



2011 Festival Raises Funds For People In Need

The 2011 Oregon Mennonite Festival for World Relief was a success, thanks to spirited bidding, countless volunteers and generous donors. The 28th annual festival was held October 8th, and raised \$89,725. That's an increase of more than \$5,000 from last year.



Michael Chapman, MCC's West Coast Director of Resource Generation, told those gathered at the beginning of the auction that the first item up for bid, a fresh-baked loaf of bread, reminded him "of the thousands of people MCC is helping to feed around the world." The loaf sold for \$100.



Chapman said that relief sales like this one are "one of the best ways to educate people about the work of MCC. In many ways, it's the face of MCC in a local community." Chapman said the bulk of relief sale money goes to MCC's general fund. That helps projects in places that don't generate news headlines. "All of the relief sales together raise a whole lot of money for MCC," said Chapman.

The top selling quilt at this year's festival was "Star Spin," which was donated by Portland Mennonite Church. It sold for \$1,800! The number two quilt was a "Broken Star" design, donated by Albany Mennonite. The top selling general auction item was a Yamaha scooter, which sold for \$700.

In addition to the money raised on the day of the sale, several events earlier in the year also raised funds for MCC. Nearly \$6,000 was raised at a picnic in August, and other events and donations brought in an additional \$4,000. That brings the total amount of money raised for MCC in Oregon this year to \$99,000!



Please copy and distribute this newsletter among members of your congregation.

The Oregon Mennonite Festival for World Relief benefits Mennonite Central Committee: www.mcc.org
Questions? Like to help? Please contact Chairperson Ron Litwiller at 541-967-8890, ron@mennonitevillage.org

Were You Still At The Festival at 1:18 p.m.?

If not, then you missed out on a fun event! At precisely 1:18 p.m., a group of singers in the main festival building broke out in a chorus of "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow." It didn't take long for people browsing the shops or eating lunch to join in, lifting their voices in praise. Why 1:18 p.m.? Because that's the number assigned to this favorite song in the current Mennonite hymnal. (The song is perhaps better known as "606" for its placement in an earlier hymnal, but the festival is long-since done by 6:06 p.m.!) The song was repeated a few minutes later in the auction building. If you'd like to see a video of the "flash mob" version of 606/118, just visit the festival's Facebook page.

Why Do We Raise Money, Anyway?

We raise money because of people like Marium Dahir. Marium and her three children recently arrived at a refugee camp near the Somali/Kenya border, fleeing instability and famine in her home area. Soon after arriving, Marium received vouchers for emergency food rations, including rice,



beans, oil, salt and sugar. People receiving the vouchers can redeem them through buying the items listed on the vouchers at local shops. MCC and other organizations reimburse the local merchants who receive the vouchers. This system supports the local economy, builds relationships with

community leaders, and ensures that food ends up in the hands of those who need it most. In addition to food vouchers, MCC is also supplying school kits and blankets to refugees from the drought in East Africa, and is providing funds for locally purchased mosquito netting. Thanks to your generosity, the Oregon Mennonite Festival for World Relief is an important part of helping those in need around the world.

2011 Sale Day Totals

Auction – General	\$10,279
Auction – Donations	\$11,000
Auction – Quilts	\$19,737
Auction – Silent	\$2,107
Auction – Children	\$160
Apples / Cider	\$4,034
Baked Goods	\$1,989
Breakfast	\$2,523
Country Store	\$7,942
Food & Drink Booths	\$11,231
Garden Shop	\$1,147
Marta's Haus	\$3,483
MCC Giving Center	\$1,100
Other	\$2,311
Penny Power	\$6,250
Quilt Table	\$1,460
School Kits	\$781
Used Books	\$2,191

Drumming For Peace: Fun For All Ages

A new event at this year's festival was an all-ages drum circle led by long-time Mennonite peace activist Leo Hartshorn, who's also the interim pastor at Zion Mennonite Church in Canby. Leo brought an ample supply of plastic buckets and drum sticks and led several dozen children and adults in a 30-minute session of music and fun! And through it all, Leo instilled a message of peace and God's love for all people. If you'd like to see a brief video clip of "Drumming for Peace," just visit the festival's Facebook page.

Stay In Touch

Next year's Oregon Mennonite Festival for World Relief may seem like a long way off, but there are several ways you can stay in touch. The festival website, oregonmennofest.org, will have news about next year's event as it becomes available. For timely updates about the festival and other MCC-related events in Oregon, visit the festival's Facebook page and click on the "like" button.

A big **THANK YOU!** to everyone who made this year's Festival a success. There are too many names to mention here, but suffice it to say, the festival couldn't happen without the hundreds of people who volunteered, donated, or purchased items. There's another way you can help: *Please keep the work of MCC in your prayers during the coming year.* And be sure to join us on **October 13, 2012 at the Linn County Fair & Expo Center** for the 29th annual Festival for World Relief.