

2017 Conference Related Ministry Update

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Mission/Vision Statement: The **Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Material Resource Center (MRC) of Harleysville** serves as a liaison between the MCC Material Resources Center of Ephrata and peace churches of Eastern Pennsylvania. We support this global ministry by communicating both the need and opportunities to give material resources to those suffering from poverty, oppression, natural disasters, and war. Through this outreach, we share God's love, hope, and joy in the name of Jesus Christ.

Board Members: Lucy Brubaker, Co-chair (Souderton Mennonite), Phil Bergstresser, Co-chair (Zion Mennonite), Anya Williamson, Secretary (Plains Mennonite), Andrew Derstine, Treasurer (Plains Mennonite), Donella Clemens (Perkasie Mennonite), Noah Kolb (Plains Mennonite), Edie Landis (Zion Mennonite), Joe Diener (Souderton BIC), and Rich Godshall (Zion Mennonite).

Update for 2017: Many willing volunteers came throughout the year, giving their time to help us work to support MCC. Many donors gave of their resources to help in the work. We thank God for all the help and support from many churches, individuals and businesses.

Two hundred volunteers contributed 24,500 hours to the MRC. Projects included checking and packing MCC kits, cutting and sewing patches for comforters, cutting and sewing kit bags, quilting by hand and machine, knotting comforters, cutting and packing discarded tee shirts for sale as rags, sorting and baling excess items from Care and Share Thrift Shoppes, baling cardboard for recycling, weaving rugs from strips cut from jeans and corduroy pants, separating plastics and paper for recycling, making unique gift items for the Darning Egg gift shop and assisting with office work.

In 2016 the following items were collected and sent to MCC for distribution to people in need around the world:

1,213 comforters and blankets	1,281 relief kits 6,802 school kits	3,212 hygiene kits 97 sewing kits
601 grocery bags	588 infant care kits	16,107 cans meat
\$30,000 for Penny Power (from area churches and donors' matching gifts)	318 prisoner care kits	

The approximate value of items sent to MCC in 2015 is \$240,332; monetary donations of \$97,905 were also sent to MCC and several local non-profits.

Individuals and groups are invited to join in the work of sharing God's love by volunteering time and sharing material resources. Goals and projects for the next year include raising funds through the Annual Oyster & Ham Dinner (October 28, 2017), Spring Fund Raising Bus Trip, hosting Meat Canning (April 2-4, 2018), recycling and ongoing collection of material resources for Mennonite Central Committee.

After serving as warehouse manager for 9 years, Steve Halteman retired in mid-September. Tom Oelschlager is the new warehouse manager.

