

Working Together

The Newsletter of Monroe County United Ministries

January 2009

Your Support Makes It Possible

2008 was a very busy year for MCUM's supporters. Once again, food donors made the Emergency Food Pantry possible. Financial supporters ensured that our programs continue, assisting our community's most vulnerable populations. Those who donated arts and crafts supplies brightened our classrooms and inspired our children. The generous individuals and groups who sponsored childcare families gave the gift of a very Merry Christmas. Holiday food basket donors helped local families to have picture-perfect holiday meals. Those who organized food drives educated others about the need in the community while helping MCUM reach new supporters. Those who clipped Campbell's soup labels purchased new equipment for the childcare classroom. The list of our supporters and the many ways you help is almost endless, but we appreciate each and every one of you!

Then and Now: Roger Gildersleeve

In celebration of MCUM's 70th Anniversary, this monthly feature will highlight children and families touched by MCUM's Childcare Program over the years.

Roger, then...



...and now.

Roger Gildersleeve Jr. attended MCUM's Childcare Program in 1973-1975 with his favorite teacher, Mrs. Grubb. His father, Roger Sr., recalls a lesson in sharing from that time: after refusing to share his candy bar with his father, Roger Jr. received a talk about the value of sharing. The next day, Roger came home from MCUM and explained how he had applied the lesson: he and another MCUM student had captured a lady bug and shared it... he got the head and she got the body!

Then and Now continued on page 3

IRA Charitable Gift Opportunity Extended

The IRA Charitable Rollover tax incentive has been extended through the end of 2009. This incentive allows individuals aged 70½ and older to donate up to \$100,000 from their Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) and Roth IRAs to charities without the contributions counting as taxable income.

Donations must come directly to MCUM and must be received by December 31, 2009. Please contact your financial planner for more information or to request that a donation be sent.

Special Request: Pens

We use a lot of ink pens at MCUM and we are running low! We would welcome donations of any pens - pens with your company's logo, pens with someone else's logo, or just a box of pens from the office supply store.

Cleaning Closet Needs

Cleaning supplies and hygiene items cannot be purchased with food stamps, but are important for the success and dignity of our Emergency Services clients. At this time, our "Cleaning Closet" is in need of:

- feminine hygiene products - pads and tampons
- new underwear for boys and women
- new socks for men and women

Childcare Needs

We currently have 87 preschool age children enrolled and they use a lot of supplies! Items currently needed include:

- washable white tempera paint
- AA batteries
- glue sticks

Food Pantry Needs

The MCUM Emergency Food Pantry is currently low on:

- canned and dried fruit
- 1 or 2 pound bags of rice
- canned pasta meals
- mixed vegetables
- paper grocery bags

Volunteer Opportunities

These are just a few of the ways you can get involved with MCUM's programs. Call our office at (812)339-3429 or visit www.bloomington.in.us/~mcum for more information.

Featured Volunteer Position

Luncheon Promoters: Are you willing to tell people about MCUM's luncheon and silent auction on March 29th? Can you make yourself available to sell tickets? Can you post a flyer? Could you encourage a group to purchase tickets and sit together at the event? Help fill our seats by promoting this fun event! Contact Rebecca at mcumfund@bloomington.in.us.

Opportunity House Volunteers: Opp House is a resale shop at 907 W. 11th Street and is an important partner organization for MCUM. Volunteers raise funds for MCUM's programs while finding new homes for used items. Contact Janet at 336-2443.

Maintenance Volunteers: Volunteers are needed to perform basic maintenance tasks to fit any skill level, from changing light bulbs to basic carpentry. Work is usually performed 8-4, Monday-Friday. Contact Meri at mcum@bloomington.in.us or 339-3429.

Classroom Assistant: Interested in arts and crafts, reading aloud, teaching math skills or planning games? The preschool-aged children in the Childcare Program would love to spend time with you! Contact Tina at 339-3429 for more information.

Pantry Assistant: Help sort, stock and sack groceries donated by community members. Set your own schedule within the office's Monday-Friday, 8am-4pm hours. Tasks involve some lifting. Contact Cliff for more information at 339-3429.

