

Working Together

The Newsletter of Monroe County United Ministries

February 2009

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.
- Planning to attend the luncheon but want to get more involved? Volunteer to lend a hand during the lunch!

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

Then and Now: Alexandra Bastin

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

Alexandra Tezra Bastin attended MCUM's Childcare Program from 1994 to 1997 and is a MCUM kindergarten graduate. She has trouble choosing just one favorite teacher but remembers Joni, Marycarole and Mary Ellen as especially kind and caring. Alexandra recalls the following memory of her time with MCUM: "I had surgery around the holidays and was afraid I would not be able to sing at the Christmas program. First thing I did when I got home was ask my mom for the words to the songs so I could practice... I made it and sang my heart out because I didn't want to let the group down!"



Alexandra then, at age 3

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.

Childcare Needs

We currently have 90 preschool children enrolled and they use a lot of supplies! Items currently needed include:

- washable white tempera paint
- AA batteries
- glue sticks
- shoe-box sized plastic storage containers with lids

Cleaning Closet Needs

Cleaning supplies and hygiene items cannot be purchased with food stamps. At this time, our "Cleaning Closet" is in need of:

- laundry detergent
- household cleaners
- mops
- toilet bowl brushes

Food Pantry Needs

In 2008, the Emergency Services Program served 1,074 families. We need your help to keep up with the demand for food assistance! The pantry is currently low on:

- canned pasta
- canned or dried soup
- canned or dried fruit
- pudding or jello
- paper grocery bags

Special Request: Filing Cabinets

We are in need of five lockable five-drawer upright filing cabinets to organize and store client files for the Emergency Services Program. If you have filing cabinets to spare, please call our office at 339-3429.

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.

Each One, Feed One Food Drive Committee:

Help us prepare for our August two-day food drive by serving on the organizing committee and accomplishing tasks related to drive planning. Contact Vicky St. Myers at mcumfood@bloomington.in.us or 339-3429 for more information.

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.

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: Alexandra Bastin

continued from page 1



Alexandra now, at age 18

Alexandra also considers the 1999 groundbreaking ceremony for MCUM's renovated and expanded childcare building as a highlight of her young life. Her mom recounts how she "remembers getting to 'toss dirt' and get away with it." The shovel from the ceremony is still displayed proudly on her bedroom wall.

Alexandra is currently a senior at Bloomington High School North and works part time. She plans to attend Ivy Tech next year and study criminal justice. She still keeps in touch with some of her MCUM friends and continues to support MCUM by bringing in items for the Childcare Program and patronizing Opportunity House.

Alexandra's mom, Amy, describes MCUM's Childcare Program as a lifesaver. "I was a low-income parent when Alexandra started and then became a single parent. I still think back as to how lucky I was to just happen upon MCUM... The lessons, not only school, but in life she learned through the teachers and other children have stuck with her... I don't believe she would be the caring, supportive person she is today had it not been for the time at MCUM."

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

Free Radon Test Kits Available

The American Lung Association of Indiana, through a grant from the EPA, is offering free radon test kits. Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas and has been identified as a leading cause of lung cancer, second only to cigarette smoking in the United States. The EPA's most recent health risk assessment estimates that 20,000 lung cancer deaths each year are due to radon. You can't see or smell radon because it is a colorless, odorless gas. The only way to know whether radon exists in elevated levels in your home is to perform a simple test.

Families wishing to test their homes can obtain a free radon test kit by calling the American Lung Association of Indiana at (317) 819-1181.

Learn more about the national effort to take action against radon at <http://www.epa.gov/radon/>.

Thank you!

We would like to thank...

- Teresa Boshears and Barbara Drake for their service on the MCUM Board of Directors.
- Amy Thomas for sharing her family's story for the Then and Now series.
- Dawn Goss for donating her stuffed monkey to the Childcare Program.
- the members of Kappa Kappa Kappa, Gamma Chapter, for their donations of warm winter wear.
- Sheena Kindred for her generous donation to the Childcare Program.
- the members of Delta Theta Tau for their dedication to helping others.
- the members of the "newsletter mailing team" who help this newsletter reach you each month.
- Harriet Kulia for her support of the Childcare Program.
- everyone to responded to our request for pens. Thanks so much!

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!

What is Peace?

