

# Growth & change 2004-2024



Et Cetera Shop, Inc.  
Bluffton, Ohio  
2004-2024

Ten Thousand Villages



Et Cetera Shop



Book ReViews

## **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary History Committee**

**Susie Gratz**

**Carolyn Rich**

**Mary Pannabecker Steiner**

**Linda Headings**

**Heidrun Awad**

**Joyce Hostetler**

**Marty Hostetler**

## ET CETERA SHOP, INC. CELEBRATES FIFTY YEARS!

by Carolyn Urich Rich

The first 30 years of history is documented in “1974-2004 Celebrating 30 Years of Thrift & Gift,” by Celia Hilty, Marty Hostetler and Missy Schrock. The past twenty years (2004-2024) continued to see growth and changes. Book ReViews became part of Et Cetera Shops, Inc. There have been changes in personnel and moves to new locations, but the vision and mission has remained strong.

### VISION

The vision of Et Cetera Shop, Inc. is:

- a) To financially support the worldwide mission of Mennonite Central Committee through profits from Bluffton Et Cetera Thrift Shop and Book ReViews;
- b) To embrace the mission of Ten Thousand Villages Inc. with financial assistance, as needed, to the Bluffton Ten Thousand Villages Store;
- c) To provide a setting for local volunteers to serve and interact with others in the local community.

### MISSION STATEMENTS

**Ten Thousand Villages Mission Statement:** To sell fair-trade merchandise purchased from Ten Thousand Villages, Inc. and other distributors of products from artisans in developing countries.

*This provides opportunities for artisans in developing countries to earn income from their products to be better able to provide food, education, and health care for their families. Sixty percent of the artisans are women. Over the last 19 years, Ten Thousand Villages has provided \$110M in artisan investments.*

**Et Cetera Shop, Inc. Mission Statement:** The mission of Et Cetera Thrift Shop and Book ReViews is to recycle used clothing, household items, and books, by selling them at reasonable prices to our customers and, in turn, donating our profits to the relief efforts of Mennonite Central Committee.

*In 2022 MCC served people in 45 countries, while thrift stores contributed nearly \$16M, or 14% of total income.*

### OUR MANAGERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- So many details cannot be related in this history. The Et Cetera Shop, Inc. Board of Directors, along with the managers, have been helping with on-going upkeep of the

shops. Entering the digital age required many adjustments and purchases to keep up to-date with technology. Security cameras were added to cut shop lifting. Product safety needed to be considered, particularly as it related to toys.

Our capable Managers do the following:

- attend regional or national workshops
- advertise
- do volunteer recruitment and training
- put on an annual volunteer meal
- take personal interest in the volunteers, their gifts, illnesses and deaths
- make presentations at various places to promote cultural awareness
- participate in Bluffton community events sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce
- mentor Bluffton University students doing class projects
- coordinate scavenger hunts in all three stores

The big event in 2005 was having sent our first million dollars to Mennonite Central Committee. The annual volunteer banquet at Pike Mennonite Church was celebrated with international food and Chrissy's Million Dollar Fudge. This was the year of the tsunami in Southern Asia and we were pleased to be able to contribute to the relief work there.

George Hostetler resigned after nine years of serving as Bookkeeper in 2008. He was replaced by Carmen Ordonez Moser, who continues in that role. The board added a Treasurer position, ably filled by Lowell Hostetler, who acts as liaison for Carmen.

Both the Et Cetera Shop and Ten Thousand Villages received a major facelift in 2008 with all the work being done by volunteers directed by Fred Amstutz. Following Fred's death, Andy Chappell-Dick was appointed building manager. A logo contest for the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in 2009 of the Et Cetera Shop Inc, was won by Matt Luke.



On the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2014, founder Lois Kreider was invited to speak at the celebration.

In 2017, the Willadene Keeney Family gifted Et Cetera Shop, Inc. her share of 111 Associates. In 2018 the building was sold to Ray and Beth Raeburn.

COVID struck our world in 2020. The stores each faced challenges and changes with lack of volunteers, changing hours of operation, and decreasing sales. All three shops closed March 16 – May 27. Board meetings were all held on ZOOM. Protocols were put into place for reopening.

In 2022 the Bluffton Presbyterian Church was invited to become a sponsoring church. St. John Mennonite Church changed its name to St. John Bible Church. Ebenezer Mennonite and Pike Mennonite Churches withdrew from the board.

A governance committee was added to the board in 2021. The board decided we were in a good position to engage in strategic planning the following year. Matt Yoder was appointed as the compliance officer for the “whistle blower” protection policy.

Work began in 2022 to plan for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, with Joyce Schumacher overseeing it.

### **Benefits to the Community\***

- The three shops attract shoppers to Bluffton
- Low income people can find necessities at a bargain price
- Vouchers are given to the Bluffton Food Pantry, Bluffton public schools and elsewhere for people with special needs
- An annual Open House event is held for members of participating churches
- Et Cetera Shop holds a Children’s Shopping Day before Christmas
- Managers supervise individuals doing university internships and court appointed community service
- Bluffton Chamber of Commerce and other special events are catered to by our shops annually with special displays, advertising, etc.
- Local authors have an opportunity to promote their books
- Merchandise is donated to area fundraisers
- Ten Thousand Villages has numerous off-site sales throughout northwest Ohio
- Managers give programs on culture, recycling and service
- Volunteers find a meaningful way to share their time and gifts

\*Please note that all lists in this history cover the past 20 years and a few items may not be current.

### **TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES**

Ten Thousand Villages became an operationally independent, nonprofit program in 2000. A partner of MCC, rather than wholly owned by MCC, the two organizations continue to work together to benefit artisans and their families worldwide. MCC continues to be represented on the Et Cetera, Inc. board of directors.

Missy Schrock was Manager of Ten Thousand Villages, Bluffton, in 2004, with Joyce Hostetler continuing to serve as Assistant Manager. Ten Thousand Villages donated 30 percent of sales to the Generations at Risk Project. These funds addressed the AIDS pandemic in Africa by

providing medical, emotional and spiritual support to caregivers, families and victims. Missy organized many off-site sales, further spreading our reach.

Missy resigned in 2005 to manage the Ten Thousand Villages shop in Goshen, Indiana. She was replaced by Aphaphanh Nussbaum in June. Colleen Benelli was hired as an Assistant Manager that year, which was helpful during Aphaphanh's maternity leave.

Ten Thousand Villages U.S. received the Co-op American's People's Choice Award for Green Business of the Year in 2006. And in 2008 it was recognized as one of the "World's Most Ethical Companies" by the Ethisphere Institute and Forbes Magazine.

Aphaphanh's worked closely with the Bluffton Chamber of Commerce. Thanks to her work, Bluffton was designated as a Fair-Trade Town in 2009.

Our clerks can tell you interesting stories about the artisans who create the items in our store. Your purchases offer a living wage for people in underdeveloped countries so they can retain their dignity, feed and educate their children, and stop the cycle of poverty created by humanitarian aid. It also preserves their local culture. Sixty three percent of products are made from up-cycled, recycled and natural materials, including bicycle chains, sari fabric, and sustainably grown wood.

Aphaphahn resigned as manager of TenThousand Villages in 2015 and Bev Armstrong became the interim manager. Bev taught a Girl Scout group and public school first graders about fair trade practices and gave presentations to various clubs and organizations.

Peggy Brown was hired as TTV manager in 2016. Best sellers that year were coffee, chocolate and jewelry. Frequent buyer and coffee club cards were introduced.

A Bluffton University student did an internship. Peggy rearranged the shop and added new shelving.

In 2018 Ten Thousand Villages received a gift of inventory and display items worth over \$7,000 from a Port Clinton shop that was going out of business. The mezzanine was removed for safety reasons and more space. Before she resigned in 2020, Peggy traveled on a Ten Thousand Villages learning tour to India to see the work of artisans first-hand.

Suzann Bauman became acting volunteer manager at Ten Thousand Villages until Marcie Allen was hired as manager at Ten Thousand Villages in late 2020. Marcie's strong organization skills and artistic eye in creating attractive displays has been an asset. On several occasions she spoke with university students from Bluffton and Findlay, further spreading our mission.

In 2022 Jurassic Park products were being marketed exclusively through Ten Thousand Villages in conjunction with the release of the new Jurassic Park movie.

An annual Chocolate and Coffee Valentine’s Day sale at sponsoring churches has been a success the past three years. Trunk/offsite sales have also added income.

Ten Thousand Villages remained at the same location when the Et Cetera Shop moved to 327 N. Main Street. Marcie resigned in September 2023 and Wendy Chappell-Dick became manager.

