC in Colombia. Danae and Sarah also shared MCC stories during break times in the auction building.

### **Hygiene kit packing**

Virgil and Kathy Troyer coordinated a hygiene kit packing event for children following the completion of the children's auction. With lots of energy and enthusiasm, the children packed 200 kits that will provide important items to other children and families around the world.

### **MCC at work around the world**

Thanks to your generosity, MCC continues to address the threats of COVID-19 for some of the world's most vulnerable people through ongoing water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), health and food programs.

### **Thank you**

We are so grateful to each person who gave of their time, talents, prayers and financial gifts. The Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale is only possible because of your dedication and generosity. You are important partners in the ministry of MCC both locally and around the world. Thank you!

### **MDS – Submitted by Merle Stutzman**

Our Ohio Unit had a booth inside the livestock building that displayed pictures and video of what MDS/ Disaster Aid Ohio accomplished this past year and this year in putting families back into homes that were displaced by flooding in West Virginia and Texas. We also offered information and awareness and how individuals can become involved with Mennonite Disaster Service. On the outside we had our tool trailer on hand for onlookers to tour. The MDS Storm Encounter trailer was also present where sale goers could experience a simulation of an actual tornado and also get an explanation of what MDS is all about. We had a total of 144 sale goers (Friday eve/Saturday) experience the storm Encounter trailer. We had 7 volunteers from our unit that provided assistance at the storm trailer and booth inside.

## **Parking and Traffic Control – Submitted by Jack Badertscher**

Thursday morning, August 5th, Bruce Steiner and I met at Roland Geiser's. We loaded up the usual assortment of gear we use, cones and signs and posts and hardware and more. We hauled the gear to the fairgrounds and began to do our setup.

This year was again different, with the main location for activities being in the Event Center and the new agricultural building.

We did prep for parking in the infield of the track area, but we did not use it this year. There were one fourth to one third less vehicles to park this year, than the last in person sale.

We filled up the majority of the parking areas north and east of the new buildings.

We want to thank our volunteer parkers again for such a good job they did. They were a great help, and worked efficiently

The tractors and trolleys were used very little this year. We did not have golf carts available to use this year.

Bruce and Sherri Steiner did the majority of the recruiting of our volunteers again this year.

## **Pies & Ice Cream – Elaine/Steve Lehman, Prudy/Dean Steiner**

A special thank you to Delo for all her hard work and working with us. We thought it went really well this year. We were happy with the space we had to work in and thought the location worked out well, especially being next to the ice cream stand. We sold 105 pies and were sold out by 2:30. (That number is close to other years what we sold). It was nice we were fairly close to the water outside since we had to use it quite often.

Suggestions: The north section did not have any openings between tables so everyone had to walk behind each other to get in or out. To put at least one opening between all the tables would be nice. Otherwise, it was set up well, the flow went well and didn't seem like there were many people waiting in lines.

## **Plants – Submitted by Barb Miller**

Three volunteers worked on Thursday, August 5, 2021, to set up 6 tables and arrange plant donations for the Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale.



The location was different this year and it was nice to be included in the large building that also housed the various food selections.

As people came to buy meals and treats, they entered close to the plants and were able to see all we offered.

Plant donations included annuals, several hanging baskets, perennials, herbs, houseplants, cacti, and succulents. Most popular plants were small cacti, succulents, milkweed, and unusual houseplants.

Thanks to all the generous folks who donated plants. Leftovers were taken to the Connections MCC thrift store in Kidron.

### **Quilt Auction – Submitted by Susan Hofstetter**

The 56<sup>th</sup> Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale was a time of change and transition where we experienced God's loving provision. This year we featured thirty-two quilts in the online Buy Me Now program two weeks before the sale and also during the Friday evening live event. A total of 5 quilts were sold. We also were glad for the online auction during the live event on Saturday, and for the women who ran the Proxibid and who clerked and kept a running total.

Because of the combining of the Auctions, we had 130 quilts sold: 43 large quilts, 62 small quilts and wall hangings, 12 comforters, 13 Vintage quilts, and 17 quilt bags which brought in over \$59,000. The highest selling large quilt brought \$5000 and ten quilts sold for \$1000 and above. The highest selling wall hangings went for \$1000. We felt the support of our buyers this year.

We hope to address some areas which need improvement and to better the quilt auction for the coming years.

