

ANNUAL REPORT | Transform Final Report

Local Compassion Agency Fund

Throughout Transform we distributed over **\$1 million** to 73 different agencies our sites are connected to through the Local Compassion Agency Fund.

- Activities funded include: educational programs, food and nutrition programs, family programming (from pregnancy to seniors), new Canadian support, and operational support, etc.
- Beneficiaries: Elementary students, inner-city youth, young mothers, single parents, refugees and new Canadians, multiple First Nations communities, seniors, and those with physical disability or mental illness, etc.
- Agencies that received a grant over Transform are listed here:

Circle Square Ranch	Reynolds/ACCI
Friendship House of Brant	The Dam (Heart Touching Heart)
MCCO – Restorative Justice	Southwestern Ontario Youth For Christ
MCCO – Arise	The Deck / Youth For Christ Milton
Regeneration Outreach	Adventive Cross Cultural Initiatives
Ephraim’s Place	Food for Life
Crossroads Bible Institute	Restore Canada
Wellington Square United Church	Erin Mills Youth Centre
The Bench	JFJ Hope Centre
Christie Ossington Neighbourhood Centre	Salvation Army Milton
Christie Refugee Welcome Centre	Women’s Habitat of Etobicoke
Parkdale Neighbourhood Church / The Dale	Jericho Road
Sanctuary – Winter Hope Outreach	Restoring Hope Ministries
The Sharing Place	Ottawa Inncity Ministries
Wesley Mimico United Church	Salvation Army Ottawa
Touchstone Youth Centre	Matthew House – Ottawa
Salvation Army Causeway	Habitat for Humanity
Mercy City Church	Snack Attack / William Beatty Public School
Walmer Road Baptist Church Food Bank	Harvest Share Community Food Program
Yonge Street Mission	Pioneers Canada
Grimsby Life Centre	CCMBC – Rugged Tree
Homestead Christian Care / Indwell	MCC – Refugee Program
Micah House	Victory Public School

People’s Church – Hamilton	F.I.V.E. with Drive
Beginnings Family Services	360 Kids
Cambridge Shelter Corporation	Matthew House – Toronto
Limberlost Chaplaincy	Pregnancy Care Centre
Ray of Hope	Habitat for Humanity – GTA
MCC – Circles of Support and Accountability	Toronto City Mission
Salvation Army Newmarket	Urban Promise
Front Line Outreach	Mennonite Coalition for Refugee Support
Global 180	Welcome Home
Kerr Street Mission	Life Change Adventures
Milton Transitional Housing	Food 4 Kids
Mississauga Life Centre / My Life Centre	True City / International Teams
Oak Park Neighbourhood Centre	Living Rock
Open Door Christian Drop In Centre	

Local Site Budgets & Benevolence

- Christians Against Poverty Money programs were provided by the Compassion Fund and hosted at a variety of Meeting House locations to help community members learn improved money management techniques, enabling them stay debt-free and give generously.
- Collectively, throughout Transform, pastors spent almost **\$100,000** from the Compassion Fund as benevolence to families at their site during times of need.
- Collectively, throughout Transform, pastors spent almost **\$170,000** from the Compassion Fund towards local compassion initiatives across their city which encouraged and continued to engage their sites in ongoing relational compassion activities.

Local Community Building Grants (First Nations and Peace in Ontario)

While The Meeting House supported a variety of local agencies throughout Transform, generous donations to the Compassion Fund made it possible for The Meeting House to provide significant grants in June 2015 to registered charities that work specifically with beneficiaries who identify as First Nations or with programs demonstrating intentional peace and reconciliation objectives.

- The sum of these donations: **\$150,000**
- Recipient agencies were:
 - 1. Rugged Tree**

Rugged Tree is a gathering place for a diversity of people, organizations, communities and churches who are committed to pursuing peace, justice and reconciliation among Canada's First Peoples. They are committed to learning, serving, and walking in a way that reflects truth.
 - 2. LUSO Community Services (London Urban Services Organization)**

LUSO Community Services is a multicultural organization supporting children, youth, families, and seniors of culturally diverse and ethnic backgrounds. They lead practical peace-building programs across the city which focus on anti-racism, anti-hate, etc.
 - 3. Ray of Hope – for Welcome Home**

Welcome Home provides a vibrant community where new refugee arrivals feel at home. Their work creating a culture that welcomes diversity across the community is critical as they integrate refugees of various ethnic backgrounds into the city.
 - 4. Indwell**

