

PRESS RELEASE

55th Annual Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale Going Online for 2020

Kidron, Ohio – September 10, 2020

In mid-March, it all came to a stop. Like many events, the global pandemic hindered the planning for the 55th annual Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale. Many Relief Sales around the nation and Canada were cancelled, leaving Mennonite Central Committee short on funding. With this in mind, the Ohio sale planning committee has committed to an online auction only, scheduled for September 26 to October 3.

Rather than a traditional two-day event, the group's fundraising activities will be spaced out over several weeks, allowing people from all over the nation the opportunity to bid and support the relief and community development work of Mennonite Central Committee (mcc.org.)

September 14 to 24 – Buy It Now

A hit at last year's event, Buy It Now is similar to the Ebay sales method of the same name. The auction committees have selected a small number of quilts and other items to be available before the auction at a fixed price.

Buy It Now items will be available to purchase starting September 14 through September 24. Any items not sold via Buy It Now will be placed in the online auction for bidding. These items can be previewed at ohiomccreliefsale.org.

Online Auction – September 26 to October 3

Auction items will first be available for bidding on September 26. Items already donated include over 100 authentic Amish and Mennonite Quilts and wallhangings, overnight stays at Carlisle Inn and Miller Manor, certificates for meals, a refrigerator and other appliances, a landscaping package, garage door, a variety of hand tools, etc.

Donations to the Online Auction will be accepted until September 22 and must be delivered to the Sprunger Building in Kidron on September 24. Please contact Sandy Miller at 330-464-8867 for details.

Bidding will end at midnight on October 3. Small auction items will be shipped at buyer's cost, however, large furniture items must be picked up by the next week.

Bidders can be confident that their payment information will stay safe. Through our supervising auctioneer, Steve Chupp, the Relief Sale uses the secure bidding site, Proxybid for all online sales. Bidders can register to bid at ohiomccreliefsale.org.

Quilts can be previewed online. Wood, Tool and miscellaneous items will not be pictured before the sale this year, but can be previewed live on September 25 in Kidron.

Socially Distanced Live Events – September 25 and 26

With COVID-19 in mind, a downsized Kickoff Preview Event is scheduled for the September 25 and 26 at the Sprunger Building on the grounds of the Kidron Auction.

On Friday evening, September 25, there will be an outdoor socially distanced concert featuring two bands. Local favorites, Honeytown, play an eclectic mix of folk, bluegrass, original music in their signature tightly blended harmonies. Also scheduled are the brother-sister band, A Girl Named Tom. From Archbold, Ohio, the sibling band is known for playing acoustic pop with tight three part harmony. Concert-goers are asked to bring their own lawn chairs and space themselves according to social distancing guidelines.

On Saturday, September 26, a carry-out online Chicken Barbeque meal will be available starting at 11am and will last until 2pm. The food committee will be taking orders of chicken dinners until September 16. Dinners may be pre-ordered on the Relief Sale website at ohiomccreliefsale.org. A limited number of chicken dinners will be on hand for walk-in purchases. Ice cream and pie will also be available for carryout (no preorder required). On September 26, all auction items will be available to preview in the Sprunger Building, but again visitors will be asked to wear a mask and socially distance. The preview will be open from 11:00 to 3pm.

Wrapping up the weekend's events is a special Relief Sale online concert by John Schmid on September 27 at 4:00pm. Visit John's Facebook page to listen to his concert online:

<https://www.facebook.com/commongroundmin>.

Spare Change Collection Will Go On

The "My Coins Count" Collection will go on with several new twists. Like other years, My Coins Count is specially designated for Mennonite Central Committee's Water Projects. However, the Sale Committee asks that churches and individuals count their own change and use the Relief Sale's Paypal Account to send their money (ohiomccreliefsale.org/donate.)

Virtual 5K/1K Run for Relief

Like other area races, the annual Run for Relief will be a virtual race. Participants will be asked to run/walk their own course and send photos as proof of completion. Registration and instructions for the race are available at <https://www.givesignup.org/Race/OH/Kidron/RunforRelief5K>.

New Developments: Ohio Relief Sale Online Store

Coming *after* the 2020 Online Relief Sale, a brand new e-commerce store will be set up to sell small items year round. Items that are slated for store include fabrics, books, project UFO's (unfinished objects) from the popular Quilter's Corner. Also included will be crafty and artsy items from Artisan's Marketplace. Most items will be priced at \$25 and under. Watch ohiomccreliefsale.org or join the email list for updates later in October.

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. MCC comes to the aid of suffering people all over the world, administering disaster relief, drilling water wells, education and building relationships in war-torn areas.

For more information, contact Board Co-Chairs, Sandy Miller at 330-464-8867 and Brenda LaTulippe at 330-933-6372.

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