OMRS Quilt Committee: Elizabeth Geiser, Corrine Helmuth, Maria Hershberger, Susan Hofstetter, Jodi Miller, Katie Miller, Lydia Neiswander, Marilyn Neiswander, Juanita Ross, Lauren Steiner

### **Quilter's Corner – Submitted by Laurel Horst**

Thanks to all the persons who donated and helped with Quilter's Corner. Our location for the sale of our items in the Event Center was great. We had lots of space for our layout. We had plenty of room for shoppers to look and make purchases.

We had more items to sell due to not having a Quilter's Corner in 2020. Thanks to everyone who donated items to sell at our venue. Thanks to the ladies who volunteered their time to help set up and work at the stand on Friday and Saturday during the sale.

If you have quilt related items, vintage linens, notions, etc. we will gladly take them to recycle and sell at Quilter's Corner next year. We have already started receiving donations for the 2022 sale. If you would have interest in helping with this venue, please contact Laurel Horst.

### **Registration – Submitted by Jade Liechty**

Through our live online auction, we had a total of 138 registered bidders across 20 different states, this was up from 46 registered bidders in 2019. Ohio had a total of 98 registered on-line bidders. Some of those on-line bidders were the high bidders. These high bidders were entered into our auction software. In total we registered 415 bidders in the software. 382 of those bidders were from Ohio. In 2019 and 2018 we registered a total of 494 and 537 bidders respectively. Below is the number of registered bidders dating back to 2018:

<u>Year</u>	<u># of Registered Bidders</u>	<u># Online Registered</u>
2018	537	
2019	494	46
2021	415	138

### **Run For Relief 5K and 1K – Submitted by Jenifer Hartzler**

Many times, we don't think of chickens as a life-changing animal. Chickens provide cute peeps for Easter, lay eggs for our breakfast meals and eventually provide us with a tasty dinner. In the last few years, raising chickens has become a popular hobby that everyone in the family can participate in. Runners in the 2021 Run for Relief were

running for chickens this year. 100 % of the registration money was donated towards the purchase of chickens and chicken houses in Cambodia. These families, working with MCC will be able to have eggs to eat and increase their income with the sale of eggs.





Saturday morning, August 7 dawned warm and sunny. The location of the 2021 Run 4 Relief was front and center of the Wayne County Event Center. The course was brought back from the far side of the track to be situated at the entrance of the Event Center.

The registration tent filled with runners. Volunteers were placed around the course to guide the participants. Bright yellow shirts dotted the starting line. The 1K Run started at 7:30 AM and circled the fair grounds. 17 runners finished the course and enjoyed bananas, water, and Gatorade at the finish line.

The 5K runners lined up and took off at 8:00 AM. The runners spaced themselves and ran the course in record time. There were some course corrections due to the group of cowboys and their horses at the 4-H Horse barn area. The course was familiar to the runners and the winning times were between 16.59 – 20.50 minutes.

The 5K participants ranged in ages from 8 to 77 years. There were 49 runners in the race. Sofia Secrest, Jen Steiner, and Emily Hamman completed the course first, second and third. The fastest male runners were Carson Steiner, Jacob Wakefield, and Jeral Imhoff.

Awards this year were sponsored by P. Graham Dunn. The chicken-shaped awards were labeled first, second and third place. Each 5K runner was able to choose a deviled egg plate of their liking. This plate should remind them of their integral part in the 5K Run to provide chickens for families in Cambodia.

The final donated amount for the 2021 Run 4 Relief 1K and 5K Run was \$3500.00. If each brood of chickens' costs, on average \$20.00, and chicken houses cost on average, \$40.00; an approximate amount could be 101 broods of chickens and 37 chicken houses were purchased by the participants.

Sponsors this year included: Buehler's, Commercial and Savings Bank, Everence, Keim Lumber, Kidron Kars, Lehman's, Logee, Hostetler, Stutzman and Lehman, Bob May, Mennonite Mutual, P. Graham Dunn, Tilmore, and Vaughn Insurance.

#### 2021 Run 4 Relief 5K Winners



Thank you to our faithful sponsors, to the athletes and the many volunteers that make this event run smoothly.

### **Signage – Submitted by Dan Jantzi**

This was my 3<sup>rd</sup> year to do signage for the relief sale, but it was the first year to do signage in the new event center and the Swine barn (annex) at the fairgrounds. Once the floor map was finalized and the tables were setup it was easy to know which signs to put where. After a bit of experimenting with ways of hanging the signs I settled on using wire shower curtain rings to hang the signs on the exposed I-beams in the wall of the swine building. In the Event Center I backed out some of the screws holding the steel siding to the interior walls and using wire hooks, hung the signs on the screw heads. When I removed the signs at the end, I tightened all the screws again. (It was also a great help to have my son, Ben, help me this year. He went up and down the ladder much faster than me ☺.)