Indwell creates affordable housing communities that also focuses on providing community support networks and community integration for those living with mental health concerns. The beneficiary demographic extends to new Canadians, aboriginal populations, and those at risk of street involvement/homelessness.
 - 5. Regeneration Outreach**

Regeneration is a community mental health and addictions organization providing affordable supportive housing and case management services for adults who are homeless, at-risk, and living in extreme poverty. They provide life-skills and training essential for employment and social integration into mainstream society.
 - 6. Yonge Street Mission**

YSM aims to help people rise out of poverty. They work to reconcile the poor, traumatized, struggling, underemployed, and those with deteriorating mental and physical health to mainstream society through care, training, and support.
 - 7. Mercy City Church**

MCC works in a community of Toronto that houses socially and ethnically diverse people groups. They reconcile low-income and single parent households with their latchkey children and youth through programs for children, youth, and families—helping them learn skills to be successful in mainstream society. It aims to reduce the number of youth involved in gang violence.

8. Micah House

Micah House is a reception home for incoming refugee claimants. They provide support in settlement matters, cultural education, and counselling services. They foster multi-cultural friendships, helping settle and connect refugees with Canadian culture and available resources.

Africa Learning Teams & EXCHANGE

- 6 Africa Learning Teams visited projects managed by MCC, World Vision, and the BIC.
- 3 Leadership Teams, including the Peace Exchange team, visited projects managed by MCC, World Vision, and the BIC.
- 1 Africa Learning Team: Youth Edition, which was hosted by World Vision and has helped strengthen our partnership with World Vision in the UNDERGROUND.
- 4 African leaders participated in Exchange to help The Meeting House community learn about the MCC, World Vision and BIC projects we fund in Southern Africa.

BIC Canada

1. The Hands and Feet of Jesus

- Drilling wells in Zambia
- Responding to natural disasters such as the flooding in Malawi and earthquake in Nepal
- Responding to humanitarian emergencies including supporting Syrian refugees in Lebanon

2. Sharing His Message

- Supporting church planters around the world
- Purchasing bicycles for pastors in multiple countries to share the Good News, resource and support community members
- Supporting the building of churches and development of church leaders

Mennonite Central Committee

1. 3884 AIDS Care Kits

- Donations of over **\$1.7 million** to MCC's AIDS Care programs in Southern Africa.

Some of the programs supported included:

- Increased medical home visits to HIV/AIDS patients
- Improved understanding about HIV/AIDS at antenatal clinics through increased education
- Increased the number of children and adults who received medical attention
- Improved training lead to at-risk pregnancies being delivered successfully
- Provided regular nutrition assistance to children
- Provided educational assistance to vulnerable and orphaned children
- Created opportunity for vulnerable children and youth to receive vocational training
- Improved agricultural practices and provided small business opportunities which resulted in households experiencing income growth
- Reduced conflict among children and youth through peace programming at schools
- Reduced violence between adults through hosting formal training in peace, conflict resolution, healing, and forgiveness

2. rePURPOSE

- Donated gently used, quality items valued at **\$875,380**
- Items are sold across Ontario at MCC Thrift Stores
- Money received for sale of items is invested into MCC Ontario's local and global programming

World Vision

Members of The Meeting House have sponsored an average of 2000 children throughout Transform. Mposa and Chamba are in Phase Two of World Vision's 4-phase development model. Learn more from World Vision at: worldvision.ca/mposa and worldvision.ca/chamba.

Impact in Mposa

- 133 teachers and volunteers learned child-friendly teaching methods to improve the quality of education for children.
- 100 farmers received livestock, seeds or tools to improve productivity and better provide for their children and families.
- 3625 parents and community members learned how to provide their children proper nutrition and improved protection from diseases.
- 1719 parents and community members learned about the long-term importance of prioritizing children's education and ways to support their children's learning.

- 474 children and youth attend clubs where they can participate, develop leadership skills, and learn about their rights.

“I am happy that my people have understood child education, rights and protection. I wish I started this some years ago.” – Chief Kawanula, Chamba, Malawi

Impact in Chamba

- 257 children received the resources they need to learn including school fees, supplies, books, and uniforms.
- 230 community members and children learned about child rights and how to promote child protection and participation.
- 885 parents and community members learned how to provide their children proper nutrition and improved protection from diseases.
- 3124 children are developing vital language and motor skills at pre-schools, setting a good foundation for their education.
- 163 farmers learned techniques to improved crop and livestock production to better provide for their children and families.

