

# Working Together

The Newsletter of Monroe County United Ministries

November 2008

## Congregation Spotlight: Unitarian Universalist Church

The Unitarian Universalist Church established its formal association with Monroe County United Ministries in 1985 by donating the Christmas Eve offering, a tradition that continues. The following year, the church also provided MCUM with the proceeds of a food drive, which had previously been divided amongst various local agencies, and began the tradition of providing holiday food baskets in November and December. Each year, community members sponsor families enrolled in our Childcare Program, providing them with Christmas gifts for the family. In addition, each family is provided with a food “basket” that includes holiday treats and pantry staples. Each year, the UU congregation provides the great majority of these baskets, helping our families to stock their personal pantry shelves.

Members of this congregation are creative in how they raise funds for and awareness about MCUM’s programs. A few years ago, the congregation’s pianist Sally Todd gave a Valentine’s Day recital where food and funds were collected for MCUM. A popcorn sale and a pizza pool party also generated funds to support essential community programs. The church’s annual Holiday Bazaar has included the sale of hats and scarves knitted by church members with proceeds of the sale going to MCUM. One of the congregation’s social justice teams, the Feed Our Hungry Neighbors Task Force, coordinates a “Bountiful Sunday” each month where food for the pantry is collected at both services. In 2007, this congregation collected 2,837 pounds of food for MCUM’s food pantry, the second largest amount collected by a congregation that year. So far this year, 2,015 pounds has been collected from generous donors.

We truly appreciate the support we receive from the Unitarian Universalist Church and its members. Their food and financial support make a big difference in our ability to provide affordable childcare and basic needs assistance to our neighbors in need.

## Calling All Alumni!

Are you, or your child, an alum of the MCUM childcare program? Do you still remember your favorite childcare teacher—or still have that fabulous macaroni necklace made during art? As our 70th anniversary approaches we want to hear from YOU. Where has life taken you since your MCUM days? We want to hear all about your job, family, and favorite memories of MCUM.

Each month during 2009, we will feature a “Then & Now” portrait of an alum in the newsletter. If you are, or know of, an alum who would be willing to share their story, please fill out and send in the brief form on page 5 or contact Rebecca Stanze at [mcumfund@bloomington.in.us](mailto:mcumfund@bloomington.in.us) or 812-339-3429. We look forward to hearing from you!

## Food Pantry Needs

In 2007, MCUM's Emergency Food Pantry received 93,442 pounds of food to help feed our hungry neighbors. So far in 2008, the pantry has only received 52,450. Please support our efforts to meet the growing demand for food assistance by donating non-perishable foods, including:

- canned and dried fruit
- baking mixes (Bisquick, Jiffy Mix, etc.)
- sugar
- oil
- canned pasta
- paper grocery bags

## 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:

- diapers, sizes 4, 5, 6 and pull-ups
- laundry soap
- shampoo and conditioner
- general cleaning products

## Childcare Needs

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

- glue sticks
- AA batteries
- jumbo Crayola\* crayons for our youngest children
- 12 quart plastic storage containers w/lids

*\*Due to ongoing concerns about lead in some off-brand crayons, we specifically request the Crayola brand.*

## 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](http://www.bloomington.in.us/~mcum) for more information.

### Featured Volunteer Position

**Holiday Food Drivers:** MCUM's Holiday Food Drive will take place in November and December and we need volunteers to transport donated food from schools, congregations and workplaces across the county to our pantry. This job offers a very flexible schedule, but most pickups need to be done 8am-4pm, Monday-Friday.

**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](mailto: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.

## Spotlight on a Planned Giver: Pat Abplanalp

By Katie Oreskovich, SPEA Service Corps Fellow

Pat Abplanalp was a woman of ordinary means with a big heart for her community. She was someone who was always concerned for the welfare of others before herself. After arthritis severely crippled her hands, she still practiced in-home physical therapy until 2000, although most would say it was she who needed the patient care. Friends remember her as someone who was very positive and always joking, despite the pain. She opened her home to animals in need and gave her time to serve her neighbors. She was involved with Community Kitchen, Sycamore Land Trust, the Monroe County Humane Society, and other local organizations for years. She was a relative latecomer to MCUM, having joined our ranks as a volunteer and donor in 1998.

