



In the past two years, Care & Share Thrift Shoppes has continued to pivot due to Covid. In fact, as this is being written, we are experiencing another surge of volunteer and staff outages. This has most greatly affected our ability to process donations and restock merchandise on the shoppe shelves. Once the items are in the shoppes – WOW – we have customers who are searching for them!

There was a unique staffing model developed in 1975 when Care & Share opened. Each congregation in the conference would provide volunteers for a set day. As one of our founders, Wayne Clemens would say, (and I am paraphrasing), “You were reminded on Sunday to serve others during the week. Care & Share provides that opportunity.” Care & Share is a place where you can serve your local community, and the funds raised provide support in North America and in over 47 countries with MCC.

47 years later, we have several congregations that continue to provide volunteers on a dedicated day in the Clothing Shoppe. We are very grateful for this long-term commitment and would love to continue to grow this mission opportunity. Across all six Shoppes, 28% of our volunteer hours are served by the 146 volunteers who attend Mosaic Conference congregations.

Over 2021 and 2022 we were grateful to have groups serve together from these Mosaic Conference congregations:

Blooming Glen Mennonite (4 times)	Perkiomenville Mennonite (2)	Line Lexington Mennonite (1)
Deep Run West (3)	Souderton Mennonite (2)	Swamp Mennonite (1)
Deep Run East (2)	West Swamp Mennonite (2)	Zion Mennonite (1)

We addressed our lower volunteer processing hours in two ways:

1. We donated **many** trailers loads of donations to other ministries – including, but not limited to: Liberty Ministries, Worthwhile Wear Thrift and MCC Thrift Stores in the Lancaster area.
2. Due to the lack of workroom volunteers, we have started a paid evening shift to process donations in the Clothing and Variety Workrooms. We currently have 23 part-time season employees and 50 permanent employees.

Other new initiatives over this time period:

1. Developed a relationship with PAR Recycle Works, located in Philadelphia. PAR-Recycle Works is a nonprofit electronics recycler that provides transitional employment to people returning from prison. Any donation that “had a cord” but does not work will find it’s way to this program.
2. We have developed our very own shopping App, which you can download in your App store. Our long term plan is to assist smaller MCC thrift shops with this technology to broaden their sales.
3. In 2022, a 50% increase in requests for donations of support. This year we have given over \$25,000 in material goods and gift cards to: Penn Foundation, multiple church groups and organizations resettling refugees in our community, Souderton Mennonite Home, St. Vincent DePaul, pastors requesting support for community members...and many more. If you know someone in need, and we can help, please give me a call.

How our friends in the Mosaic Conference can help us:

1. Pray for our Care & Share community. For many, we are a “church”. May we continue to shine God’s love to all who enter. We are committed to Matthew 25:35.
2. Organize a volunteer event with us. **Volunteers who serve together – build community!** We also welcome individuals and corporate groups. Join us monthly on the final Tuesday from 5 – 8PM at our Volunteer Happy Hour – stocking the shoppes after hours!
3. Invite us to share about Care & Share with your church, business, or group of friends.

Thank you for your support of Care & Share. I would enjoy hearing from you.

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