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# OREGON

MENNONITE FESTIVAL  
FOR WORLD RELIEF

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **37<sup>th</sup> Annual Oregon Mennonite Festival Goes Online During the Pandemic**

The board of the Oregon Mennonite Festival for World Relief regrets to announce that the 2020 Fall Auction and Festival will move to a mostly online format. This year's event was originally scheduled for Saturday, October 10 in Albany at the Linn County Expo Center, but in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, most on-site elements of the sale will be cancelled.

The Oregon Mennonite Festival for World Relief is a community fair that raises funds to meet needs through the global ministries of the [Mennonite Central Committee](#), which is celebrating its centennial anniversary this year. In most years, OMFWR raises enough money after expenses to send MCC around \$100,000. The needs MCC meets are even more critical in these times and we believe we are called to this same challenge and mission.

The board welcomes this challenge as an opportunity to try something new. Chairman Gene Stutzman writes, "When I joined the Fall Festival Board 3 years ago, I could not have imagined a situation that would force us into this action. In a way, the decision was easy. There was really no other course of action available in the face of a pandemic. We simply could not endanger the health and welfare of our volunteers, supporters and guests at a large public event. But, as with all things, there is opportunity in adversity. We are excited to explore new fundraising ideas that bring the community together."

We invite our friends and supporters to join us in our purpose. There will be a number of online events including an online auction on or around October 10th, 2020. We will also be launching our \$100,000 fundraising initiative to celebrate the centennial anniversary of MCC. Specific plans will be posted later in the summer, likely around the Labor Day holiday. To receive updates directly via email, subscribe to our e-newsletter on [www.OregonFestivalForWorldRelief.com](http://www.OregonFestivalForWorldRelief.com) and "like" our Facebook page at [www.Facebook.com/OMFWR](http://www.Facebook.com/OMFWR). We look forward to returning in person in 2021. Donations to MCC can be given at any time at [www.OregonFestivalForWorldRelief.com](http://www.OregonFestivalForWorldRelief.com)

"Worldwide human need will not take a holiday in the face of our current health crisis. I sincerely believe that with the continued help of our supporters, we can meet the challenge again this year, the 100th anniversary of MCC." - Gene Stutzman.

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