#### **Challenges:**

It was pretty straight forward to hang signs and MCC banners around the inside perimeter of both buildings, on self-standing dividers where they existed, and in some instances, on the front of tables. It was more of a challenge to figure out how to place signs in the middle of the buildings (for example, the auction platform). There are high ceilings and no posts out in the center. The auction platform was right in front of the bleachers and there was only the one auction this year, so I didn't put signs up. It seemed like the auction area was obvious.

#### **Recommendations for the future:**

If there is a need in the future to place signs high up in the middle of the floor of both building, I would suggest that we use signs on self-standing posts 10' – 12' high. The other option would be to use a high lift and suspend the signs on long strings or wires from the rafters. The challenge in using a lift is that it can only be used when there is nothing and nobody in the way. It means hanging the signs before the fine tuning is done in placing the stage and displays. The signs may end up in the wrong place. It also means that the signs can't be removed until everyone and everything is out of the way. Therefore, self-standing posts would be my recommendation if needed. The 2021 Sale didn't need signage in the middle of the rooms.



There should be a lot more of the large colorful MCC banners throughout both buildings and placed at eye level. Besides raising money for MCC, another purpose of the relief sale is to educate about the work of MCC.

The MCC banners currently owned by OMRS are not stored in the Gerber building with the rest of the signs. They are on loan to MCC Connections for the year with the understanding that they will give them back for the sale. Michael Amstutz mentioned that he may get more banners made for connections and that the OMRS could borrow them for the sale. If OMRS decides to print more banners it should be coordinated with Michael to avoid duplicates.

### **Silent Auction – Submitted by Louisa Pirozzi-Erb**

The total received from the silent auction will be reflected in the larger report. A total of 142 items were sold. Items included 76 gift cards/certificates, 16 themed baskets and a variety of art, small furniture, bluebird houses and crafted items. A description of each basket's contents was displayed on the table. A spreadsheet was created and sent to the cashiers to make recording high bids more efficient. Peter Dunn was instrumental in procuring items for the silent auction by visiting donors. Hartville Hardware donated \$500 for silent auction items. Paul Bontrager and I visited Hartville Hardware to select items.

Things ran smoothly with 2 people during each shift to help bidders and run high bids to the cashiers. All items were open for bids. Bids closed at each table at a selected time.

Recommendations for next year:

- Post signage giving directions on what to do if you are the highest bidder.
- Perhaps minimum bids should be set for some high valued items.
- Try to procure more "service" items. (e.g., dinner for a group, Airbnb stay, manicure etc.)
- 3 people during a shift may allow things to be less hectic

### **Swiss Pantry –Submitted by Janet Shoup**

This year for the Swiss Pantry we asked for home baked goods and received a very nice assortment of brownies, cookies, breads, cinnamon rolls, and pies. We got 75 pies and all sold very well. Instead of fry pies, we had granola bars to sell. New for us this year was getting fresh vegetables for people to purchase. We had a very good group of

volunteers to help in selling the items brought in. I would like to say thank you to the board for getting us space in the air-conditioned arena. Also, a special thank you to Leona Horst and all her wisdom in making the Swiss Pantry a success.

### **Used Books – Submitted by Brenda LaTulippe**

Maynard Miller again this year supplied books offered at the Used Book Booth and additional books donated at the event as well. We had a group of great volunteers for set up on Thursday night and a weary group for tear down on Saturday afternoon. It was nice to be in the Annex building with the foot traffic for the food and other product booths, a great improvement from previous years. Left over books went MCC Connections and another small non-profit thrift shop. As Maynard is getting out of the book business, this was most likely the last year for the Book Sale at the Relief Sale.

Thanks to Maynard for the equipment and books and to all who volunteered with set up, selling and tear down.

### **Volleyball submitted by Kelly Troyer**

We had a very nice evening weather-wise and turnout of 12 all girls' volleyball teams. Another tournament competed that weekend, so the number of teams was slightly down from past years.

Registration started at 6:00 p.m. and double elimination tournament started at 6:30 p.m. The tournament ended at 1:00 a.m. Comments from the teams were they enjoyed playing on this field the best.

Thanks to all the teams that participated and helped raise money for MCC.