Pat was interested in poverty and really getting to the root causes and underlying issues she saw that were not being addressed. She was determined to have an impact on combating the poverty problem even when it was a challenge to do so. One example of this determination was when she had to face her reticence to ask others to give their resources of time or money. She was a board member of a local agency that worked on issues of hunger and needed to help raise money. Her feelings changed when she came to view asking for support as giving others the opportunity to participate and make a difference in their community. She realized that this perspective was the same one she used for her own philanthropy and she was grateful for the opportunity to help her community.

Before she passed in 2003, Pat notified her family that she wanted to make a bequest to MCUM. She inserted simple bequest language into her will in 1998 and her loved ones were able to bring her wishes to fruition for MCUM and the many organizations she supported. Her gift helped us to continue our services at a time the organization faced significant government funding cuts.

Pat's actions were not drastic. She lived a modest life and did her best to support her community through the resources she had available. She realized that any gift, no matter the size, would help MCUM to continue its vital programs. We hope that you find inspiration in Pat's story. We want to give you the opportunity to help us further our mission to serve Monroe County residents most in need. Please call Rebecca or Meri today at (812) 339-3429 to learn more about MCUM's planned giving program and which planned giving option(s) may be best suited to your needs.

*\*Thank you to Marc Abplanalp for his contribution to this article.*

## Thank you!

We would like to thank...

- those who participated in the 2008 CROP Walk on October 19.
- Kate Holden and Adam Estes for donating IU Women's Basketball season tickets for use by MCUM's staff.
- Thanks to Dixie Welch for her help with this month's congregation spotlight on page one. While sharing information about the relationship between MCUM and the UU Church, she wrote: "We recognize the importance of the work of MCUM and its valuable service to the community by being a centralized source of aid and for coordinating the efforts of the local community's ministries."
- Joann Scroggins for her donations to the Childcare Program.
- Claire Nisonger for her support of MCUM's essential programs.
- Max and Judy Skirvin for their donation of bean bag chairs, puzzles, and card games.

## Sign Up Now for Holiday Activities

Visit [www.bloomington.in.us/~mcum](http://www.bloomington.in.us/~mcum) or call us at 339-3429 to learn more about the opportunities available for giving this holiday season. From donating turkeys and hams to picking up food donations at local schools, we have the opportunity for you!

If you, along with your club or office, are interested in sponsoring a family in our Childcare Program this Christmas, call us today because those opportunities go quickly.

## 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 on your bag of Goldfish crackers or your Hefty trash bags!

# Saturday Pantry Volunteers Welcome!

MCUM's Emergency Food Pantry is generally only open Monday-Friday but during our holiday food drive, taking place in November and December, we have additional opportunities for volunteers who aren't available during weekdays. The pantry will be open to volunteers on most Saturday mornings during these two months. This is a great chance for you to organize a family volunteer outing, start an annual tradition of volunteering with friends, or just come by yourself to learn more about our pantry and to help us sort donations.

The pantry will be open to volunteers 8am - 12pm on these Saturdays:

November 1, 8, 15, 29

December 6, 13, 20

Please contact Cliff Edens at [mcumhelp@bloomington.in.us](mailto:mcumhelp@bloomington.in.us) or 339-3429 if you would like to sign up for a shift. The pantry will only be open if there are volunteers signed up, so if you want to drop off a donation or stop by for another reason, please call first.

Our pantry could not operate without the help of numerous volunteers throughout the year. Please join us in our efforts to feed our neighbors in need!

## Get Involved in MCUM's 5th Annual Spring Luncheon

Our 5th annual Spring Luncheon and Silent Auction is scheduled for March 29, 2009 at the Bloomington-Monroe County Convention Center. Mark your calendars and think about how you would like to get involved. Here are just a few ideas:

- Cleaning out your closet or attic? Donate that antique or interesting item to the silent auction. These donations are tax deductible!
- Are you a member of a club, group or congregation? Volunteer to sell tickets to the event and help us give folks an opportunity to learn more about the work that we do for the community.
- 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](mailto:mcumfund@bloomington.in.us) for more information about these possibilities. We hope to see you there!

# MCUM Childcare Alum Spotlight

See page 1 for more information.

Name:

Phone or email:

\_\_\_ I attended MCUM.