The Otter Classroom recently considered the question: What is peace? Here are a few of their responses:

- when we use our words instead of our hands - Devin
- no pulling hair - Bella
- hate is a bad word, it's not peace - Ian
- you're not biting someone - Kennedy
- a circle, no punching and don't say "stupid" or "hate" - Tony
- no scratching, no hitting people - Robyn
- not kicking people, not hitting people, not hurting people - Umran
- no pulling hair, no biting - Meredith
- no punching or grabbing ears or kicking someone, we can be friends - Neo

Spring Into Action! for Great Auction Items

At MCUM's March 29th luncheon and silent auction, you will enjoy a nice lunch, have fun, learn a bit more about MCUM's programs and have the opportunity to bid on some great auction items, including:

- a week-long getaway to Williamsburg, Virginia over Independence Day 2009;
- a hot air balloon ride for two;
- work by local artists;
- art items from around the world;
- a gourmet tempura dinner for six;
- services ranging from carpet cleaning to babysitting;
- autographed books from Indiana authors including Sara Hoskinson Frommer, Elsa Marston Harik and Nathan Clement;
- and much more!

Our auction will include a wide variety of items in a wide price range. If you would like to add to this list, contact our office about making a donation to our auction. We look forward to seeing you *Spring Into Action!* for a great cause.

MCUM is Now On Facebook!

Do you have a Facebook account? Are you a fan of MCUM? We are pleased to announce our new Facebook account and we would love to be connected with you. Through our “fan” page, you can be connected to information about upcoming MCUM events, see pictures, and get the latest news. We have also started a “cause” page, through which you can make a donation.

You can become a fan of MCUM in just a few easy steps:

1. Once you have a Facebook account, simply type “Monroe County United Ministries” into the search bar at the top of the screen.
2. Click on the link to MCUM’s page.
3. Click “become a fan” on the top right side of the page.

To join the “cause” simply click on the MCUM link under “Causes” on the fan page. From there click “join” and/or “donate.”

Charitable Bequests: The Easiest Avenue for Planned Giving

by Katie Oreskovich, SPEA Service Corps Fellow

A charitable bequest is the simplest way to make a planned gift to MCUM. A bequest can be written into a will or a trust. While considering the end of one’s life can be unsettling, it is important to have an updated plan to secure a future for your loved ones and your community. It is also essential to reduce unnecessary taxes on your estate. A bequest can be made to MCUM in the following ways:

- Specific Bequest: You may designate a specific sum or assets to MCUM.
- Percentage Bequest: Your bequest is a fixed percentage of your estate designated to MCUM.
- Residual Bequest: You may elect for MCUM to receive all or a specified amount of your estate after all debts, expenses, taxes, and other bequests are settled.
- Contingent Bequest: You may name MCUM as the beneficiary of your estate if others named in your will are not living at the time of your death.

Sample Bequest Language:

I hereby leave [specific dollar amount/specific property/specific percentage/rest and remainder, etc.] of my estate to Monroe County United Ministries, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation in Bloomington, Indiana, to be used for the benefit of the organization in such manner as the board of directors may elect.

It is also easy to add a codicil (addition) to your will or an amendment to your trust if you already have an existing estate plan. For more information on bequests or how planned giving can benefit our community, please contact Rebecca Stanze or Meri Reinhold at (812) 339-3429.

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.

New Cell Phone?

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.

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: Seda Jackson
Aide: Jessica Smith

Otters: 4 year olds

Teacher: Mary Ellen Pierce
Aide: Anna Donley

Dolphins: 5 - 6 year olds

Teacher: Kim Clay
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 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

February 2-6 - Five Senses

This week the Puffins will explore their five senses: touch, smell, taste, hearing, and sight. We will explore many ways use our senses such as touching different textures, smelling and tasting things. Be sure to ask your child what their favorite sense is!

February 9-13 - Valentine Fun

Hearts, Cupid, and friendly cards are what the Puffins will be having fun with this week as we explore and make lots of Valentine's treats. At the end of the week we will have a Valentine's Day celebration!



February 16-20 - Disney

Princesses, Buzz Lightyear, and Lightning McQueen are what the Puffins will be talking about this week as we explore the wonderful world of Walt Disney. Be sure to ask your child what their favorite Disney character is.

February 23-27 - Dr. Seuss

The Cat in the Hat and *Horton Hears a Who* are among some of the many books we will read this week as we explore the wonderful world of Dr. Seuss. Be sure to ask your child what their favorite Dr. Seuss book is and watch out- you never know what kind of hat your child will come home with!

Seahorses

February 2-6 - Dental Health

This week the Seahorses will be learning how to take care of our teeth. What should we eat and drink to keep our teeth healthy? How do we brush our teeth? We will look at model teeth and try brushing the proper way. The Seahorses will be reading the book *Franklin and the Tooth Fairy*. We will also discover what our favorite toothbrush color is and who has been to the dentist.

February 9-13 - Love & Valentines

This week the Seahorses will be talking about love in the air. We will incorporate signing into our circle time and sign feelings like surprise, happy, hungry and sorry. We will read book such as *I'll Always Love You* and *Love You Forever*. We will also have a Valentine's party on Friday and share in some party games.