Our local Ten Thousand Villages store also does recycling. Cardboard boxes and air pillows from shipments are donated to the Lima Restore by Suzann and Stan Bauman and are also used for shipping books at Book ReViews.

### **ET CETERA SHOP**

Chrissy Lugibihl was hired as manager of the Et Cetera Shop in 2004 and moved to full-time status in 2007. She has been a steady driving force for the success of the thrift store for the past 20 years. Her business sense, commitment to the vision of Et Cetera, enthusiasm, creativity, and ability to connect with everyone creates a work environment that volunteers love. They also look forward to her baked contributions in the break room.

Recognizing a need for better communication among the volunteers, Chrissy set up an information wall in the hallway between the sorting and sales rooms at the 111 building. Later in the year she started a newsletter that included shop information, birthdays, recipes, and schedules. Currently she shares the total income with volunteers weekly via email and posts fun video ads on Facebook (with 2.5K followers) and Instagram (267 followers).

Recycling has always been a goal of the shops. Metal that is not salable is recycled by volunteer Gene Long. Since

he started doing this in 2007, Gene has brought in more than \$16,000 to be donated to the mission of the shops. What he is most proud of is that over 5½ tons of metal is saved from the landfill each year. After four weeks, unsold clothing and housewares are donated to other area organizations. Eyeglasses and medical supplies are immediately sent to other mission groups.

**Back Door Ministry:** “Sometimes, those bringing donations have lost a loved one or are in a period of transition. This gives us a unique opportunity. Generally, I ask how the donor is doing and maybe say something like, “Are you cleaning out?” This statement can be a segue to all kinds of emotions, good and bad. I just was told by a mother that she was bringing her daughter’s belongings. Her daughter had committed suicide a few weeks prior. What do you say? The mother was clearly having a terrible time and grieving openly. “Tell me about your daughter”, “Are you getting any help?” “Do you have a church family?” We talked a bit, and she asked if she could bring more items – if this is a small comfort – just accepting the items of a loved one, I think we are doing something right.” -Chrissy

## Silent Auction Sales

How does one price items that may be valuable and wanted by various people? A secure display case has been used for a silent auction over the years. The highest bidder gets the item after being on display for 4 weeks. (Examples: Oscar Velasquez painting - \$225, Harley Davidson Leather Jacket - \$230, Singer Sewing Machine and Table - \$350, Tub of Legos - \$90)

## Interesting Donations

- A donated cotton candy machine was sold to the Bluffton Lions Club for \$400. (2006)
- Cell phones were donated to Crime Victim Services for recycling and reuse. (2006)
- 478 handmade scrubbies were sold for \$1.50 each. (2012)
- Jewelry was sold to Beckman's Jewelers - \$233 (2013), \$299.50 (2015)
- Money recovered from donated purses, after an attempt to check with the donor, is placed in the "countertop donation box" (to help fund the Global Family program.)
- Several quilts sent to the Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale brought \$2300 for MCC. (2017)
- An Omega necklace and slide was appraised at \$5000 (2018)
- 100 dresses from Don Johnson's Bridal were donated to Et cetera. (2020)
- An excess of ice cream buckets was given out at the door with a list of things one can do with an empty bucket. (2022)
- A donation of artwork by a local person generated over \$500. (2023)

## Growing Pains and a New Store

Space became an on-going problem at Et Cetera Shop. In 2013 you could hardly walk through the receiving area at the back, particularly during garage sale season. A trailer was purchased to house "pass on" bags picked up by Lima Neighborhood Relief Thrift Shop, and we cut back on accepting donations.

The Board began serious research into solutions for more space. A Feasibility Study was done by the Bluffton University Business Club. The results were clear. A move to a larger space was encouraged. Chrissy gave a power point presentation to the board regarding space needs in 2015. Money was set aside for an expansion and possible locations were investigated the following year.

"Recently an older gentleman brought in a few donations for his wife. We chatted a bit, then he told me this, "I was in this store once. I found a very nice suit coat while I was shopping and I thought to myself, I have a suit coat just like this at home. When I got home, I looked in my closet and mine was gone." 😊 Chrissy

The Peerless Glove Factory, 327 North Main Street, became available in 2017 and the purchase was closed on January 23, 2018. It would provide more than double the space of the 111 S. Main Street building.

RCM Architects, Inc. of Findlay was hired and a fund-raising campaign was started.



A large-scale Fairbank Scale and an elevator needed to be removed from the building during the year of renovation.

October 15, 2018 board minutes indicate the renovation of the 327 building was projected to cost \$800,000-\$900,000.

- First National Bank Loan \$583,000
- Cash on hand 287,635
- Edward Jones Money Market 48,000
- Board members pledge over 63,000
- Sponsoring Church Pledges 20,000
- Individual Donations 3,800

“I am so happy with the progress.  
I am terrified about the move.  
I am humbled by the offers of help moving.  
I am excited to have more space.  
I am overwhelmed with ideas and suggestions.  
I am exhausted.”

-Chrissy, 2019

Garlock Brothers Construction, Inc., Findlay, was hired as contractors for the project. Weekly meetings were held with the contractors, architects, board subcommittee and Chrissy. A Capitol Campaign Committee was selected. A sound system and security cameras were installed.

A “Sneak Peak” event was held at the new location. Seventy-five tickets were purchased for this event, which included a \$5 gift certificate. Ticket sales were \$1,500. The September 7 Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting included special events inside and outside the shop, including a historical display of the Glove Factory.

We took out a loan for \$482,776.35 in 2019. Thanks to a generous board, sponsoring churches and people who believed in the mission of The Et Cetera Shop, Inc., the loan was paid off in August 2023, just short of 5 years.

## BOOK REVIEWS

In 2002, Walter and Ruth Unrau moved to Bluffton and opened a used book store like the one they had in Newton, KS. All profits went to the work of MCC. In 2005 Ruth proposed merging with the Et Cetera Shop financially, with her continuing as manager. The Board approved the proposal.

Ruth moved Book ReViews from 115 North Main to 123 South Main Street for more space and visibility in 2007. Paula Unrau was hired as assistant manager of Book Reviews for the summer of 2008 and Janie Wireman was named as a volunteer assistant manager. Paula Unruh took over as Book ReViews manager from 2011-2013 when her mother, Ruth Unrau, moved to volunteer status. It was in 2014 that Et Cetera, Inc. officially took ownership of Book ReViews.

“Don’t celebrate a sale until you get the check,” Ruth Unrau reported in response to a customer who brought a large stack of books to the desk but only purchased a few. She reported about a customer who gave another customer who didn’t have enough money to cover his purchase a \$20 bill. Then there was another customer who bought eight Dick Frances books donated by MMH for his bookshelf only because they were blue, and someone advised him on matching his room décor. 2007

In 2017 Peter Suter bought the building housing Book ReViews. Janie Wireman and Elaine Brubaker filled in as assistant managers until Christina Walton was hired as manager from 2014-2019. Then Peggy Brown became the manager of both Ten Thousand Villages (3/4 time) and Book ReViews (1/4 time). Peggy Brown resigned from both stores in 2020. Janie Wireman and Joyce Daniels became acting volunteer managers at Book ReViews until Danielle Hodges was hired as manager at Book ReViews in 2020.

Countless cartons of books come to Book ReViews to be sorted, evaluated, displayed, or recycled. Vintage books are

researched for value. Books that can’t be used are taken to Neighborhood Thrift in Lima. Online sales have brought in thousands of dollars.

**Volunteers**

Approximately 150 volunteers enjoy working at our three stores. Many are retired and enjoy the opportunity to be around people while serving our mission. Others enjoy seeing the variety of items in the stores.

Peggy Brown’s happy moments after clearing our 5-6 truckloads of books: “Three beaming boys lugging out bulging bags of treasured finds. A young mother with swaddled baby boy who spent a couple hours and left with a bagful of board books and some carefully chosen books from the religion room. Grandpa Stan seated with his granddaughter who was engrossed in a board book with sliding doors.” 2019

**MOVING FORWARD**

It is with pride for the success of the past 50 years that we conclude this history. We are grateful for the vision, commitment and hard work of many people working together for a common cause. In celebration of our anniversary, many events have been planned for 2024 under the leadership of Joyce Schumacher. We look forward to continuing the valuable services of our Et Cetera Shops, Inc. in the coming years.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2024**

- January 18 Kick-off banquet, by invitation, FMC
- February BU Forum with Don Alonso, CEO of TTV. Date TBA
- March 10 Style show, Bluffton Middle School
- June 29-30 Garden Walk, various gardens in Bluffton
- October 12 Comforter Bash
- November 30 Blaze of Lights Float
- December 7 Children’s Repurposing Event Bluffton YMCA (formerly BFR)
- December 12 Service of Thanksgiving, FMC

Please note that details for some events are still being finalized at the time of printing.  
Watch for updates through press releases and on social media.