\_\_\_ My son(s)/daughter(s) attended MCUM. Names:

Approximate year(s) of attendance at MCUM:

Favorite teacher and why:

Favorite activity or anecdote from time with MCUM:

Alum's current city:

Alum's current school/job/family information:

Impact of MCUM on your family/life or other thoughts about the program:

Please mail completed forms to:

Monroe County United Ministries  
Attn: Rebecca Stanze  
827 W. 14th Court  
Bloomington, IN 47404

or send the requested information to [mcumfund@bloomington.in.us](mailto:mcumfund@bloomington.in.us).  
Feel free to include additional information as appropriate and share photos of yourself *then* or *now*. Thanks for helping MCUM to celebrate 70 years in service to the community!

## Donate Your Old Cell Phone

Give us your old cell phone and batteries and we will turn them into cash to support our programs. Phones are accepted at MCUM, at any MCUM food collection site or at:

- TIS Bookstore  
1302 E. 3rd St.
- The Ellettsville Journal  
211 N. Sale
- Opportunity House  
907 W. 11th St.

We are paid per phone by a recycling/refurbishing company. Call 339-3429 for more information or visit [www.bloomington.in.us/~mcum](http://www.bloomington.in.us/~mcum) for details.

## Remember MCUM When Writing Your Will or Trust

Making a bequest to MCUM is a simple way to show your long-term commitment to helping our neighbors in need.

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.

# 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

### **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 11/20 and 12/18.

### **Get Involved**

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

## Puffins

### Welcome Back, Puffins!

The Puffin Classroom re-opened on October 20th with ten Puffins enrolled. Even more have joined the classroom since. Thank you to the community supporters and the childcare staff who made re-opening this room possible.

#### *November 3-7 ~ Colors*

The Puffins will learn about the many colors that make up our world. We will identify the colors in our classroom and discuss which colors are our favorites. We will also spend a lot of time in the art area mixing colors to create new ones. Also, look for some wonderful masterpieces as the children paint with their favorite colors.

#### *November 10-14 ~ Big and Little*

This week the Puffins will explore things that are big and little. We will identify whose hand is bigger and whose is smaller and discuss other big and little comparisons. Be sure to look for a beautiful masterpiece of your child's hand by the end of the week.

#### *November 17-21 ~ Family*

The Puffins will learn why family is important. We will learn what makes a family, who is in our family and what roles we play. Feel free to bring in family pictures this week, as we will be sharing many family stories.

#### *November 24-28 ~ Thanksgiving*

This week the Puffins will reflect on what we are thankful for as we prepare for the Thanksgiving holiday. We will talk about all the things we are thankful for and why each is important to us. Keep a look out for some silly turkey fun as well!

## Seahorses

Please stop in and meet the new Seahorse Aide, Melissa Chambers. Melissa has two children who go to MCUM. We are excited to add Melissa to our staff!

#### *November 3-7 ~ Teddy Bears*

This week the Seahorses will enjoy one of their favorite things: teddy bears! We will read books about the Berenstain Bears, Corduroy, and Winnie the Pooh. We will have a teddy bear count all week involving counting, weighing, and sorting by colors. At the end of the week the Seahorses will have a teddy bear slumber party!

#### *November 10-14 ~ Feelings*

This week the Seahorses will be talking about feelings. What makes us happy, sad, and excited? We will be learning how to sign these feelings, how to act out feelings and how to sing about them. The Seahorses will be writing our own stories to share with the class.

#### *November 17-21 ~ Nutrition*

As we approach the holiday of feasting we will be studying nutrition. What are healthy foods to eat? What are unhealthy foods to eat and why? How much milk, meat, fruits, vegetables and grain should we eat each day? At the end of the week the Seahorses will taste sweet and sour items.

#### *November 24-28 ~ Thankfulness*

This week the Seahorses will be talking about what makes us thankful. We will be reading *Clifford's First Thanksgiving*, *Ten Fat Turkey's*, and *Thanksgiving Mice*. Come in and see the Seahorses' thankful turkeys! We will also try to make some butter and our famous pumpkin pie play dough!

Parents, please feel free to join us at anytime. Your child will love it and so will you!

---

# Penguins

*November 3-7 ~ The Dentist*

What better time to learn about the dentist than after eating all that candy from Halloween! We will learn that although going to the dentist can be scary, it keeps our teeth healthy. We will learn the right way to brush our teeth and how often we should do so. We will work on brushing by brushing the giant teeth and learning the Raffi song "Brush your Teeth."