February 16-20 - Circus

The Seahorses will be reading about what happens in a circus this week. We will read about Clifford's circus adventures and the counting bears' circus experiences. We will read the book *Circus Shapes* and learn about shapes all around us. We have some cool circus masks we will sport and we will make some of our own. At the end of the week we will have our own circus!

February 23-27 - Space Explorers

3, 2, 1... Blast off! This week the Seahorse room will be transformed to a world beyond. Come enjoy our rocket ships with us and see what outer space fun we will be having. We count stars, look at other planets, and check out some telescopes. If you have any large boxes, we would be delighted to transform these for you.

Penguins

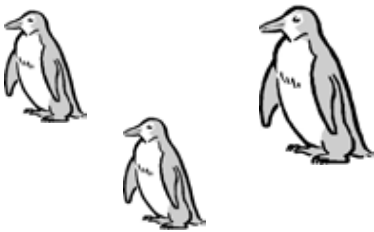
February 2-6 - Body & Health

“Head, shoulders, knee and toes!”

This week the Penguins will learn the different parts of the body. We will have fun tracing and labeling our body parts. We will also learn what we can do to get our body healthy and in good shape.

February 9-13 - Feelings & Love

February is the month when people everywhere express their love with candy, cards, and flowers. The Penguins will be making valentines to show our friends and family how we feel about them. We will also discover different expressions for feelings this week. We will celebrate Valentine’s Day on Friday so if you wish to send valentines please send enough for 20 Penguins.



February 16-20 - Space Explorers

3-2-1 Blast Off! The Penguins will be taking a trip into space as we check out the sun, moon and stars. We will find out why astronauts wear space suits and try our hands at star gazing in our own star cave.

February 23-27 - Fire Safety

The penguins will discuss fire safety and possible fire hazards. We will look at what we can do to prevent fires and learn what to do in the event of a fire. The Penguins will learn the “stop, drop and roll!” procedure. We will engage in fire drills from many different locations around the building. We will end the week with a visit from a fireman who will tell us more about fire safety!

Otters

February 2-6 - Dental Health

February is Dental Health Month and this is a good time to discuss our teeth and just how important it is to care for them properly. We will learn the right way to brush our teeth, how often we should brush and why flossing is so important. By the end of the week the Otters will be prepared to have the strongest teeth in town!

February 9-13 - Friendship

With Valentine’s Day just around the corner, the Otters are going to take some time to reflect on our friendships with each other. We will discuss what qualities we think are important in a friend. We will also learn why friendships are so necessary and beneficial to our well being. We will also make surprises to share with our friends during our Valentine’s Day party on Friday.

February 16-20 - Maurice Sendak

The Otters love to use their imaginations and write stories so now we are going to honor some of the world’s greatest men and women – children’s authors. We will begin this adventure with Maurice Sendak. Sendak has spent decades teaching children the joys of *Chicken Soup with Rice* and the excitement of going to *Where the Wild Things Are*. The Otters are sure to find themselves in at least one of these wonderful stories!

February 23-27 - Berenstain Bears

This week we are going to take a look at strong family values as seen through the eyes of the Berenstain Bear family. We will stumble along with the bears as we learn how to get along with our siblings, how to be polite and how to take care of our homes. We’ll finish out the week with a celebration of family with many family-oriented activities.

Dolphins

February 2-6 – The Dentist

Dental hygiene is important! The Dolphins will learn that going to the dentist can be a fun experience, not a scary one, because dentists want to help keep our teeth healthy. We will also learn the proper way to brush and floss our teeth.



February 9-13 - Valentine’s Day

Every February, across the country, candy, flowers, and gifts are exchanged between loved ones, all in the name of St. Valentine. Well, the Dolphins are no different! We will be busy making beautiful Valentine’s Day cards and crafts for our loved ones.

February 16-20 - Money

Knowing about money is very important, so this week we will have an introduction to the subject. We will be leaning the difference between a dollar and cents and how much each is worth.



February 23-27 - Counting Money

Last week the Dolphins learned the difference between dollars and cents. This week we will focus on counting them. We will make our own banks and earn money to put inside. At the end of the week we will see which Dolphin has earned the most money!

Monroe County United Ministries

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Inside this issue:



Then and Now
Page 1

Agency Needs
Page 2

Radon Test Kits
Page 3

What is Peace?
Page 4

MCUM's on Facebook
Page 5

Childcare Calendar
Pages 6-7

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 Street, 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

All of our sale collectables, such as antiques and silver, that have been in the store for three months or more are on sale half price. If anyone collects thimbles, we have a silver one that is possibly from the 17th century. Come in and see all that we have to offer.

I'd like to remind you that we do close Opportunity House during bad winter weather. Please watch TV channels 6, 8 and 13 for MCCSC school closings. If Monroe County schools close, so does Opportunity House. If schools are delayed, we will be open normal hours 9am - 2pm Monday thru Saturday.