

PRESS RELEASE

53rd Annual Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale returns to the Wayne County Fairgrounds

Wooster, Ohio- July 12, 2018. For 53 years, the Mennonite, Brethren, Apostolic and Amish churches of northeastern Ohio have come together to put together a festive event to raise funds for the work of Mennonite Central Committee. The 2018 Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale and Auction is slated for August 3 & 4 at the spacious Wayne County Fairgrounds in Wooster, Ohio.

The Highlights of the Ohio Relief Sale: The Auctions

While there are many activities for Relief Sale guests, the annual highlights of the event are always the auctions on both Friday evening and Saturday.

A Silent Auction will take place on Friday evening starting at 4pm. Guests will find anything from Ohio State theme baskets to up-cycled thrift items, artworks and fairy gardens to bid on. Silent Auction items are grouped by tables and will close on the half hour throughout the evening.

Hundreds of colorful, expertly pieced and hand-quilted Amish and Mennonite Quilts are made by church sewing circles, individuals or by volunteers at Kidron's thrift store, MCC Connections. Made with loving care, these quilts and cozy comforters are made with one idea in mind: to raise funds to help those in need. Quilts can be previewed either at ohiomccreliefsale.org or at 4pm on Friday evening. The Quilt Auction begins promptly at 9:30am on Saturday.

Although called the Wood and Tool Auction, guests will find a wide assortment of donated auction items, ranging from fine hardwood furniture made by Amish and Mennonite craftsmen, to artwork, kitchen appliances and hand tools.

The 2018 Special Features of this auction are a 15-Passenger Van, a 5-night stay at the Carlisle Inn in Sarasota, Florida, a Dutcher Door Garage Door and a deluxe 27.2 Cubic Ft. French Door Refrigerator. The

Wood and Tool Auction begins at 9am on Saturday morning. Items can be previewed at ohiomccreliefsale.org or at 4pm on Friday evening.

Learn to bid or buy it priced

While auctions are a way of life among Amish and Mennonites, it can be intimidating for auction "rookies" who have never been to an auction. No worries – help is there to guide you. Guests must first register for a buyer's number in order to bid and are encouraged to ask questions of helpful auction volunteers if they are unsure how to proceed.

For those who prefer not to bid, several stands will have items priced to sell. Quilter's Corner is a crafter's dream with an assortment of donated fabrics, pillowcases, sewing patterns and vintage fabrics ready to turn into a project. The Needlework and Crafts stand features finished projects ranging from comforters and afghans to woven rugs and knitted hats. Take home a houseplant or perennial for your home from our Plant Stand.

Festival Foods

There's no excuse to go hungry at the Ohio Relief Sale with the scrumptious assortment of festival foods. There's something for everyone, from the BBQ Chicken dinners and homemade ice cream to gluten-free fresh fruits or fresh squeezed lemonade. The most unique dish served may be the popular Laotian Egg Rolls and Lo Mein, a tradition started by a local Laotian refugee family who relocated to the United States with the help of Mennonite Central Committee. All food stands open at 4pm on Friday evening and 8am on Saturday.

A "Fuel-Up-for-Relief" breakfast begins at 7am on Saturday morning featuring pancakes, sausage, sausage gravy, biscuits and scrambled eggs.

A Bake Sale starts on Friday evening at 4pm with delicious home baked items as well as items donated by local bakeries. Look for the "Swiss Pantry" signs, and be sure to get there early for Lavonne's Rolls or Lovina's Ground Cherry Pies. Buy them early and come back to pick them up later.

For the Kids and Young at Heart

Plenty of Children's games and activities are planned, featuring the "barrel" Train and inflatables. The popular Children's Auction returns in 2018 with toys for kids to bid on. The Children's Auction begins at 10:30am.

A 5K Run/Walk for Relief takes place on Saturday morning at 8am. The route is entirely contained on the auction grounds. Showers are available and the run is open to all ages. Registration is available at ohiomccreliefsale.org.

A Cornhole Tournament is planned for the 2018 Relief Sale, and begins at 6pm on Friday Night.

Keep the Change!

Specially designated to support MCC's Clean Water Project is the spare change collection. Guests can save spare change (or checks and \$100 bills) and drop them off at the Relief Sale collection site. Think it's a drop in the bucket? Over \$134,000 was raised in 2016 for the Relief Sale's My Coins Count project!

Where does the money go?

Staffed solely by volunteers, the Relief Sale's proceeds go to Mennonite Central Committee (MCC). MCC is the relief, service and development agency of North American Mennonite and Brethren in Christ Churches. MCC seeks to demonstrate God's love through committed women and men who work among suffering people.

Learn More

Auction items can be previewed online at www.OhioMccReliefSale.org. Brochures, registration information, forms for the Run for Relief 5K, and volleyball tournaments are also available online. Information regarding entry fees for specific events can be found on the site.

Admission and parking are free. ADA parking and wheelchairs are available. The event is held rain or shine. For more information, contact Board Chairperson, Sandy Miller at 330-464-8867.

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