*November 10-14 ~ Friends*

We will spend this week reflecting on friendships with each other. We will learn why friendships are necessary and good to have. We will also learn that you can make new friends and still keep your old friends. The children will have the opportunity to tell us about their closest friends and why they are special.



*November 17-21 ~ Family*

Last week we learned why friends are important to us. This week we will learn why family is important. We will learn what makes a family, who is in our family and what roles we play. We will bring in pictures of our family for our family tree activity. At the end of the week we will learn that while families might be different they are extremely important in our lives.

*November 24-28 ~ Thanksgiving & Turkey*

It's that time of the year when we reflect on what we are thankful for. This week we will be learning about Thanksgiving and turkey. We will learn why turkey is considered a Thanksgiving tradition and how Thanksgiving came about. Keep a look out as we tell you what we are thankful for!

# Otters

*November 3-7 ~ Children All Around the World*

This week we will take a trip around the world as we learn about children from other countries. As we learn about the different ways that children from other cultures live, we will also come to realize that in many ways we are all alike. We will take this opportunity to celebrate our classmates of different heritages and hopefully entice some of our parents to come in and share their traditions with us.

*November 10-14 ~ Early Settlers*

Now the Otters will spend time learning about our country and its earliest inhabitants. We will begin with the Pilgrims and then talk about the settlers who moved west through this country and helped to develop it. We will learn what hardships these early Americans had to endure and how they made without the things that we take for granted. The Otters are surely going to find it hard to believe that once upon a time there were no lights, cars or computer games!

*November 17-21 ~ Native Americans*

This week we will focus on the Native Americans. We will discover that the Native Americans were here before other people and they taught the early settlers how to survive. We will spend the week learning about their life and customs and how their traditions have had an impact on our lives. You will also find us in the art area creating early Native American art work and costumes.

*November 24-28 ~ Thanksgiving*

Now it is time to take into consideration all that we have learned this month and to celebrate Thanksgiving. The Otters will spend time being thankful for what we have as we express our thankfulness through pictures and stories.

# Dolphins

*November 3-7 ~ Election Week*

This week, as grown-ups all over America vote for a new president, the Dolphin class will hold an election of our own! We will talk about many things this week, including our nation's capital, Washington DC, the White House and the role of the President of the United States. We will also learn some fun facts about a few of our greatest presidents including George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Abraham Lincoln.

*November 10-14 ~ Community Helpers*

This week the Dolphins will be learning all about people in our community and the roles that they play. We will discuss crossing guards, policemen, firemen, doctors, nurses, teachers, bus drivers, and more. In addition, we will also discuss how to be safe around our community and who can help us be safe.

*November 17-21 ~ Being Thankful*

What are you thankful for? This week the Dolphins will discover and discuss what we are thankful for in our lives. We will have a discussion about the first Thanksgiving and why it was so special. We will learn fun songs and games about Thanksgiving, in addition to lots of turkey art projects. Gobble, gobble!



*November 24-28 ~ Families*

This week the Dolphins will talk about what makes a family. We will discuss our own families, and make a family tree for each student. We will graph how many siblings everyone has as a fun math experiment. We will also talk about families all over the world and the wonderful diversity of families in America.

## Monroe County United Ministries

827 West 14th Court  
Bloomington, Indiana 47404  
Phone (812) 339-3429  
Fax (812) 339-2912  
mcum@bloomington.in.us  
www.bloomington.in.us/~mcum

Non-Profit Organization  
US Postage Paid  
Bloomington, IN 47404  
Permit #186

### Inside this issue:



**Spotlight  
on the UU  
Church**  
Page 1

**Agency  
Needs**  
Page 2

**Spotlight on  
a Planned  
Giver**  
Page 3

**Saturday  
Volunteers  
Needed**  
Page 4

**Calling All  
Alums!**  
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. You can support Opp House by donating your gently used household items and clothing, shopping for bargains, or volunteering at the store. 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*

Our volunteer luncheon was wonderful. I want to thank MCUM for our surprise: Mayor Kruzan presenting Opportunity House a plaque honoring our service to Bloomington for 40 years. One of our founders, Sally Cook, was present and we were so happy to see her. Sally, along with Betty Applegate and Hazel Smith helped to start Opp House in 1968.

We have already started selling X-mas items. It is a little early but we need to keep up with the "Big Stores" so come on out and check out our merchandise.