### **Wood and Tool Auction – Submitted by Peter Dunn**

2021 was my first year on the Relief Sale board. After meetings and extensive discussions with Laurel Horst, I accepted the responsibility of soliciting donations for the Wood and Tool auction. I was unaware of how daunting this responsibility was, and without Laurel's coaching and mentoring, I would have struggled.

I called on close to 200 stores, and after the event was over, I sent thank you notes to 146 donors. Initially focusing on wood furniture and gifts, I branched out into gift cards from retailers (86 cards with face value of \$9,657), bicycle shops, sportsman's shops,



hotel rooms, meat and cheese, a couple urns, and a beehive. I received \$3,100 in cash donations.

Selling of the gift cards at the auction was a challenge; a number were sold under face value. We will be looking at more effective ways to address this in 2022.

I'm grateful to the number of volunteers who helped pick up the products from the stores and shops, and to the number of volunteers who helped transport the products from the Gordy Amstutz garage, (which he so generously donated for over two months), to the Wooster Fairgrounds.

I'm looking forward to 2022 and the opportunities it will afford us. It will be a much easier job as I have now captured data on all of the donors. I will continue to look for markets we have not yet looked in to, and welcome suggestions on how to increase our numbers for 2022.

### **Wood Surgeon – Submitted by Dwight Kauffman**

We sold about 40 items of about 15 or so different things. We recorded \$1567.

### **World Crafts submitted by Lisa Zuercher**

Thanks to the Relief Sale committee for the countless hours of energy, conversations and re-imagining in making everything come together.

Placing World Crafts and the other booths near the food was a great strategic move! We had constant foot traffic and an increase in sales over 2019. The black curtains were an amazing addition. Not only did they hide the animal fencing, but it gave a continuity to the booths and the space. Unloading and loading was convenient.

For World Crafts, being represented at the Relief Sale has a four-fold impact:

1. Artisans have steady work and income generation
2. World Crafts has support to continue providing income opportunities for artisans
3. MCC receives funding for relief & development work
4. Consumers have choices for making their money work for others

A few of the downsides we discovered: access to the limited electricity; theft of our merchandise; exhaust sucked into the building from a truck located on the west side for the duration.

Thanks again for all the hard work.

### **My Coins Count – Submitted by Kelly Troyer**

See following chart.



## My Coins Count Totals

Church	2021 Coin	Cash	Check	Match	Total
1st Mennonite - Sugarcreek			\$530.01		\$530.01
1st Mennonite - Wadsworth			\$72.30		\$72.30
Beech Mennonite – Louisville			\$5,670.31		\$5,670.31
Berlin Mennonite			\$170.00		\$170.00
Cornerstone Mennonite – Hartville			\$600.00		\$600.00
Crown Hill Mennonite			\$475.00		\$475.00
Kidron Mennonite			\$7,688.27		\$7,688.27
Leetonia Mennonite			\$710.00		\$710.00
Longenecker Mennonite	\$1,691.19				\$1,691.19
Maple Grove Mennonite			\$59,248.77		\$59,248.77
Martins Mennonite			\$1,056.69		\$1,056.69
Martins Creek Mennonite	\$24.03		\$752.27		\$776.30
Millersburg Mennonite			\$614.49		\$614.49
Miscellaneous	\$1,037.49				\$1,037.49
Moorehead Mennonite	\$728.33				\$728.33
Oak Grove Mennonite	\$167.61				\$167.61
Orrville Mennonite	\$1,102.34		\$384.38		\$1,486.72
Pleasant View – North Lawrence	\$166.88				\$166.88
Salem Mennonite (Wooster)			\$1,769.37	\$750.00	\$2,519.37
Sonnenburg Mennonite			\$1,663.00		\$1,663.00
Summit Mennonite	\$182.51				\$182.51
Walnut Creek Mennonite			\$1,937.54		\$1,937.54
Wooster Mennonite			\$632.00		\$632.00
					\$0.00
<b>Total My Coins Count</b>	<b>\$5,100.38</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$83,974.40</b>	<b>\$750.00</b>	<b>\$89,824.78</b>

Less check submitted directly to MCC	\$7,688.27
Net Penny Power Collected	\$82,136.51