### **Past Et cetera Shop, Inc. Managers**

Lois Kreider	Founding Manager	1974
Helen Gratz	General Manager	1974-1978
Celia Hilty	General Manager	1974-1985
Winnie Gerber	Self-Help Co-manager	1985-1988
Kathleen Kindle	Self-Help Co-manager	1985-1988
Sally Lehman	Thrift Co-manager	1985-1988
Evelyn Luginbuhl	Thrift Co-manager	1985-1988
Earl Lehman	General Manager	1988-1991
Richard Pannabecker	General Manager	1991-1993
Richard Pannabecker	Co-Manager	1993-1996
Mary Pannabecker Steiner	Co-Manager	1993-1996
Sue Steiner	General Manager	1996-1999
Marty Hostetler	Assistant Manager	1996-1999
Missy Schrock	General Manager	2000-2003
Missy Schrock	Ten Thousand Villages Manager	2003-2005
Joyce Hostetler	Ten Thousand Villages Asst. Mgr.	2003-2005
Debbie Murray	Ten Thousand Villages Asst. Mgr.	2002
Ruth & Walt Unrau	Owners/Managers, Book ReViews	2002-2008
Chrissy Luginbuhl	Et cetera Shop Manager	2003-present
Colleen Benelli	Ten Thousand Villages Asst. Mgr.	2006-2007
Aphaphanh Nussbaum	Ten Thousand Villages Manager	2005-2015
Paula Unrau	Book ReViews Asst. Mgr., Manager	2008-2013
Christina Walton	Book ReViews Manager	2014-2019
Peggy Brown	Ten Thousand Villages Manager	2016-2020
Danielle Hodges	Book ReViews Manager	2020-present
Marcie Allen	Ten Thousand Villages Manager	2020-2023
Wendy Chappell-Dick	Ten Thousand Villages Manager	2023-present

### **Past Et Cetera Shop Bookkeepers**

Lucille Habegger	1974-1980
Sarah Basinger	1980-1989
Dale Reichenbach	1989-1994
Herb Probst	1995-1999
George Hostetler	2000-2009
Carmen Ordonez Moser	2009-present

### **Past Building Managers**

Herman Hilty	1989-1995
Fred Rodabaugh	1995-1996
Andy Chappell-Dick	1996-2003
Fred Amstutz	2004-2009
Andy Chappell-Dick	2009-2013
Ray Raeburn	2016-2018

**VOLUNTEERS**  
**(as of 11/23)**

**BLUFFTON TEN**  
**THOUSAND VILLAGES**

Beverly Armstrong  
Beth Boehr  
Carolyn McDaniel  
Judy Decker  
Linda Nelson  
Marie Yoder-Dyck  
Mary Edmiston  
Shirley Sommer  
Susie Gratz  
Suzann Bauman  
Jenny Pilarowski  
Jane Steinmetz  
Sue Schaaf  
Lisa Shelly  
Joyce Hostetler  
Lowell Hostetler  
Thalia Buckell (high school)  
Asher Yoder (high school)  
Paul King  
Sally Weaver Sommer

Bev Stockman  
Carl & Sandra Liechty  
Carlton Habegger  
Celeste Hartman  
Danielle Hodges  
Diane Huber  
Esther Spaeth  
Fran Core  
Heidrun Awad  
Janie Wireman  
Clyde Wireman  
Joyce Daniels  
Kieren Matson  
Larry Armstrong  
Leah Mikesell  
Linda Joyner  
Mary Ina Hooley  
Meagan Palte  
Peg Powell  
Olwen Pritchard  
Sally Weaver Sommer  
Sara Brenner  
Deb Stauffer  
Rus Stauffer  
Joe Thaler

**BOOK REVIEWS ET CETERA**

Ann Kingsley  
Barbara Plaughter

**ET CETERA SHOP**  
**(as of 11/23)**

Mary Amstutz  
Shirley Amstutz  
Larry and Bev Armstrong  
Merry Augsburg  
Heidrun Awad  
Trudy Baber  
Tod & Melinda Bailey  
Barbara Bame

Barbara Barnett  
Richard Basinger  
Stan & Susann Bauman  
Silas & Josiah Bergstrand  
Marian Berry  
Kay Borgelt  
Herb & Norma Brunk  
Jerry Burkholder

Kay Burkholder  
Elaine Buroker  
Tim & Brenda Byers  
Miev Chan  
Cherri Clementz  
Jeanne Cramer  
Denny & Merilee Dellifield  
Beth Diller  
Sue Dorsey  
Albert Dryer  
Ruth Evans  
Butch Falk  
Rick & June Fields  
Ralph & Melba Gerber  
Phyllis Garn  
Arman & Sue Habegger  
Cindy Hartman  
Marilyn Hartman  
Linda Headings  
Chris Hochstetler  
Earl & Wilma Hofstetter  
Joyce Hostetler  
Lowell & Marty Hostetler  
Diane Huber  
Sallie Jones  
LaDonna Kindle  
Karen Kussmaul  
Ken Lawrence  
Gene & Dorothy Long  
Beng Imm Low  
Marcia Lugibihl  
Tim & Cindy Luginbill  
Julie Macke  
Cindy Maus  
Rod & Carolyn McDaniel

Jim Metzger

Dennis & Donna Morrison  
Carmen Ordonez Moser  
Mary Ann Moser  
Regena Mummert  
Esther Nafziger  
Nancy Neff  
Sande Nelson  
Annette Patton  
Barbara Plaughter  
Naomi Pohl  
Olwen Pritchard  
Mary Ramseyer  
Lisa Reichenbach  
Steve Reichenbach  
Janette Reineke  
John & Carolyn Rich  
Terry Schey  
J P Schumacher  
Tom & Joyce Schumacher  
Roene Seyer  
Marge Shenk  
Cheri Slotter  
Shirley Sommer  
Jon Sommer  
John & Esther Spaeth  
Jane Steinmetz  
Chuck Sullivan  
Joyce Suter  
Susan Troyer  
Sally Weaver Sommer  
Gary Wetherill  
Pauline Williams  
Shawna Yoder  
Asher, Orin & Wren Yoder  
Mrs Spallinger

## **Interviews with Kreider family, store volunteers, and managers**

Interviewers: Mary Pannabecker Steiner and Linda Headings

*Responses from the four eldest Kreider children in interviews with Mary Pannabecker Steiner.*

EKE: Esther Kreider Eash

JK: Joan Kreider

KKY: Karen Kreider Yoder

DK: David Kreider

MPS: Mary Pannabecker Steiner, interviewer

### **MPS: What do you remember about your mom's early interest in Self-Help Crafts and the SH sales at First Mennonite?**

**EKE:** I remember the needlework and wood items from Haiti and the intricate needlework from Palestine. She was always interested in the details, materials, and methods of their creation. I especially remember Mother's excitement about the annual Self-Help sales in FMC's basement Fellowship Hall (later in The Meeting Place) which she (and others) coordinated with Mrs. Byler beginning with orders in 1962.

**JK:** As probably most of my siblings remember, our mother first started ordering Self-Help from Edna Byler from our home; I remember boxes of Palestinian needlework in our basement for which she took orders and then delivered to purchasers. That turned into the pre-Christmas sales in the FMC annex. She enlisted us to help with set up and sales; they attracted large numbers of customers; I thought they were exciting and great fun.

**KKY:** My first memories of MCC Self Help are of visits to Mrs. Bylers' basement in Akron where she had fascinating puzzles and games and needlework and carvings packed into a small room. She usually gave us a little beaded wire toy to play with, which folded into a cup, rounded out into a ball, into the shape of Saturn, or squashed flat. Mrs. Byler represented a link with mysterious lands far away— places I longed to visit and see for myself.

### **MPS: Do you remember when she first met Edna Byler? How did that meeting impact her planning for the eventual store? Did she share her thoughts during the planning stages? Did she ask for your suggestions?**

**EKE:** Mother probably met Mrs. Byler in 1946 when Mother spent time in Akron, PA after completing her MA in Textiles at Columbia University and prior to heading to Europe to join Dad in Europe. Mother always had an interest in crafts and textiles, so it's probable that these two women's interests converged when Mrs. Byler returned from a trip to Puerto Rico with her husband in 1946, bringing back needlework and the request by MCC workers that she take orders to provide work for Puerto Rican women. This fueled Mrs. Byler's creation of the early

craft program. Originally needlework was sold from Mrs. Byler's car trunk (Mother would say it all began in Mrs. Byler's apron pocket!). In September 1962, Mother invited Mrs. Byler to Bluffton to take orders for needlework, carved wood, etc. This began sales (initially only orders) held annually in the FMC basement Fellowship Hall (later The Meeting Place) from 1962-1974.