Then and Now: Roger Gildersleeve

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After his MCUM days, Roger went on to graduate from Bloomington High School South and attended the University of Texas on a Navy ROTC scholarship. Midway through college he married, had a daughter, and joined the Navy. After the Navy, he returned to UT and completed a degree in Russian Language and Literature. He then attended UT Med and completed his residency in Santa Fe, New Mexico. In July 2007, he opened a family practice in Round Rock, Texas. He currently resides in Austin, Texas with his wife and three children.

Roger Sr. fondly recalls his family's experience with MCUM: "It was superb for the kids AND the parents. I recall painting the interior with other parents while listening to the radio broadcast of the Nixon/Watergate scandal. The skill and caring atmosphere were great, the cost of care was minimal, and what a 'bang for the buck'."

Roger Gildersleeve is just one example of successful childcare alumni. We are proud of Roger and wish him well.

If you or your child attended the MCUM Childcare Program, we would love to feature your story in one of our newsletters in 2009. Contact Rebecca Stanze at mcumfund@bloomington.in.us or 812-339-2912 for more information.

MCUM's 2009 Board of Directors

MCUM's Board of Directors welcomes three new members for 2009: Ed McClellan, Sharon Andrews and Larry Winters. The board is made up of representatives from member congregations (congregations making unrestricted financial donations in the previous year), the local business and professional community, Opportunity House and Church Women United. Our 2009 board members are:

Tom Bunger, President
Gloria Hasler, Vice President
Norm Overly, Treasurer
John VanderZee, Secretary
Sharon Andrews
Lorne Aubin
Erika Edens

Larry Jacobs
Ed McClellan
Ruth Rives
John Rucker
Chris Tietz
Larry Winters
Carl Ziegler

Thank you!

We would like to thank...

- Cub Scout Pack 164 for raking leaves from our playgrounds.
- the employees of TIS for donating books for Santa's gift bags, providing holiday food baskets for childcare families and collecting 508 pounds of food for the Emergency Food Pantry.
- Roger Gildersleeve, Sr. for sharing his family's story for the Then and Now series.
- the employees of BKD for donating 16 coats to children in need and sponsoring a family for Christmas.
- Bloomingfoods for giving 20 Christmas trees to the families that we serve.
- the members of St. John the Apostle Catholic Church for collecting 2,387 pounds of food for the pantry in November.
- the Tri-North National Honor Society for their donations of gloves and scarves.
- Bloomin' Scrapbooks & Stamps for hosting a customer food drive.

**Special Request:
Hoskinson Frommer
Book Needed**

We are in search of a like-new copy of Sara Hoskinson Frommer's first book, *Murder in C Major*. If you have this volume and would like to donate it to MCUM's upcoming silent auction, where it will be added to an autographed set, please contact Meri Reinhold at mcum@bloomington.in.us or call (812) 339-3429.

**Clip Labels to
Help MCUM**

Looking for an easy way to help? Collect Labels for Education from Campbell's products and Box Tops for Education from General Mills products. Just clip this:



or this:



from products you already buy. You may find these logos in unexpected places so keep your eyes peeled!

Thank You, Holiday Helpers!



Tri-North Middle School students wait in line to deliver food to MCUM's pantry. The students collected more than 2,000 pounds of food in their annual drive.

Thank you to all the volunteers who made our holiday cookie and bread sale a success: Sharon Andrews, Carol Peterman, Esther Briddell, Frances Walden, Diana Smith, Carolyn Sweeny, Tom Bungler, Norm Overly, Barbara Drake, Erika Edens, Emogene Carter, Stella Hooker-Haase.



Generous donors provided almost 100 food "baskets" for our Childcare and Emergency Services families this year. 76 of these baskets were provided by members of the Unitarian Universalist Church!

