

Canning 2020

It was truly amazing to help those in need this year through Freeport Mennonite Church's and Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Meat Canning Ministry! Last year's event took place during the week of December 14 -18, 2020. MCC provides a Mobile Meat Canner that travels to approximately 33 stops throughout the United States and Canada.

Despite the pandemic, we had overwhelming support through volunteers and funding! We were able to raise enough funding last year to can 35,747 pounds of chicken, which produced 23,283 cans of chicken to be used locally and worldwide. Ten percent, 2,328 cans of chicken, were retained for use locally through various local food pantries in the Freeport, Davis, and Rockford and in southwest Wisconsin. The remaining chicken will be sent to MCC to use as needed in the United States and worldwide. MCC partners with other organizations to help those in need. These organizations assist with disaster relief, help with work programs, aid hospitals and rest homes, to name a few.

Last year was the 68th year Freeport Mennonite Church has partnered with MCC. This community project happens year after year because of the support from so many individuals, churches, and businesses from the surrounding communities who join together to make this possible. We had groups or individuals from the West around the Pearl city, Illinois area, south to Sterling, Illinois, the Rockford area to the east, and the Wisconsin State line. We had support from all over Southwest Wisconsin and as far north as Lancaster, Wisconsin. We even had help from Florida and California.

The MCC canning event isn't just a week-long effort, and it isn't just about canning meat. Throughout the year, volunteers worked on and collected 27 comforters (6 of which were completed at the canning event), three quilts, three blankets, 96 school kits, 65 hygiene kits, and 15 sewing kits. These care items were also sent to MCC for distribution both nationally and internationally. The MCC Meat Canning Event is a year-long labor of love.

Freeport Mennonite Church has already begun planning, fundraising, and knotting comforters for the upcoming year. If you want to learn more about this event, take part in the fun, and help people in need, you can go to freeportmennonitechurch.com, call the church office at 815-255-0942, or you can check out our Facebook page for more information and Canning updates.