As annual sales in Bluffton grew, Mother started thinking about how to make these items available for sale year-round. However, Self-Help items were sold at cost without mark-up. The dilemma--as she saw it--was how to fund the sale of Self-Help crafts. At about the same time, MCC saw a marked decline in the need for used clothing overseas. There were very few domestic markets for used clothing, and the few "thrift" stores in cities had the reputation of being dingy, used, and not appealing. (Note: This fueled Mother's reluctance to initially use "thrift" to describe the shop's focus.) However, in 1972, when Mother heard about what several women were doing in Canada (opening a used clothing store to sell contributed clothing that could not be distributed overseas), she took note and in the summer of 1972 when taking Karen to Moose Lake Camp in Manitoba, Mother took a side trip to Altona to confer with the Friesen family about the MCC shops in Altona & Winnipeg where they were selling used wither clothing that could not be used in overseas distribution. This fueled Mother's growing idea about a store in Bluffton with a dual role: sell quality used items and sell Self-Help Crafts. The sale of the donated items would pay the local expenses and provide a place to sell Self-Help, and any excess would support MCC. Mother was intrigued by this new way to support MCC Self-Help program as well as raise funds to support broader MCC programs. In October 1973, Howard Raid and a group of men at First Mennonite Church proposed a feasibility study of a wholesale center for distribution of goods made by MCC self-help projects, perhaps unaware of the 10 years of sales sponsored by Bluffton women. Mother attended their second meeting and proposed that instead of a warehouse, they open a combination store. The idea solidified. The First Mennonite Church Council asked for a manager, an organizational chart, and assurance of one year's financial resources to begin. One month later, by the end of December, the following were accomplished: location and name, painting, building of shelves, startup funding in place, operational guidelines written, et cetera board appointed, staffing in place--all ready for the January 18 opening.

I remember Mother being particularly pleased with the chosen name, submitted by Carolyn Ulrich Rich. Grace Mennonite, St Johns Mennonite, Ebenezer, First Mennonite Lima, Elida churches soon joined after Et Cetera was in operation.

**JK:** She first met Edna Byler when, as a newly married young woman in 1946, she moved to Akron Pennsylvania to await joining Robert in MCC relief work in Europe. They became reacquainted in 1961, when our family again lived in Akron for a year of sabbatical. They became good friends then, and we were frequent visitors to Edna's basement store of Self-Help items (she had moved beyond the trunk of her car by then!). That friendship ignited interest in taking orders for Self Help to sell from our basement, and started the rest of the journey towards the Et Cetera Shop!

I recall coming home from college, sometime probably in 1972/73, and having a “heart to heart” talk with her about my future, my uncertainties about what to do. At that time I was surprised to hear her also share with me her uncertainties about her own future, her need to explore new purposeful directions for her life. This was around the time she visited Canada and the combined thrift/Self Help MCC stores there. She mused about the possibility of starting a similar store in Bluffton.

**KKY:** She met Mrs. Byler before we children were born. I have a distinct memory of talking with Mother about two major needs of MCC– the abundance of used winter clothes that were no longer needed overseas, and the lovely international traditional crafts that had little to no market in their home countries. I remember Mother imagining those two challenges being met in the unique store, the Et Cetera Shop– where donated items would fund space to sell lovely crafts, which would, in turn, fund the artisans. It sounded odd, especially since, at that time, there were very few classy thrift stores. But Mother advocated for it, and soon the idea took root.

Prior to the Et Cetera Shop opening, many people wondered if there would be enough donated items. They soon realized that people are eager to get rid of stuff in their houses. Mother understood that donated items could be turned into needed cash— something from nothing.

**DK:** My earliest memories of MCC Self-Help and Mother’s involvement were when Mrs. Byler came from Akron to visit us in Bluffton. From her bags she would pull out needlework, carved olive wood camels and mahogany salad bowl sets. I soon could locate Palestine and Haiti and learned about their people and crafts. I eagerly awaited a return trip by Mrs. Byler when she brought me a toy jeep, made in Haiti from recycled tin, rubber and canvas that I had been saving up for during the year. Later the local sales were done in FMC fellowship hall.

**MPS:** Where were you (e.g. junior high, high school, college, work) in 1974 when Et Cetera opened in its first location? If you attended the opening, what do you remember about that day? Before you moved to Kansas with your parents and/or left Bluffton for work elsewhere, did you help as a volunteer?

**EKE:** I was a senior at Bluffton College when Et Cetera opened. I filled in as a clerk -- often on Saturday mornings with Sally Weaver. It was an exciting time--I enjoyed learning about the materials used to create the Self-Help crafts. I was fascinated with how many used items were donated -- it seemed that every time items sold, more were donated in their place. I still use the stainless steel and teak fondue pot I purchased for \$1...and the Haitian wooden tray I bought for \$2.50.

**JK:** I was in college and did not attend opening day and did not help with any of the prep work. In that first year, I helped out in various ways when home on breaks as I was able.



**KK:** In January 1974 when the shop opened, I was a senior in high school at Freeman Jr. College in Freeman, South Dakota, so I did not attend the opening. I have a number of letters that I wrote to Mother and Dad and letters from them.

**DK:** I was a freshman at BHS when the shop opened. I don't think I was at the opening, probably was at an away basketball game and came by after it was over to get a ride home. I was a teenager (15) and my memories were the endless waits for Mother to finish a board meeting or to close up the shop before catching a ride home from after school practice or games. Work for Mother appeared to be endless rounds of meetings and organizing.

**MPS:** **Who are some of the local persons who worked closely with your mom in both planning for and managing Et Cetera? If so, what are your memories about their work in helping her organize the store?**

**EKE:** I especially remember Celia Hilty who joyfully managed the shop during Mother's absences (including for 3 months, just 1 month after opening!) and when Mother resigned to move to Kansas in January 1975. For years, Celia wrote newsy letters sharing what was happening in the shop and in her family. I also remember how Leland and Winnie Gerber provided easy access to a shop key, helped with finances, and often had items on display in their photography windows--especially if items were left over during the pre-Et Cetera Shop self-help sales. Mother was always grateful for so many volunteers who gave of their time and skills.

**JK:** Celia of course.

**KKY:** Celia Hilty, for sure, as she managed the store during the months when Mother was traveling with Dad for MCC, and then was manager for many years after we moved to Kansas.

**DK:** Celia Hilty was a constant presence and collaborator with Mother.

**MPS:** **Your parents clearly had a strong interest in service to and caring for others both locally and globally. How did they share that with you? How have you lived that same sense of sharing and caring in your adult lives?**

**EKE:** They shared the stories of MCC, we lived one year at MCC/Akron, and we traveled to many MCC locations. The stories continue, as does the support for MCC. In Newton, I have been involved with the Et Cetera Shop and Book Reviews. Currently, I volunteer at the MCC Central States Workroom where I work with material aid kits and comforters. And at home, I have used up my fabric stash (and many others') to make comforters -- currently over 250. For our 70th birthdays last year, my husband and I held a comforter tying weekend for family and friends where we challenged ourselves to knot 70 comforters in two days -- we completed 71!

**JK:** Soon after I moved to Minneapolis, I was part of a small group at church where the idea of starting a Self Help store here was raised. We turned the idea over, ordered some Self Help product to sell at a local international craft fair with success. We secured investors, brought the idea to our church, Faith Mennonite, and received their support. Mother came up to the cities from Kansas (where she had already started her second Et Cetera Shop) for consultation. In December of 1982, we opened Jubilee Shop-International Handcrafts in a storefront in south Minneapolis. I was on the first board, and managed all the communications/graphics at first. We were the first store outside of Ephrata which did not rely on a thrift component; to better cover overhead, we sold books focusing on peace and justice, and children's books with an international/multiracial focus. We were successful for 40 years, but in the wake of the pandemic, were forced to close doors in 2022. I was one of three remaining board members to close our operations. With remaining capital, we gave funds back to MCC and to one of our Fair Trade partners in Ghana, Global Mamas.