“I came to this school in 2006. Life was tough then,” says Rodgers Duwa, head teacher at one of Mposa’s schools. “The school now has a total of eight classes and two teachers’ houses.” Previously, the school had 3 teachers, two classrooms, 719 students and no toilets. Now there are 19 trained teachers, a school management committee, a parent-teacher association, and 14 toilets helping improve sanitation.

The Additional Money & International Response

While The Meeting House supported a variety of humanitarian emergencies throughout Transform, most notable was our Refugee Response, made possible by generous donations to the Compassion Fund during Transform.

LOCAL REFUGEE CRISIS

Refugee Settlement in Canada by The Meeting House Community Sponsorship Groups

In 2015, The Meeting House contributed **\$34,700** to 12 refugee sponsor groups across our community. Including three additional groups, The Meeting House's community members have come together in groups of 15, to sponsor 16 refugee families into our own neighbourhoods. The groups rallied to raise over **\$433,000** to bring these families to Canada.

Refugee Settlement in Canada by MCC Ontario

The Meeting House contributed over **\$25,000** to help increase MCC Ontario's capacity for refugee resettlement in fall 2015.

- As a result of this support, MCC Ontario was able to significantly increase the capacity of their Refugee Resettlement Program.
- The Meeting House helped to magnify the impact of MCC's refugee resettlement program by about 10 times over last year.
- Quote from a former refugee: "The prospect of resettlement to Canada gave my family hope. Praise God!"
- This support went to helping MCC staff guide sponsorship groups through the process of raising sufficient funds, adequately preparing for newcomers, dealing with the initial arrival process, and then supporting newcomers through the initial arrival settlement and integration process.

GLOBAL REFUGEE CRISIS

Low Profile Disasters

The **\$54,000** The Meeting House allocated to support MCC's international relief efforts has played an important part in supporting many thousands of vulnerable and displaced families affected by lower profile disasters. Support went to these families to countries including Ethiopia, Ukraine, Congo, Nigeria, Colombia, and Burundi.

April 2015 - March 2016

18,798	individuals received financial support or cash transfers
548	homes were repaired or constructed
15,149	individuals received housing or rent assistance
48,115	blankets were shipped
11,845	individuals received heaters and/or heating fuel for cold weather
20,964	individuals received locally purchased kitchen utensils
29,482	individuals received locally purchased clothing

Syria and Refugee Camps

\$36,000 supported MCC's response to the crisis in Syria.

- In addition to MCC's ongoing response, The Meeting House helped to fund these projects that were specifically designed to help people get through the winter months:
 - In Lebanon, an MCC partner distributed blankets, heaters and fuel to 954 households, and 1,503 families living in tents received shelter weatherproofing.
 - Also in Lebanon, 1,409 refugees received cash assistance during the winter months for essential items, rent and food.
 - In Syria, an MCC partner distributed winter clothing to 5,986 children and 4,000 adults. Ten thousand people (2,000 families) received winter bedding and hygiene items, and 4,000 women received dignity kits.
 - Also in Syria, 250 families received heaters and 500 families received vouchers for heating fuel.
 - In Jordan, an MCC partner distributed vouchers for winter items and heaters to 1,300 families.
 - Also in Jordan, heaters and blankets were distributed to 300 Iraqi refugees.
 - In Iraq, clothing, blankets, heaters, fuel and food baskets were distributed to 201 displaced Iraqi and Syrian families.
- Other types of projects The Meeting House helped to fund:
 - Monthly cash allowances to 966 vulnerable families in Syria: cash allowances enable families to prioritize their own needs, including the purchase of food, medicine or rent. MCC is working with a church partner to distribute the allowances.
 - Food assistance to internally displaced people in Iraq. MCC, through its partner, is providing monthly food parcels to approximately 750 families.
 - Providing educational support to vulnerable Syrian and Lebanese girls in Lebanon: this project targets girls aged 8 to 18 who are Syrian refugees or Lebanese and are vulnerable,

ex-posed to violence or at-risk to become a school dropout. One hundred girls are provided with educational support to allow them to succeed in a formal school setting and adapt to the Lebanese school curriculum. The project also provides recreational activities and child-protection awareness sessions. Twenty mothers will have access to psychological support meetings.

- Psychosocial support for Syrian and Iraqi refugees in Jordan: this project aims to improve the mental health of Jordanian and refugee communities by increasing knowledge and utilization of conflict resolution tools, personal coping skills, and stress management. Seven hundred people will participate in workshops and interactive theatre shows to learn nonviolent methods for resolving family issues and addressing other life challenges.
- Short-term training to help uprooted women earn income.