# OHIO MENNONITE RELIEF SALE

2021 Treasurer's Report  
11/1/20 through 10/31/21

	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
<b>Beginning Balance</b>					
Killbuck Savings Bank	\$237	\$2,957	\$0	\$0	\$0
Everence	\$21,163	\$18,151	\$22,578	\$19,706	\$22,775
<b>Total Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$21,400</b>	<b>\$21,108</b>	<b>\$22,578</b>	<b>\$19,706</b>	<b>\$22,775</b>

## Receipts

<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$345,994</b>	<b>\$201,685</b>	<b>\$392,709</b>	<b>\$350,327</b>	<b>\$380,508</b>
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## Disbursements

<b>Sent to MCC</b>					
From Sale	\$275,000	\$185,000	\$330,000	\$250,000	\$320,000
My Coins Count to MCC	\$7,688			\$40,000	
<b>Total Sent to MCC</b>	<b>\$282,688</b>	<b>\$185,000</b>	<b>\$330,000</b>	<b>\$290,000</b>	<b>\$320,000</b>
Expenses from page 2	\$68,481	\$16,393	\$64,179	\$57,455	\$63,577
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>\$351,169</b>	<b>\$201,393</b>	<b>\$394,179</b>	<b>\$347,455</b>	<b>\$383,577</b>

## Summary

Beginning Balance (Above)	\$21,400	\$21,108	\$22,578	\$19,706	\$22,775
Total Receipts (Above)	\$345,994	\$201,685	\$392,709	\$350,327	\$380,508
Total Disbursements (Above)	(\$351,169)	(\$201,393)	(\$394,179)	(\$347,455)	(\$383,577)
<b>Net</b>	<b>\$16,225</b>	<b>\$21,400</b>	<b>\$21,108</b>	<b>\$22,578</b>	<b>\$19,706</b>

## Ending Cash Balance

Killbuck Savings Bank	\$92	\$237	\$2,957	\$0	\$0
Everence	\$16,133	\$21,163	\$18,151	\$22,578	\$19,706
<b>Total Ending Cash</b>	<b>\$16,225</b>	<b>\$21,400</b>	<b>\$21,108</b>	<b>\$22,578</b>	<b>\$19,706</b>



<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
Auction Catalogs	\$3,304		\$4,405	\$3,530	\$3,250
Advertising	\$1,187	\$1,028	\$2,382	\$2,245	\$2,908
Bike Ride (24-hr) Expenses					\$500
Brochures	\$3,247		\$3,429	\$4,508	\$2,225
Chicken BBQ	\$1,871	\$630	\$1,437	\$1,535	\$1,502
Childrens' Carnival	\$200			\$535	\$671
Cook Trailer Rental	\$1,700				
Cooler Rentals	\$400		\$400	\$400	\$400
Fairgrounds Security & Maint	\$600		\$400	\$400	\$300
Fry Pies	\$130		\$460	\$440	\$1,000
Grounds Rental	\$9,171		\$5,500	\$5,500	\$5,500
Insurance	\$2,188	\$2,154	\$4,730	\$5,076	\$5,216
Kickoff Dinner Expense					\$200
Licenses			\$109		\$260
Other Food	\$3,714	\$803	\$381	\$806	\$1,219
Pop					\$501
Postage	\$165		\$557	\$683	
Printing, Promotion & Internet			\$349	\$284	\$1,507
Rentals - Misc	\$200		\$1,736	\$505	\$165
Repairs	\$800		\$238		
Run for Relief	\$916	\$1,374	\$3,084	\$2,303	\$2,277
Sanitary Services	\$454				\$155
Sheriff & Auctioneer Fees	\$5,241		\$5,598	\$5,425	\$5,240
Sign Boards			\$745		\$300
Supplies	\$2,262	\$249	\$2,802	\$3,652	\$2,950
Tent Rental		\$2,206	\$4,026	\$450	\$1,703
Transportation Expense		\$30			
Trolley Storage	\$600	\$1,200	\$600		\$600
Large Ticket Items	\$26,349		\$16,408	\$16,483	\$20,616
VISA, M/C & Discover Fees	\$3,242	\$5,504	\$3,863	\$2,155	\$1,872
Web Site	\$540	\$1,215	\$540	\$540	\$540
<b>GRAND TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$68,481</b>	<b>\$16,393</b>	<b>\$64,179</b>	<b>\$57,455</b>	<b>\$63,577</b>