**KKY:** They told so many stories of their time in post-World War II Europe. Our childhood was steeped in those stories, many of which are included in Dad's memoir, *My Early Years*. Our house was like a guesthouse for Bluffton College and First Mennonite Church speakers. We've tried to support MCC whenever possible toward their vision of education, relief, development, and peace around the world. My current major project is making comforters for MCC; I figure that in the past 6 years, I've made (or been involved in the making of) 200 comforters for refugees. That interest is directly related to Mother and Dad's involvement in MCC.

**DK:** We grew up hearing stories about our parents' experiences working with refugees in post-war Germany in the late 1940's. We also had frequent guests in our home who worked internationally with MCC or church missions as well as international students attending Bluffton College. They helped give us kids a global awareness. I've continued to support MCC throughout my life including a year of service after college working with MCC in Atlanta, Georgia. We support our local thrift store here in Newton both with donations and as patrons. I currently coordinate the installation of the auction stage and racks for the quilts at the Kansas MCC sale.

**Your mom spoke at the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Et Cetera (2014.) Esther, Joan, and Karen attended that event. In her concluding remarks, she said:**

"It is essential to encourage the spirit of volunteering among younger generations. I am always pleased to see younger persons assuming volunteer jobs as well as management roles. When I was here for your 20th anniversary celebration, I concluded by saying, "if you continue this vision I am confident this shop will be strong and healthy 20 years from now. It would be exciting to have an invitation to that celebration in 2014. And it is! May you be blessed with many more fruitful years."

**What do you think she might say if she knew Et Cetera is about to celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary?**

**EKE:** She would be so very pleased that the Bluffton Et Cetera Shop is going strong. She was especially pleased with the way Bluffton's three shops (Book ReViews, Ten Thousand Villages, Et Cetera) continued to work together to support MCC ... and how they've adjusted as needs changed. She was so very pleased with the idea of expansion into the Glove Factory. She would have loved to have been able to visit today!

Mother would also have challenged us to find ways to continue telling MCC's diverse story... and to look around and think creatively about how to more actively involve younger persons in the larger picture of supporting the work of MCC -- whether helping in various ways at one of the three shops, or getting involved in a school kit challenge, advocacy efforts, or volunteering.

**JK:** She would be mightily pleased! She would again stress the thousands of committed volunteers it has taken to realize this dream over a span of 50 years—in Bluffton, and Newton, and Minneapolis, and in the subsequent many shops around the country. She would not take credit for being the impetus for all that growth, but she should!

**KKY:** Mother would be so pleased that the Bluffton Et Cetera Shop recently moved to an expanded space with expanded possibilities for turning “nothing into something” for the good of others. She would also be pleased to see the mingling in the Et Cetera Shop of people from so many walks of life.

**DK:** She would be pleased to see the Bluffton Et Cetera shop thriving after 50 years and would probably have used the same words from ten years ago....*May you be blessed with many more fruitful years!*

*Responses from Linda Headings' interviews with volunteers and managers at the Et Cetera, Inc., stores.*

## **Book Reviews**

### **Joyce Daniels**

I started volunteering at Book Reviews in 2014 when I retired and needed something to do. I also liked the Mennonite Central Committee connection. The crew here has good people and I like the idea of recycling. I also enjoy organizing and making displays in the store. One of the things our manager Danielle has implemented is Facebook posts which has resulted in new as well as repeat customers.

### **Deb Stauffer**

I'm just starting to volunteer at Book Reviews. I saw a need and an opportunity to learn something new. I'm a retired first grade teacher and love the children's book area; I love sharing the joy.

### **Mary Ina Hooley**

A gentleman came into the store looking for a waterproof Bible. We "just happened" to have one--I had never even seen a waterproof Bible before--and he was thrilled. He said he is a pastor and baptizes youth in a pond, so needs a Bible that won't be ruined if it falls in the water. So exciting to see how the Lord provides for our books to meet the needs of so many people. - Mary Ina Hooley

### **Et Cetera**

#### **Mary Amstutz**

When my husband Fred retired, I started to volunteer at Et Cetera; that's over 30 years ago now and for several of those years I was manager. I started out in curtains and I'm still doing curtains. I enjoy volunteering here; you get to know people and it's just like a family. Everyone is very caring. One thing we need is a "What Is It? shelf" because sometimes we just don't know what an item is used for. We get all kinds of items in the soft goods area – rags, tablecloths, napkins, bathroom and kitchen towels, placemats, sheets, pillowcases, curtains, and blankets. One thing that doesn't sell anymore is the pleated drapes; the young people don't use curtains or like the ones with grommets. What I like about the new location are the big tables where we can lay the curtains out and measure them easily and the space we have to organize items. This is such a wonderful location – it couldn't be better. All of my kids love to come here – it's kind of like a department store. Sometimes I'll drive by and there are people outside standing in line waiting to come in. We're open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday afternoon as well as Saturday and make over \$1000 a day. It's just wonderful.

#### **Bev Armstrong**

At the Et Cetera shop I move out houseware items that have been displayed for four weeks and move the next set of items to the bottom half price shelf. I box up the items moving out and they are taken to other charitable organizations to be made available for their clients. I also put out the magazines. I have been working at the Et Cetera shop for about 10 years. The old space was smaller, and I moved and replaced more items than housewares. At the current space I move about the same number of items as I did in the old space, but there I worked with a broader scope in inventory. Since I don't open boxes and gags to put things out on display, I don't really come across gross items. There are often unique decorative items on display about which I wonder who would want such a thing in their house! I also find things that I would have put into recycling at home. But the more things we sell the more money goes to the store and to MCC, so who am I to decide these things!

#### **Kay Borgelt**

I am a cashier every other week as well as occasionally doing some sorting. I have volunteered for about eleven and a half years. I like the fact that we meet so many interesting people as we work. I was a teacher and have met some of my former students throughout the years that I have not seen for quite a few years. I also enjoy visiting with our regular customers. Plus, I get to do some shopping myself. We have so much more room for displays in the new space. – it is

like shopping in a large store in a big city. Once when sorting I found a doll like a voodoo doll with a bad chant about teachers. I threw it Out!

### **Albert Dyer**

After I moved to Bluffton I started to volunteer and have been at this store and the old store. I've done it for about four years. I'm here four days a week; it used to be five before I got sick. I am the Man. I'll hear "Albert do this and Albert do that." These are nice people to work with. I just enjoy it.

### **Linda Headings**

My time volunteering at Et Cetera is short compared to the longevity of the majority of its volunteers. I have been here about three years. I started in the stuffed animal area and now dress and price Barbies and dolls. I love the store's ability to reduce items sent to the landfill, the opportunity it provides for low-cost purchases for the community and the financial resources sent to Mennonite Central Committee. When I taught preschool in Bluffton it was a wonderful inexpensive resource for purchasing art supplies and center items for my classroom. While I am tucked away working solo in my area, I always enjoy the friendliness, laughter and energy of Chrissy and the other volunteers. Sometimes when I find something of value, I post it on eBay for Et Cetera – once I sold one little doll for over \$400 – that was exciting!

### **Marty Hostetler**

I have been volunteering at Etcetera regularly since 1994. I was here when Ten Thousand Villages and Et Cetera were combined. The two stores split after there just really wasn't enough space to have them together. I've been the Assistant Manager and I used to fill in when others were on vacation. I like the people – the volunteers and the public and I enjoy seeing the products. I work in the jean area. I label the jeans and Lowell goes through the pockets. At this point the more holes the jeans have the more they sell. When items don't sell they're sent to the Neighborhood Thrift Store in Lima. They give us 2 cents a pound or occasionally just send a check. Once a purse was donated and it had \$150 tucked inside. A son had given the purse to his mother as a gift with the money tucked inside. The elderly woman who donated the purse lived in Bluffton and I took the money to her house. She thought I was a scam artist, and it wasn't until the minister's wife vouched for me that she accepted the money.

### **Lowell Hostetler**

I've volunteered at Villages and Et Cetera for close to 25 years. Marty and I work in the jeans area at Et Cetera and size and price the items. I clerk at Ten Thousand Villages on Wednesday's. I also count the drawers at Et Cetera and Ten Thousand Villages on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday's. I provide the financial information that is shared each week by e-mail or on clipboards each week. "Often it's a puzzle, Lowell is good at figuring it out." (Chrissy)

**Diane Huber**

I started volunteering at Et Cetera ten years ago. I was off during the summer and one day asked Chrissy about volunteering. I work in the housewares area with Olwen and Joyce one day a week, bag, greet, and am a permanent sub. You get to know the clients and what they like and sometimes we'll let someone know if we've gotten something in we think they'd like. My motto is "Kill them with kindness and they'll come back". I like the new store because there is a lot more room. Here in the household area we see all kinds of things. Sometimes we receive things that are super dirty and have been packed up in someone's barn forever. "Windex is our friend." We'll find weird hats that Albert will put on for us. I like visiting with everyone here, looking at all the finds and seeing what people give away.