Site Launches

\$710, 000 went towards the launch of our 4 newest locations: Brantford, Downtown Hamilton, East Toronto, and High Park. These launches represent:

- Over 1000 open seats for new attendees in our adult teaching services.
- 22 new kid**max** classrooms.
- 4 new youth programs for Jr. and Sr. High students.
- 16 Home Churches.

Oakville Expansion

\$2,890,000 from Transform allowed us to complete the building renovations that were targeted for completion when we originally purchased the building. This means:

- Over 1660 seats in our main theatre.
- 16 new kid**max** classrooms.
- 3 large auditoriums for larger gatherings, youth programs, and increased grades 1-5 space on Sunday mornings.
- A new recreational space for our kids and youth.
- New Logistics space to better support our regional sites.
- Indoor space for trailer repacking and truck maintenance.
- Additional office spaces and technical upgrades for our staff.
- Additional rentable meeting space.

In Summary, as reported in the 2015 Annual Report:

- Total income expected to come from Transform Mission was up to **\$1.8 million**; total income used from Transform Mission was **\$1,797,643**
- Total expenses approved by the Overseers was **\$5,422,000**; total expenses realized was **\$5,253,064**

- Total mortgage approved by RBC and Overseers was up to **\$2.5 million**; total resulting mortgage by RBC was **\$2,430,000**.

Invite Initiatives

\$615,000 was available for creating invite initiatives through Transform. These tools were created to help our community engage in conversations with those seeking a relationship with Jesus.

- Completed and launched our current website, including access to current and past teaching series, and location finders for sites and Home Churches.
- Designed and launched our first app, including an individualized site experience and access to current and past teaching resources.
- Recorded the Re/New music album featuring the work of our own musicians.
- Released “God Enters Stage Left” by Tim Day. Over 35, 000 copies were sold or given away.
- Created and sold t-shirts with messaging intended to start conversations with others about The Meeting House and our approach to following Jesus.
- Launched the Transform mission with One Roof, a celebration event attended by over 5000 people, aimed at educating our community on our goals for the mission.

Curriculum

\$1,080,000 of the funds raised throughout Transform went towards the creation up to the initial launch of our own curriculum for kids and youth.

- We started from scratch developing a team and a concept for creation of our own curriculum so that we could have the same quality of teaching for our kids as we do for our adults.
- The goal was to create something Jesus-centred that was in-line with our Anabaptist beliefs and Canadian values.
- The curriculum team went through many iterations of design and process to streamline work into a sustainable working model. There were some great wins over the last four years, and also some difficulties resulting in lessons learned along the way.
- The team landed on a final design at the end of the mission, and are moving forward with with a clear strategy.
- As a starting point, the team launched 1-month long pilot series, while continuing to use purchased curriculum for the rest of the year, to gain valuable learning about behind-the-scenes processes, as well as feedback from parents, kids, volunteers, and others in our community.
- As of 2016, the team is in year-round production, developing weekly lessons for all 8 age groups across our kids and youth programming, for every week of the year.

Overview of Curriculum Segments in Production

	# per week	Full Year (52 weeks)
Grades 1-12 Video Segments (Life Story, God Story, Game, etc.)	12	624
Preschool Written Content (Lesson Plan, Bible Story, Take Home, etc.)	7	364
Grades 1-5 Written Content (Lesson Plan, Activity Page, Take Home, etc.)	6	624
Sunday Youth Written Content (Lesson Plan, Small Group Questions, etc.)	3	156
Midweek Youth Written Content (Lesson Plan, Small Group Questions, etc.)	4	208

Other Initiatives

A New Approach to Musical Worship

Aged and outdated equipment had been long recognized as a growing concern that had resulted in numerous tech failures at regional sites. To address these problems in a modern way that brought professionalism to our music ministry was a key goal for the team. This meant:

- Connecting with other multi-site churches to learn about modern approaches to shared music ministry.
- Producing three different proof of concept demonstrations throughout the development of a new approach and presented them to key leaders.
- Designing a new audio-visual system for regional sites, including updated technology and energy efficient lighting, and allowed for lower-maintenance and quicker setup.

We began the process of rolling out a shared music experience across our sites, but differences in vision for the ministry caused us to re-evaluate and stop this roll out. While unsuccessful, this project taught us many useful things about our site dynamics that have been beneficial in projects since. Further, establishing a new system design allowed us to complete the most significant tech upgrade for our sites so far, and our creative work on new musical styles was developed into tracks for the Re/New album.