A certain jolly elf recently visited the Childcare Center. He would like to thank his many elves, including: Jessica Renn, Tim Deckard, Vickie Krebbs, Sara Oney, Sojourner Manns, the staff of the Monroe County Probation Dept. and Community Correction, Lloyd Swango, Pam Davidson, Phil and Jan Davis and the staff of TIS. Thank you to everyone who helped to fill Santa's bag of gifts. And a special thank you to the man in red himself.



Kyndal gives Santa a big hug after jumping into his lap.

Planning for Estate Planning

by Katie Oreskovich, SPEA Service Corps Fellow

The ideas and information in this article came from a seminar on planned giving presented by the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County on October 14, 2008, primarily from a presentation by Lance Like of the Like Law Group, LLC.

Out of every ten adult Americans, 7 people have no plan for their assets, 2 people have a wrong or outdated plan, and only one person has the “perfect plan.” If you are one out of those seven people who have no plan, or if you have an outdated or wrong plan for your current situation, consider talking to your financial advisor about estate planning. Estate planning is important because you should be able to give what you have:

- To the charitable causes you want
- To the loved ones you want
- The way you want
- When you want
- Without unnecessary cost or delay

Estate planning is very personal and should be customized to your wants and needs. Before speaking with your financial advisor, you should ask yourself a few vital questions so that your goals can be met. For example, would you like to increase your annual charitable support of MCUM? Would you like to designate your gift to a specific program or give an unrestricted gift that can be used to meet MCUM’s greatest needs? What values would you like to share with your family? What are you grateful for? Once you identify what you are really passionate about, you have taken an important first step down the road of estate planning. If you are interested in knowing more about how estate planning can benefit MCUM, please contact Rebecca Stanze or Meri Reinhold today at (812) 339-3429.

Spring Into Action! Luncheon

MCUM’s 5th annual *Spring Into Action!* luncheon and silent auction will be March 29, 2009 at the Bloomington-Monroe County Convention Center. This fun event provides many ways for you to spring into action:

- Are you a member of a club, group or congregation? We need volunteers to sell tickets to the event and give folks an opportunity to learn more about the work that we do for the community.
- Cleaning out your closet or attic? Donate that antique or interesting item to the silent auction. These donations are tax deductible!
- Do you enjoy organizing parties? Join our committee and help make this event a great success.
- Own or work for a local business? Consider making a tax-deductible donation to the silent auction or sponsoring the event.

Contact Rebecca Stanze at 339-3429 or mcumfund@bloomington.in.us for more information about these possibilities. Hope to see you there!

Did You Receive a New Cell Phone for the Holidays?

Once you get your new phone programmed, donate your old one to MCUM! We are paid per phone (\$0.50 - \$35) by a recycling/refurbishing company with a zero landfill policy. Your old phone will help to fund our Emergency Services and Childcare Programs. Phones can be donated anywhere other items are collected for MCUM, at TIS Bookstore, Opportunity House, The Ellettsville Journal or at our office. Answer the call to help!

Looking for Quality Childcare?

Check out www.in.gov/fssa/carefinder. This website provides a list of licensed childcare options in your area and explains the differences among licensed childcare centers (such as MCUM), licensed childcare homes and licensed childcare ministries. This site also shows the results of recent licensing inspections.

www.naeyc.org is another site to visit for information or for a list of childcare programs accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

Childcare Classroom Calendars

Staff

Childcare Director: Traci Mehay
Educ. Coordinator: Tina Pender
Admin. Assist.: Sharon McDaniel
Cook: Cynthia Powers
Assistant Cook: Derrick Mackie

Puffins: 2 - 2.6 year olds

Teacher: Heather Friend
Aide: Tina Wolf
Aide: Susan Williams

Seahorses: 2.6 - 3 year olds

Teacher: Marycarole Matlock
Aide: Melissa Chambers

Penguins: 3 year olds

Teacher: Kim Clay
Aide: Jessica Smith

Otters: 4 year olds

Teacher: Mary Ellen Pierce
Aide: Seda Jackson

Dolphins: 5 - 6 year olds

Teacher: Ellie DeBevoise
Aide: Brock Singleton

Announcements For Parents

WorkOne Resources

Rose, a representative from WorkOne, is available one Thursday afternoon a month to discuss job-related issues. Rose will be available on 1/15, 2/5, 3/12, 4/9, 5/7 in the Parent Resource Room. Stop by and see her!