**Sallie Jordan Jones**

I have volunteered at Et Cetera in the soft goods area for about 14 years and I come in on Monday and Friday. It's pretty easy to do and has a set charge schedule. We mark the curtains with the size and price. I remember when we used to be jammed in the garage with four people working. The space here is wonderful. One thing I appreciate about the move is that the prices haven't changed. It's fun to work here; it's important for people of a certain age to get out and this is a wonderful place to do that.

**Gene and Dottie Long**

Once someone donated a group of toothbrushes with a note that said "Used, but still good." Another time someone with a short husband cut off the bottom of his pant legs and donated a whole stack of them. Dottie remarked, along with the donation of short pant legs, used buttons and hooks and eyes, explained, "This person went through the depression." Something that irks Gene is when people put their old appliances in the boxes their new appliances came in. Once when a shopper complained that the pricers get all the good stuff, Dottie replied "Honey, when we see all the junk people are getting rid of, we have no desire to take more stuff home."

**Beng-Imm Low**

I am responsible for cleaning and pricing purses, handbags, totes, backpacks and whatever else I find in the big bin that they are piled in. I have volunteered for about 18 months. I enjoy the camaraderie that is nurtured over time with the other volunteers who work the same shift. I enjoy seeing the variety of designs and colors the items come in, finding and pricing designer goods, alone with the challenge of resisting purchasing them! Once I found three \$20 bills in a money belt, followed by a find of \$15. Ever since, I have been combing through every compartment of all the bags hoping to top that amount!

**Carolyn McDaniel (Rod)**

I have volunteered for more than 20 years at Et Cetera and my husband Ron over 25 years. I enjoy meeting the many people who shop and enjoy working with the manager and volunteers. The new location for Et Cetera Shop is just beautiful and the displays are well arranged. At Et

Cetera Shop, sometimes we have to ask the customer what the item they are buying is. They have unique ideas of what they will do with the item. It's amazing to see what is sold there.

### **Carmen Moser**

I price shoes at Et Cetera and have volunteered since 2001. Our new space has more space and openness. It is fun to price shoes because personally I like shoes; but not so much if they are donated and are dirty or smelly!

### **Regena Mummert**

I mainly hang up adult and children's clothes and have priced toys and pillows. I have volunteered for about five years. I enjoy helping MCC with their mission and enjoy visiting and working with other volunteers.

### **Nancy Neff**

When I retired I started to volunteer at Et Cetera. I volunteer three days a week, eight hours a day, and have been here about five years. My mother, Vera Schumacher, used to volunteer at Et Cetera and worked with the flowers. When I retired I thought this was something I wanted to do also – as a nod to my mom. I enjoy doing it. I love to organize, being with Chrissy who is my niece, and the friends who volunteer here. I hang the kids' clothes, sort and package office, craft, miscellaneous children's items and beauty and health supplies. Sometimes if the job is too big, I take things home. Sometimes we get in things that we have no idea what they or items we can't believe were donated.

### **Janette Reineke**

I have been a volunteer at Et Cetera for over 20 years. My main job has been decorating and designing the windows. When we were down town, there were only 2 small windows but now, in our new store, there are 3 large ones which were designed and constructed by Denny Edinger and his wife. Being a retired art teacher, designing the windows has given me the opportunity to use my creative skills. Each month has a different theme and all the items in the window come from the Et Cetera shop. I love doing it. It's pure fun and joy for me! Once a man tried to get a grasshopper out of the uptown window using a stick with a string on it and a chewed piece of gum on the end of string even after we told him he couldn't have it. The grasshopper was dead and put there on purpose. He wanted it for his bug collection. People get desperate sometimes! LOL!

### **Shirley Sommer**

I clerk for Et Cetera every other Friday afternoon and work different hours on Saturday afternoons. I have been involved with the Et Cetera Shop since 1979. When Lois asked for representatives from the Mennonite Churches, for some reason I was asked to be Grace's representative. I was on the Board for several years and also after we opened up Et Cetera along with items for 10,000 Villages. I enjoy volunteering because I enjoy being around different people and that is what we get when working here. The difference between the two places is there is more room. It was handy to have the Et Cetera next door to the 10,000 Villages shop

back then because if one needed help someone was close by. But having Et Cetera in such a nice building now I feel is really helping the store to do well and I hear people comment on how beautiful it is. The displays are clean and organized and there are more items to show to sell. The first store shared the shelves behind the checkout area and had a few items from 10,000 Villages mixed in with the Et Cetera shop items. One time at the old store, people were sorting through items donated and opened a black bag full of very, very dirty clothes with a bad odor. I also enjoyed it when Chrissy and the director of the 10,000 Villages had a gathering of the workers from both stores for a meal at church and then a short program with a report and entertainment of some type. We got to meet the sorting people and their spouses which was so enjoyable. I appreciate all that Chrissy does for her staff and beyond with the break room and snacks – that is so appreciated.

### **Jane Steinmetz**

I price baskets and tins and have done this for about two years. I enjoy being part of the mission of Et Cetera, and working alongside the people who work on the same day as I do. I often find lots of dirt and dust in the baskets and cookie crumbs and very old tea in the tins.

### **Joyce Suter**

I started volunteering at Et Cetera in the summers when I was working as a school nurse. I've been volunteering on Monday's for about ten years in the household goods area. I like the people I work with and the discovery of what you might find. Sometimes you're all guessing on what an item might be used for. Just last week we got in some decorative letters and Lisa brainstormed what words the letters formed so she could label the package. I think of the Et Cetera shop as "Boutique Thrift".

### **Pauline Wilson**

My job at Et Cetera is to sort and hang up clothes, which I've done for about six years. I have a good boss. Chrissy is fantastic! I love how she interacts with everyone. I enjoy the people here as well; there is no one I don't enjoy being around. I sometimes wish our donors decided to put an item in the trash versus donating it here – "If's it bad, don't send it." Sometimes we find money in the clothes that are donated. When that happens it's donated to MCC. One time Chrissy found \$100.

### **Olwen**

I started volunteering at Et Cetera on April 19, 1994. At the old store I had a key and put things inside that were dumped off on Sunday's. Here I unpack and sort in the housewares area. We are the main sorters and sort anything but clothes. I've found all kinds of things, discarded medicine and even a dead mouse. Here in the new store we have over 3000 feet of space with plumbing and a big sink. At the old site, things were stored in the basement and when you washed something you had to use the sink in the bathroom. I paid for the paint in the new building – it was my contribution to a worthy cause. Chrissy is wonderful! I enjoy the companionship and being with very nice people who are all working together for a good cause.



### **Lisa**

I've volunteered here for ten years. I used to be a shopper and got to know the people. On Mondays I help with housewares, on Tuesdays, holiday items, and on Thursdays I work on the displays in front of the main entrance area. Starting in October I will be here every day. About 25 percent of our donations are holiday items. I have a sign in my holiday area that says, "Poor Lisa's Territory, Stay Out!". I really enjoy working on the displays and Christmas is the most fun. When I find antiques I send them on to Gary Wetherill and I have an interesting stuff shelf in my holiday area that I often pull from for displays. I also do a lot of repair work. The new space allows us so much more potential to sort through and process the items. Donations have been up since we moved to the new location. I got addicted when I started to volunteer here. I'm always amazed by what comes in – wedding dresses, fur coats, kitchenware. I enjoy the people here and helping things not go to the landfill – it's for a good cause. Once I found \$1,500 in a scrapbooking album. There was an envelope tucked inside from Superior Credit with crisp \$100 dollar bills inside. Chrissy looked at the store video, and could see a woman dropping it off, but couldn't read her license plate. We never found out who the money belonged to despite several efforts and eventually it was put towards our new cash register.

### **Ten Thousand Villages**

#### **Marie Yoder Dyck**

I've been volunteering at Ten Thousand Villages for about seven years. I had gone in to Etcetera to offer to volunteer and Aphaphanh said "I really need you to volunteer at Ten Thousand Villages, so that's what I did." I began volunteering again for Marcie during the pandemic. I volunteer on Tuesdays and fill in other times when needed. I personally love the baskets, tea sets, journals, scarves, and balsamic vinegar. I love telling the story of the Cambodia bombshell jewelry to customers. One thing I've noticed over the years is that we have moved towards marketing the American clientele and the product almost looks too professional and doesn't always reflect the culture. Sometimes I miss seeing that homemade look.