RECEIPTS	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Artisan Marketplace	\$5,107	\$20	\$2,322	\$3,106	\$2,681
Auction - Children's	\$1,042		\$779	\$475	
Auctions - Friday Night	\$6,832		\$2,980	\$3,677	\$2,239
Auction - Quilt	\$59,364	\$42,509	\$64,734	\$56,374	\$70,605
Auction - Wood	\$70,856	\$37,598	\$56,166	\$50,153	\$59,743
Auction Quilt Bags			\$415	\$405	\$290
Bike Ride (24-hr)					\$500
Book Advertising	\$4,100	\$1,833	\$9,308	\$5,450	\$8,950
Chicken Bar-B-Que	\$11,785	\$9,583	\$8,964	\$9,851	\$9,516
Children's Activities	\$58		\$530		\$69
Coke Trailer	\$100		\$1,356	\$1,348	\$1,418
Corn Hole Registration				\$10	
Donations - Miscellaneous	\$6,979	\$1,538	\$741	\$2,522	\$2,784
Hartzler's Ice Cream				\$2,173	\$1,670
Homemade Ice Cream	\$2,428		\$2,969	\$2,327	\$1,953
Hot Noodles	\$585				
Laotian Egg Rolls	\$8,979		\$8,027	\$7,532	\$6,459
Lemonade	\$2,052		\$1,686	\$1,353	\$859
Lerches Donuts				\$1,405	\$1,702
MCC Special Projects					
10 Chicks India/Brood of Chicks	\$390	\$293	\$465		
100 Years of Ministry		\$504			
Agricultural Training				\$150	
Business Training	\$3,470	\$258		\$300	
Cambodia Peace Training		\$450			
Emergency Food-Congo	\$560				
Haiti Mobile Clinic Nurse Transp	\$800				
Handwashing Station				\$200	
Immigration Kit			\$1,625		
MCC Nigeria				\$75	
Meals for School Children		\$322			
Month of Food		\$513	\$340	\$750	
Mozambique Well Equipment	\$765	\$392	\$595	\$80	
Nicaragua Carbon Water System	\$1,170				
Peace Training Uganda Officers			\$75		
Pipe Spring Water to Village	\$900	\$255			
Pregnant Goat				\$400	
Relief Kits		\$333	\$575		
School Supplies for Kits	\$544	\$150	\$825		
School Supplies-Zambia	\$946				
Sudan Graduate Sewing Mach			\$2,000		
Water Filters				\$320	
Water Purification Supplies				\$2,170	
Water Tank/Pumps-Jordan			\$230		
Oak Grove Mennonite	\$465		\$1,470	\$2,614	\$1,951
Offering - Friday Eve		\$921		\$896	\$1,337



Pancake-Sausage	\$3,554		\$3,998	\$4,009	\$4,126
Pie-Ice Cream	\$2,512		\$2,872	\$2,548	\$1,951
Plants	\$905		\$1,314	\$1,028	\$1,124
Penny Power/My Coins Count	\$89,825	\$100,062	\$152,708	\$142,778	\$152,126
Quilters' Corner	\$9,418		\$10,010	\$10,461	\$10,081
Run for Relief	\$4,915	\$3,664	\$7,001	\$6,102	\$5,614
Rustic Table Food Truck	\$1,944		\$2,447		
Sausage Sandwiches	\$1,335		\$1,677	\$2,366	\$1,805
Smoothies	\$1,664		\$1,915	\$1,663	\$1,198
Sponsors-Fri Eve & Large Ticket	\$30,021		\$18,250	\$13,250	\$16,017
Swiss Pantry	\$3,730		\$2,611	\$3,753	\$3,235
Train Rides	\$194		\$327	\$246	\$228
Used Books	\$1,741		\$1,887	\$2,571	\$2,775
Volleyball-Concession	\$235		\$301	\$226	\$558
Volleyball-Registration	\$700		\$590	\$860	\$1,344
Wood Surgery	\$1,654				
World Crafts	\$622		\$267	\$227	\$272
Disposal of Equipment/Land			\$13,250		
ATM Surcharge Income			\$7	\$16	
Interest-Dividends	\$48	\$87	\$175	\$75	\$30
Kickoff Dinner Offering			\$700	\$917	\$1,093
Table/Chair Rental			\$325	\$325	\$755
Trolley & Wagon Rental	\$700	\$400	\$900	\$790	\$1,450
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$345,994</b>	<b>\$201,685</b>	<b>\$392,709</b>	<b>\$350,327</b>	<b>\$380,508</b>

Melissa Hershberger, Treasurer

# Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale Board Members 2021

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Material Resource Coordinator and Church Relations Association for Ohio MCC  
Board Member at Large