Get Involved

Family members are invited to join the Parent Involvement Committee. See Tina Pender in the front office for more information.

Puffins

January 5-9 - Winter Wonders

Brr..... This week the Puffins will talk about the winter wonders outside. We will take a nature walk to explore the snow and find out how different animals survive in the winter. We will also focus on how we stay warm in the winter. Don't forget to change out your Puffin's clothes!

January 12-16 - Arctic Animals

This week the Puffins will explore how arctic animals survive, why they live in cold climates and how they adapt. We will turn the Puffin room into a winter wonderland and make igloos under the tables. Be sure to ask your child about their favorite arctic friend.



January 19-23 - Teddy Bears

"Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear!" is what the Puffins will be chanting all week, as we explore and talk about our favorite furry friends. We will also have a slumber party on Friday, so be sure to send your child's favorite furry teddy bear.

January 26-30 Eric Carle

Hungry caterpillars, busy spiders, grouchy ladybugs, and much more are what the Puffins will be learning about this week as we explore the wonderful world of Eric Carle. We will make caterpillars and many other colorful things as we explore Carle's wonderful books. Be sure to look for some colorful paintings from your child.

Seahorses

January 5-9 - Sesame Street

This week the Seahorses will be talking about our favorite neighborhoods. Sesame Street is one of the busiest neighborhoods in our room. Here we will count with the Count, talk about sizes with Big Bird, and make some new friends with Bert and Ernie.

January 12-16 - Arctic Animals

Brrr! We will be visiting snow in the Seahorse Room as we talk about arctic animals. We will build our own igloos out of the ice we form in the freezer. We will visit our friends, the Penguins, and see how many of them actually live in the Arctic.

January 19-23 - Dinosaurs

This week the Seahorses will be a very loud group as we start learning about the past. The word extinction will come into play when we start talking about dinosaurs. The Seahorses will see if we can count all the different types of dinosaurs. We will have our very own dig in the sandbox. Later in the week we will make our own fossils.

January 26-30 - Birds

This week the Seahorses will move away from the dinosaurs and look to the sky. The Seahorses will learn about birds. We will be learning about the colors and sizes of different birds. We will read *Bird's First Discovery* and *Baby Birds*. Then we will do artwork with feathers and talk about where birds live.

Please feel free to join us at anytime. Our New Year's resolution is to have people come in to play with us and join in our learning. It is so much fun!! Please feel free to eat, read or build with us at anytime.

Penguins

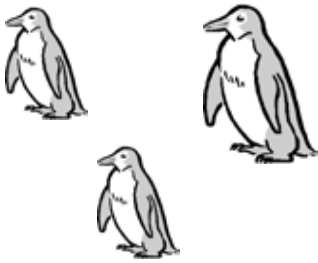
January 5-9 - Music and Dance

As the cold weather settles in, the Penguins will be trying out different ways of letting off steam inside the classroom. We will tumble on the mat, balance on the beam and dance. We will be listening to different types of music and learning new dance moves.

January 12-16 - Name & Letter

Recognition

During the second week of the new year the Penguins will explore the alphabet. We will read cool books and sing the alphabet song. We will also try recognizing our names without a picture of ourselves.



January 19-23 - The Five Senses

Smell, Taste, Hearing, Sight, and Touch: these are the five senses the Penguins will learn all about this week. We will do a taste test, figure out what sense we use on the telephone and experience what it's like to be blind. This week the Penguin will be introduced to sign language, so ask your Penguin to share some sign language with you.

January 26-30 - Food and Nutrition

Why does an apple a day keep the doctor away? This week the Penguin's will explore the food pyramid and how it keeps us healthy. We will check up on our kitchen crew to see if our lunch has all the food groups and see who can earn the clean plate award for healthy eaters. It will also be time to update our growth chart and see who is getting taller.