#### **Susie Gratz**

I have volunteered at TTV for about 7 years. I really enjoy meeting people who come in for the first time and are so enthused about the items and their stories. I love all things tagua. I like to share about the tagua nut, earlier called vegetable ivory. When it's in stock, I like to show the back of the tagua hedgehog tree ornament, because you can see what a tagua nut looks like. It's a sustainable material and feels so smooth, like ivory! One of my favorite purchases from TTV is my hummingbird tree ornament from tagua and my quilled eggs I display at Easter and in the spring.

#### **Linda Headings**

I have volunteered at Ten Thousand Villages in both Cincinnati and Bluffton and always enjoy going into other locations when we travel. The mission of Ten Thousand Villages is powerful and

when I sell a product after sharing an artisan story I feel empowered myself. I enjoy sharing how the products are made with the customers and how the purchase of something as simple as a bar of soap can help an impoverished family. I have collected many nativities over the years, and many have come from TTV. I love the different materials used and the variety of animals represented. Something that I purchased from TTV many years ago that I use frequently despite its tattered condition is a batik flour-sack backed apron.

### **Carolyn McDaniel**

I have volunteered for over 20 years at Ten Thousand Villages. The TTV displays are beautiful. Besides the artistic items for inside and outside décor that are often made of recycled or upcycled products, there are practical items such as dryer balls and plant-based laundry soap nuts that make me feel good about people caring for our world. I enjoy telling the customer about the bomb-shell jewelry from Cambodia and the metal artwork from Haiti made of oil drum cans. My favorite items I personally own from TTV are the Haitian metal wall art that I have inside and outside and a nativity that I look forward to putting up at Christmas. In a more practical vein, I use my sari napkins every day – they are so colorful and washable.

### **Linda Nelson**

I've volunteered at the library and other nonprofits and wanted to try something different by volunteering at a retail space. I like the store's products, especially when the new shipments arrive; it's like Christmas unwrapping them. I enjoy telling the artisan Serve stories; their products are a little different. I love Christmas ornaments and have started my own collection; it's fun to bring them out each year.

### ***Store managers***

#### **Wendy Chappell-Dick (Ten Thousand Villages)**

When I step into a Ten Thousand Villages store it looks like home. I love the familiar aesthetic and warm atmosphere created by volunteers who are passionate about their mission to alleviate poverty and their respect for the artisans. Even though I am the manager of Ten Thousand Villages, it is not "my" store, it is "our" store, a collective project including board, volunteers, customers, corporate headquarters, and artisan partners. I enjoy being a facilitator of this project. As we move into the next 50 years, I hope to position the store as a center for education as well as commerce. Teaching the principles of fair trade is my passion. I hope to make it accessible to learners of all ages, using our products and stories to bring the concept to life.

#### **Danielle Hodges (Book Reviews)**

At Book ReViews, every day is a chance to reread, revisit, and reuse stories and the printed word in new and exciting ways! I love that prices aren't a barrier to filling a home with good reading material. Literature can change yet another life; a story can be part of yet another childhood. As manager, I get to support dedicated volunteers who clearly enjoy being around and sharing books. I love looking for ways we can reach more people and put more books into

more hands, not only for how it supports our mission work here but also for the simple joy of sharing stories.

**Chrissy Luginbill (Et Cetera)**

One of the improvements I made at the new store is having everything put on wheels; it helps with cleaning and mobility in the store. I also was firm about having no carpet; it's so much easier to keep things clean. I enjoy the luxury of the space and our ability to create displays for our goods. Missy Schrock is the manager who implemented bins for the sorting of goods and the rotation system. MCC's motto is "In the door, on the floor in 24 hours."

# The Story of Et Cetera Shop, Inc., Bluffton Ohio

A brief history as of December 2022

- **1946:** Edna Ruth Byler accompanied her husband on an MCC (Mennonite Central Committee) trip to Puerto Rico. While there Mrs. Byler purchased craft items directly from the artisans with the idea that she would sell these items in the U.S. and use the money to purchase more items.
- Mrs. Byler traveled throughout the U.S. selling these items from the trunk of her car and at church sales. Within a few years, Mrs. Byler had added needlework and other crafts from Palestine and Haiti.
- **1962:** This program, known as *Overseas Needlework & Crafts Project*, became an official project of MCC.
- When Mrs. Byler made a stop at First Mennonite Church in Bluffton, Ohio, the church women became acquainted with the program.
- **1968:** *Overseas Needlework & Crafts Project* became *SELFHELP Crafts*.
- **1970:** The Fellowship Guild of First Mennonite Church began to sponsor two day, pre-Christmas sales of SELFHELP Crafts.
- **1972:** The first MCC Thrift Shop opened in Altona, Manitoba, Canada.
- Lois Kreider visited this store and came home enthused with the idea of supporting a SELFHELP Crafts shop with the sales of thrift goods donated by the general public.
- The building formerly known as the “Newsstand” was rented from Lester Niswander. The name Et Cetera Shop was suggested by Carolyn (Urich) Rich.
- **January 18, 1974:** The Et Cetera Shop in Bluffton, Ohio had its opening day. By the end of the first month, the store was self-supporting.
- **1980:** The building was purchased by **111 Associates**, a group of 7 couples and one single person.
- **1995:** Et Cetera Shop, Inc. purchased 3 of the 8 shares of **111 Associates**.
- **1998:** Et Cetera Shop, Inc. decided it was outgrowing its space and moved SELFHELP Crafts into the second storefront of the building, which had previously been a beauty shop.
- **2000:** At the national level, a corporate Memorandum of Understanding was signed; Ten Thousand Villages became a separate entity as a subsidiary of MCC.
- **2002:** Walt and Ruth Unrau moved to Bluffton from Newton, Kansas. Book ReViews was opened.
- **2004:** Bluffton SELFHELP Crafts became Ten Thousand Villages.
- **2005:** Book ReViews became part of **Et Cetera Shop, Inc.** Et Cetera Shop, Inc. now consisted of three stores: Et Cetera Shop, Ten Thousand Villages, and Book ReViews.
- **2005:** Et Cetera Shop, Inc. had sent a total of 1 million dollars to MCC.
- **2010:** Book ReViews moved to 123 S. Main Street, Bluffton, Ohio.
- **2018:** In January, **Et Cetera Shop, Inc.** purchased the property at 327 N. Main St. Bluffton. The building had been vacant for several years. Before that it had been a glove factory.
- **2018:** Et Cetera Shop, Inc. had sent a total of 1.5 million dollars to MCC.
- **2019:** Renovations began on the property at 327 N. Main St. In August Et Cetera Shop moved locations and was closed for one week before reopening at the new location on Sept. 1. A grand opening was held in September.

**ET CETERA SHOP INC. BOARD MEMBERS 1974-2023\***

\*AL – At Large Member

\*Sec. – Secretary

\*This list does not include managers, bookkeepers or building managers

\*Subject to errors

<b>Years</b>	<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Church Affiliation</b>
1974-77	Alan Yoder	First Mennonite
1974-78	Bruce Shelly	First Mennonite
1974-77	Vidella Herr	First Mennonite
1975	Anne Reichenbach	Grace Mennonite
1975	Judy Miller (Fred)	Salem Mennonite
1975-76	Vera Schumacher	Grace Mennonite
1977	Esther Hartman	Pike Mennonite
1977	Sharon Vandemark	Salem Mennonite
1978	Anna Mumma	Pike Mennonite
1978-82	Jesse Yoakam	First Mennonite
1978-79	Joan Diller	First Mennonite
1978	Mary Louise Troyer	Pike Mennonite
1979,84,86,88,89, 92, 2004-08	Shirley Sommer	Grace Mennonite
1980-85	Norm Vercler	First Mennonite
1982-87	Arlene Geiser	First Mennonite
1982	Cindy Hartman	Pike Mennonite
1982-83	Francis Sommer	Grace Mennonite
1982-91	Grace Brenneman	Salem Mennonite
1982, 85-87	Stella Diller	Grace Mennonite
1983-84	Anne Reichenbach	Grace Mennonite
1983-85	Willis Amstutz	Ebenezer Mennonite
1984-93	Esther Hartman	Pike Mennonite
1984-85	Gary Wetherill	First Mennonite
1984-87	Verena Schumacher	St John Mennonite
1986-89	Edgar Schumacher	St John Mennonite
1986-90	Edna Sommer	Ebenezer Mennonite
1986-90	Jim Suter	First Mennonite
1986	John Whaley	St John Mennonite
1986-90	Romaine Pannabecker	First Mennonite
1986-90	Vernon Stelzer	Lima Mennonite
1987	June Whaley	St John Mennonite
1988-94	Geneva Lehman	St John Mennonite
1988	Vera Schumacher	Grace Mennonite
1989	Blaine Bauman	First Mennonite

