

2021 MCC Central States Report

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MCC Central States is one of four regions in covenant relationship with MCC U.S., representing a 16-state area in the Midwest that stretches from the U.S./Canadian border to the U.S./Mexico border. It is home to about 500 Anabaptist churches. This land is the ancestral home of numerous Indigenous peoples, including Northern Cheyenne, Dakota, Houma, Kaw/Kanza, and many others who continue to live here through today. Much of MCC Central States's work focuses on dismantling systemic oppression, while seeking authentic relationships along a path of decolonization. Based in North Newton, Kansas, it has dispersed staff in various locations throughout the region. (composed by Andrew Wright)

Our work includes:

Administration

- Communications
- Human Resources

Donor Relations

- Constituency Relations
- Material Resources generation
- Regional Thrift Store coordination

Programs

- Immigration
- IVC (Indigenous Visioning Circle)
- Peace and Justice Education
- YAP (Young Adult Program)

Dismantling Oppression Team

- Monitor, coordinate and facilitate regional anti-oppression training and consciousness raising.
- Monitor, coordinate and facilitate regional cultural competency engagements.

Look at God! Reflections on MCC CS in these COVID-19 times.

Much has changed this year! A month after the MCC CS's annual meeting in February 2020, we had to close the MCC CS office in North Newton due to COVID-19. Up until that time, the office bustled with volunteers who loved to come in and create comforters, recycle, assemble the various kits and fellowship.

At first, we sprinted and held on to hope that this wouldn't last long. However, it became evident that, more than likely, the office would be closed and inaccessible to volunteers. So, the challenges became opportunities to pivot and explore:

- How do we continue to connect with our constituency?
- Is there a way for us to provide a safe avenue for volunteers to participate in the ongoing needs of MCC?

- How do we continue to fulfill our mission of relief, development, and peace in the name of Christ-differently?

First, I am grateful for the staff of MCC CS. Because of their commitment to the mission of MCC and their work, they were energized by the challenges and eager to turn them into accomplishments. Examples of this are:

- The Material Resources Center staff coordinated pick-up and delivery of materials to keep volunteers busy. They also established protocols for smaller groups to come into the warehouse and workroom.
- All of us are engaged, with Donor Relations, to connect with constituency. A “gift” of these times has provided more of us the opportunity to connect with more constituents, virtually. I have had more opportunities to speak and preach at events and in churches than ever before.
- Our programs have created online learning opportunities that have been successful. Human Resources and Young Adult Programs have collaborated to engage in virtual recruitment opportunities.

So, I rejoice- Look at God! God has allowed us to continue our work in amazingly creative and new ways in order that we can continue the mission of MCC.

February 12, 2021