Otters

January 5-9 - Winter

This week we will learn about winter. We will compare the differences between this season and the others, looking at what types of clothing we must wear, what happens to plant life and how animals survive at this time of year. The Otters will also talk about all the different types of cold weather activities that we enjoy.

January 12-16 - Arctic Wild Life

January is the perfect time of year to learn about creatures that spend their entire lives living in a deep freeze. We will travel to the arctic regions to see just how penguins, polar bears and other cold natured animals happily survive in subzero temperatures. We will discover the many different types of animals who live in this region and how their lives differ from those of their warmer weather relatives.

January 19-23 - Martin Luther King

This week, as we celebrate Martin Luther King Day, the Otters are going to take the opportunity to discover just what this holiday means. We will discuss this heroic man and learn what great things he accomplished for humankind. The children will learn about freedom and what that means for each and every one of us. We will also take this opportunity to learn about the importance of helping others and to learn the significance behind the idea of this holiday being viewed as "a day on, not a day off."

January 26-30 - Transportation

This week the Otters will discover the best way to get from here to there. We will explore the many different types of transportation and learn which ones are best to use depending on where it is we need to go. We are certain to learn which types of transportation are particular favorites of the Otters!

Dolphins

January 5-9 - Transportation

This week the Dolphins will learn all about transportation vehicles. We will talk about planes, trains, cars, and of course, emergency vehicles such as police cars and fire trucks. We will talk about construction vehicles and how they help construction workers do their jobs. The Dolphins will go on a vehicle hunt and we will take pictures of all different types of vehicles that we see around MCUM. Then we will make a collage of our favorites.

January 12-16 - Sports

This week the Dolphins will learn, play, and discuss all different types of sports. We will graph our favorite sports, and take a poll of all the teachers' favorite sports. The Dolphins will learn how to compare the graphs and begin to understand how number charts work. We will also discuss the similarities and differences of sports around the world. Over the course of the week, during our playtime outside, we will be having the First Annual Dolphin Olympics!

January 19-23 - Knights, Pirates, Castles,

Ahoy, Dolphins! This week we will be learning all about knights, pirates, castles, dragons, and princesses of days past. We will put on a short play about what we have learned at the end of the week for our friend Patty who comes to read to us on Thursdays.

January 26-30 - Constellations

As part of our science and math unit, this week we will be learning all about constellations. We will learn the names of the major constellations, what they look like, and what time of the year we can see them outside. We will also take apart a telescope and learn how they are made and why they work.

Monroe County United Ministries

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Return Service
Requested

Staff:

Executive Director: Meri Reinhold
Development Coordinator: Rebecca Stanze
Emergency Services Coordinator: Cliff Edens
Emerg. Services Caseworker: Vicky St. Myers
Office Manager: Shannon Hampton
Childcare Director: Traci Mehay
Education Coordinator: Tina Pender
Administrative Assistant: Sharon McDaniel

Hours of Operation:

Office and Emergency Services:	Monday - Friday 8:00am - noon 1:00pm - 4:00pm
Childcare:	Monday - Friday 6:30am - 5:30pm

Please recycle this newsletter or share it with a friend.

Opportunity House, located at 907 W. 11th Steet, is a resale shop that raises funds to support MCUM's Programs by finding new homes for used items. Store hours are 9:00-2:00, Monday-Saturday, with donations accepted 8:30-3:00. Call 336-2443 for more information.

Opportunity House Update

by Janet Donham, Opportunity House Board President

Happy New Year! Our 40th year was celebrated in 2008, especially in October. We are ready to start "41."

Sometimes we are forced to post a the sign on our basement door that says "no donations at this time." We process our merchandise as fast as possible, but sometimes do not have room to accept more. We do our best to keep things rolling because we depend on your donations to keep our door open. Also, donations that are left after 3pm or on Sundays will probably not be used by Opp House because they will be gone through before we re-open.

Thank you, Darrel and Mike, all from all the volunteers.