1989-93	Jean Schumacher	St John Mennonite
1989	Marilu Diller	Grace Mennonite
1990-91	Robert Gatchel	Lima Mennonite
1991-95	Adah Lehman	Grace Mennonite
1991	Stella Diller	Grace Mennonite
1992-97	Bill Keeney	First Mennonite
1992-94	Eleanor Luginbuhl	Ebenezer Mennonite
1992-00	Myrth Brenneman	Lima Mennonite
1992-02	Oren/Arleta Augsburger	Salem Mennonite
1993	Dawn Buroker	
1993	Margorie Hilty	Grace Mennonite
1995-96	Betty Kurtz	First Mennonite
1994-99	Eloise Cloyd	Ebenezer Mennonite
1994-97	Marvin/Annie Hartman	Pike Mennonite
1995-97	Ruth Hartzler	Grace Mennonite
1996-03	Kathryn Luginbill	Grace Mennonite
1996-99	Sue Steiner	Ebenezer Mennonite
1998-00	Randy McCullough	First Mennonite
1998-03	Sara Beth Etter	Grace Mennonite
1998	Sue Miller	Pike Mennonite
2000-02	Donna Badertscher	St John Mennonite
2000-04	Fred/Edith Troyer	Pike Mennonite
2000	Lois Smucker	First Mennonite
2000-03	Sharleen Olson	St John Mennonite
2001-05	Wanda Pannabecker	First Mennonite
2001	Dorothy Edinger	Ebenezer Mennonite
2001-06	Ernie Porzellius	First Mennonite, Chair
2003-08	Herb/Norma Brunk	Salem Mennonite
2003-08	Louise Matthews	St John Mennonite, Sec.
2003-07, 10	Ralph/Melba Gerber	Ebenezer Mennonite
2004	Jeanette Weaver	Grace Mennonite
2005-07	Janette Reineke	Bluffton Methodist AL
2005-06	Richard/Esther Hartman	Pike Mennonite
2007-09	Earl/Wilma Hofstetter	Pike Mennonite
2007-12	Vickie Hauenstein	St John Mennonite
2007-09	Elaine Brubaker	First Mennonite
2008-09	Jack/Kathy Adair	Ebenezer Mennonite
2008-10	Kay Ziessler	Presbyterian AL
2008-09	Lisa Reichenbach	Grace Mennonite

2009	Audrey Ridenour	Salem Mennonite
2009-14	Bill Suter (Donna)	Grace Mennonite
2009	Elfrieda Ramseyer	First Mennonite
2009-10	Judy Decker	Lima Mennonite
2009-11	Suzann Bauman	Salem Mennonite, Sec.
2009-11	Therese Meyer	St John Mennonite
2010	Arnita Yoder	Salem Mennonite
2010-12	Edith Troyer	Pike Mennonite
2010-16	John Rich	First Mennonite
2010-15	Linda Suter	First Mennonite
2010-12	Ruby Yoder	Pike Mennonite
2011-16	Benji/Sarah Bergstrand	Ebenezer Mennonite
2011-29	Carolyn Huffman	Lima Mennonite
2011-13	Diane Schmidt	Grace Mennonite
2011-13	Jean Cook	Bluffton Methodist AL
2011-13	Libby Hostetler	Lima Mennonite
2012-17	Joe Suter	St. John Mennonite
2012-17	Larry/Bev Armstrong	Salem Mennonite, Sec.
2013-14	Rachel Habegger	St John Mennonite
2014-19	Arman Habegger	Grace Mennonite
2014-18	John Spaeth	Trinity Lutheran -Jenera AL
2015	Becky Gambrell	St John Mennonite
2015	Brenda Byers	Grace Mennonite
2015-21	Earl Hofstetter	Pike Mennonite
2016-20	Jim Kempf	Grace Mennonite
2016-21	Mitch Kingsley	First Mennonite
2016-23	Suzann Bauman	Salem Mennonite
2017-22	Bill Suter (Mary Ann)	First Mennonite
2017-20	Tim Stockman	Ebenezer Mennonite
2018-23	Amy Lehman Mikesell	St John Mennonite, Sec.
2018-23	Sally Weaver Sommer	Quaker AL Chair
2020-present	Carl Liechty	Lima Mennonite
2020-present	Dick McGarrity	Bluffton Presbyterian AL
2020-present	Lori Nester	First Mennonite AL
2021-present	Carolyn McDaniel	Grace Mennonite
2021-present	Tim Byers	Grace Mennonite
2022-present	Karen McCullough	First Mennonite
2023-present	George Lehman	First Mennonite

### Financial History of Et Cetera Shop & Ten Thousand Villages

Year	Total Income	Gift Income	Thrift Income	To MCC	
1974	28,811	12,305	11,767	0	
1975	29,997	13,247	16,516	14,000	
1976	35,180	14,911	20,080	16,000	
1977	40,332	17,373	22,423	17,800	
1978	41,189	18,121	22,581	18,200	
1979	46,661	21,910	24,236	23,500	
1980	49,712	22,566	26,372	22,000	
1981	52,711	25,666	25,950	22,500	
1982	53,253	23,746	27,563	24,000	
1983	52,704	24,002	27,072	24,000	
1984	56,944	23,849	30,880	26,000	
1985	57,084	22,735	31,853	29,000	
1986	63,346	24,941	30,989	36,000	
1987	61,661	27,484	31,189	36,000	
1988	69,930	31,035	37,083	37,000	
1989	83,233	37,405	44,460	45,000	
1990	84,967	39,285	44,034	40,000	
1991	81,520	31,894	48,219	50,000	
1992	79,424	29,416	48,682	40,000	
1993	77,295	29,186	47,010	35,000	
1994	75,499	26,493	48,252	35,000	
1995	76,923	25,834	50,411	36,500	
1996	84,274	22,549	60,966	25,000	
1997	86,628	17,565	68,134	40,000	
1998	90,834	17,247	72,583	46,000	
1999	83,337	14,944	67,467	53,000	
2000	89,358	20,441	64,732	38,000	
2001	114,037	35,507	76,399	27,000	
2002	143,800	56,986	83,590	40,000	
2003	155,424	66,147	76,701	35,000	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2,146,068</b>	<b>794,790</b>	<b>1,288,103</b>	<b>931,500</b>	
2004	178,447	73,281	90,602	64,000	
2005	180,229	67,442	90,623	16,546	60,000
2006	203,282	78,790	99,125	21,221	61,500
2007	193,760	59,713	101,335	24,056	78,000
2008	187,234	52,850	101,988	26,201	62,000
<b>Totals</b>	<b>942,952</b>	<b>332,076</b>	<b>483,673</b>	<b>88,024</b>	<b>325,500</b>



**Financial History of Et Cetera Shop, Ten Thousand Villages & Book ReViews**

Year	Et Cetera Shop	Ten Thousand	Book ReViews	Other Inc.	Total Income	Total Exp.	Net Income	To MCC
2009	106,615	52,335	26,593	3,000	188,543	113,138	75,404	74,500
2010	115,297	51,149	26,384	5,028	197,857	130,604	67,254	63,750
2011	121,150	52,142	28,434	8,815	210,542	139,850	70,692	68,750
2012	130,961	67,896	30,568	1,656	231,081	156,488	74,592	51,750
2013	131,807	68,873	31,560	1,524	233,764	152,418	81,346	41,500
2014	135,850	72,107	34,863	2,749	245,569	160,893	84,676	45,781
2015	142,420	65,094	26,120	1,597	235,231	151,863	83,368	43,305
2016	153,017	75,676	38,043	5,509	272,245	164,785	107,460	55,000
2017	164,004	80,044	35,925	1,496	281,469	187,352	94,118	-
2018	168,725	79,870	38,586	9,181	296,361	189,998	106,363	-
2019	185,881	77,350	33,909	6,075	303,215	218,745	84,470	25,000
2020	147,523	47,192	22,555	18,314	235,584	201,596	33,987	25,000
2021	218,557	92,473	27,282	27,370	365,683	233,188	132,495	33,000
2022	266,702	89,060	32,791	10,384	398,938	241,555	157,382	40,000
2023								
	<b>2,188,508</b>	<b>971,262</b>	<b>433,614</b>	<b>102,697</b>	<b>3,696,082</b>	<b>2,442,474</b>	<b>1,253,607</b>	<b>567,335</b>