

## Parent Tips & FAQs

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### What is Peacemakers?

Peacemakers is a Compassion initiative of The Meeting House in partnership with the work of Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) around the world. We collect Relief Kits to assist people who have been affected by the conflict in Syria and we also give financially through Peace Cards to partner to MCC's peacebuilding efforts across Sub-Saharan Africa and here in Ontario.

### Why Focus on Peace?

Peace is God's primary message to the world through Jesus. When we talk about peace we are not talking about the absence of conflict we are talking about the presence of God's reconciling love. Love that will remove whatever is getting in the way of broken relationships. As Christians, we want to proclaim the gospel of peace, and through partnering with MCC's peacebuilding programs we can do this in a tangible way.

### How will The Meeting House Youth be involved?

**The Meeting House Youth is going to be collecting Relief Kits!** Our youth who attend midweek will be collecting full Relief Kits in their small groups. Small group leaders will provide your children with more information on this. **Collection day this year is on March 8th.** (Note: our jr high youth who only attend Sunday morning service will be bringing in bars of soap along with Kidmax, biodegradable recommended).

### Are there more ways to engage?

Yes! Please pray that God will bring peace to violence and disasters internationally and in our own backyard. Pray for reconciliation between Indigenous and settler communities. As a family, collect Relief Kit and Peace Cards above and beyond the midweek youth and start a conversation within your family about the importance of peacebuilding. Lastly, register to pack Relief Kits as a family in Oakville on March 8th. For more information on registering to pack or to learn more about the campaign visit [themeetinghouse.com/peacemakers](http://themeetinghouse.com/peacemakers).



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### How will Kidmax participate?

Kidmax is going to contribute to the Relief Kits by bringing in **bars of soap**. You can bring them to kidmax every Sunday from **February 9 to March 8** (February 2 to March 8 in Oakville). We recommend bringing biodegradable soap but all soap will work!

### Is there more we can do?

We can pray that God will bring peace to those who are afraid or sad. As a family you may decide to put together an entire Relief Kit yourselves, or donate Peace Cards. Each week in kidmax we will collect the bars of soap, talk about the important of peace, and pray for the people affected by unrest in our world. More info on MCC's peace & reconciliation initiatives can be found at [www.themeetinghouse.com/peacemakers](http://www.themeetinghouse.com/peacemakers).



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**Together we can help.**

Our goal is to bring 4500 bars of soap to kidmax by March 8, 2020.



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## Peacemakers in your School

The Meeting House partners with Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) to walk with people who have been impacted by violence around the world and here in Ontario. Each year we collect funds and items in order to put together Relief Kits and Peace Cards. Relief Kits are a collection of essential items that MCC distributes to compliment their relief services to people affected by crisis in order to meet their basic needs. This year the kits are going to persons affected by the violence in Syria. The funds raised through Peace Cards support MCC's peacebuilding work across sub-Saharan Africa as well as their reconciliation efforts with our Indigenous neighbours and Restorative Justice work in Ontario.

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### 1. Prepare

- Determine your strategy to get your school involved. Will you ask your class or your entire school? What will you be collecting (kits, cards, soap)? What are your collection goals?
- Talk with a teacher/administrator to obtain permission to promote Peacemakers.
- Ask to create a display table with a poster, map and examples of what you're asking for.

### 2. Invite

- Communicate your goals at an assembly, during announcements, on social media, or in class.
- Share why you are collecting Relief Kits/Peace Cards/Soap. i.e. *"Every year our church supports an organization called Mennonite Central Committee who partners with organizations globally and in Ontario to help provide practical support to people affected by violence."*
- Communicate that for financial donations, people can give at [themeetinghouse.com/giving](http://themeetinghouse.com/giving) or by texting "TMH" to 77977 and selecting 'Peacemakers' from the dropdown menu.
- State the time and location students and teachers can deliver the cards/kits/soap.

### 3. Collect

- (Optional) Host an assembly or meeting for your school and celebrate the amount of Peace Cards /Relief Kits/Soap you collected!
- Inform your Compassion/Kidmax/Youth Coordinator and Lead Pastor of the total number of Relief Kits/Peace Cards/Bars of soap you collected.

### 4. Follow Up

- Take a photo and either email or text it to your school friends to say thank you!
  - Send this photo to your site's Lead Pastor and Compassion/Kidmax/Youth Coordinator.
  - Report the total number of Relief Kits/Peace Cards/bars of soap that The Meeting House collected.
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#### Ideas to make it meaningful and fun

- Make and display a 'Relief Kit-o-Meter' or Soap-o-meter chart to communicate your progress.
- Start a competition between different classrooms to see who can collect the most Relief Kits/Peace Cards/Soap. Alternatively, challenge each class to bring a different item from the list of relief kit contents.
- Host an information session for different classes on the issues that our campaign is supporting. For resources ask your Compassion Coordinator or Lead Pastor.
- Watch an educational film together. Borrow a film from your school's library or watch the documentary *Secret Path* on Youtube.
- Take a photo once a week as your collection of items grows and share it by email or text.

**Collection Date:** Sunday, March 08, 2020 at all Meeting House locations

For a list of items in the Relief Kit and more information about Peacemakers please visit:

**[themeetinghouse.com/peacemakers](http://themeetinghouse.com/peacemakers)**

## Peacemakers

### Biodegradable Soap Brands

Thank you for your desire to purchase biodegradable soap (yay!). MCC does not require biodegradable soap to be included in the Relief Kits but in most areas the kits will be distributed there is a lack of adequate plumbing and water filtration services. By purchasing biodegradable soap we are able to help minimize the negative environmental impacts that could be caused by non-biodegradable and harmful chemicals.

This is a small step we can take to be more environmentally conscience. We have only pushed for the bar soap to be biodegradable but if you have the means, it is more than welcome for you to purchase biodegradable types of all relevant items in the kit (i.e bar laundry soap, shampoo).

Sometimes it is difficult to know which brands are truly biodegradable so we have developed a list of brands that are environmentally friendly as well as some stores or websites you can purchase them. All soap must be brought to your site by March 8th. Thank you for partnering in MCC's relief efforts in Jordan to provide necessary basic needs to people affected by the violence in Syria.

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#### **Biodegradable Soap Brands**

- Caprina Fresh Milk Soap
- Dr. Bronner's Pure Castile Bar Soap
- Clearly Natural
- The Honest Company Bar Soap
- Lake of the Woods Soap
- SoapWorks
- Kappus Soap

#### **Retail/Online Stores**

- [goodnessme.ca](http://goodnessme.ca)
- [costco.ca](http://costco.ca)
- [well.ca](http://well.ca)
- [amazon.ca](http://amazon.ca)
- [bedbathandbeyond.ca](http://bedbathandbeyond.ca)
- [walmart.ca](http://walmart.ca)

