

Working Together

The Newsletter of Monroe County United Ministries

October 2008

Free Planned Giving Workshop

Interested in learning more about how your will or trust can benefit the community? Reserve your spot today!

On Tuesday, October 14, 8:00-9:30am, a free workshop on planned giving will be held in the ballroom of the Fountain Square Mall in downtown Bloomington. This event is sponsored by the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County and will include

information presented by attorneys, financial planners and planned givers. All ages and income levels are welcome. This workshop will provide you with information on how planned giving can benefit your estate, while helping your community. You may be surprised to learn how even a modest estate can benefit organizations like MCUM. This event is free, includes breakfast, and *there is no obligation*. The foundation simply wants to provide information about the possibilities available to you. To secure a spot in this workshop or for more information, call the foundation at (812) 333-9016 or email Pete Rhoda, Development Director, at pete@cfbmc.org.

Spring Luncheon

MCUM's 5th annual Spring Luncheon and Silent Auction is scheduled for **March 29, 2009**. Mark your calendars and think about how you would like to get involved. Do you have an interesting item to donate to the auction? Are you willing to sell tickets to members of your congregation or club? Would you like to serve on the organizing committee? Contact Rebecca Stanze at 339-3429 or mcumfund@bloomington.in.us.

Paper Bags Needed!

The Emergency Food Pantry distributes food to hundreds of Monroe County residents each month and packs that food in paper grocery bags. At this time, we are running very low on those bags! If you are willing to share your stash of bags or can host a paper bag drive at your workplace or within your club, we would appreciate your help. Bags can be donated anywhere MCUM food is collected or dropped off at the pantry at 827 W. 14th Court.

On Your Mark... Get Set... Walk!

CROP Walk

The 2008 CROP Walk to benefit local, national and international hunger relief organizations will be held on October 19, 2008. It is not too late to form a team or plan to walk on your own. Visit www.churchworldservice.org/CROP/ for more information.

Homeward Bound Walk

The next Homeward Bound Walk will be held on April 19, 2009. Add this date to your calendar and start thinking ahead about how you will recruit your team of walkers. This walk benefits local agencies serving homeless individuals and families or working to prevent homelessness. For more information, visit <http://bloomington.in.gov/cfrd>.

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 1 & 2
- baby wipes
- laundry soap

Food Pantry Needs

MCUM's Emergency Food Pantry has already distributed enough food to make 27,027 meals. Items currently needed in the pantry include:

- rice, 1 or 2 pound bags
- dry beans
- cooking oil
- baking mixes (Bisquick, Jiffy Mix, etc.)
- fruit cocktail
- soup
- mixed canned vegetables
- paper grocery bags

Childcare Needs

The children in our program are always busy with new projects and learning new skills. They need your help to have enough supplies and equipment, including:

- measuring cups and spoons
- glue sticks
- AA batteries
- crayons
- fabric paint in fall colors
- 12 quart plastic storage containers w/lids

Volunteer Opportunities

We love volunteers! 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

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 pick ups 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 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.

Men as Early Childhood Educators

by Emily Gorenz, SPEA Service Corps Fellow

Throughout the run-up to Election Day, there has been plenty of press about women who have broken into the traditionally male dominated arena of presidential politics. What has been less visible these days is a glimpse into the world of men working in largely female dominated fields—specifically, education.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, men comprise just over 15% of elementary teachers and less than 2% of pre-k and kindergarten teachers. This disparity can be attributed to a number of factors including low pay, gender stereotypes, and isolation or even discrimination in the workplace.

Despite these obstacles, there are many wonderful men working in education—two of whom brighten the classrooms at MCUM. Scott Smith teaches in all four classrooms and works with children ranging from age two to kindergarten. He earned his Masters in Elementary Education and has been working in education for twenty years. He does not find his job any more difficult as a man and considers himself lucky to work with “the best and brightest” at MCUM.

Smith attributes the scarcity of men in early childhood to one main factor: money. “With all of the great reasons to work in this field, also comes the stark reality that one cannot reasonably provide for one’s family on an early childhood salary... I think this can also be said for women as well. But in our society, men are still mostly viewed... as the ‘breadwinner.’ Eventually the need for a higher paying job becomes necessary and relevant.” Although MCUM pays its teachers a competitive wage, early childhood educators as a whole still fall on the low end of the professional pay spectrum.

Brock Singleton is a teacher’s aide for the four and five year olds. Like Smith, he doesn’t feel that being a man makes his job more difficult. He finds his work “very rewarding” but acknowledges that “when people think of pre-school teachers they think of women teaching, so most men won’t even think about teaching children this young.”

Although there are few men working in early childhood, Smith offered this bit of wisdom on the subject: “Whether or not you are a man or woman,” he says “the only thing that matters is if you have the passion, talent and high emotional intelligence to work with children and be a positive role model in their lives.”

We would like to thank...

- the folks at Sherwood Oaks Christian Church and the other volunteers who helped to spread new rubber mulch on our playgrounds.
- the volunteers at St. Mark’s Church who assemble shoe box gifts for children of families in need of basic needs assistance. Their faces light up when presented with a box of surprises especially for them.
- the members of the Parent Involvement Committee for planning the family picnic
- Erika Edens for volunteering at MCUM’s Scholastic Book Fair.
- Patty and Tony Pizzo for their years of support and hard work.
- Eric Vosburgh for his support of our cell phone collection efforts.
- the members of the Fairview United Methodist Church for their decades of support for MCUM’s programs.

Give Generously to the United Way Campaign



When you donate to the United Way of Monroe County, you are helping to create opportunities for people. With your support, United Way can invest in its 26 certified member agencies, including MCUM, that help local residents make lasting improvements in their lives.

Take Action.
Create Opportunity.
Live United.

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.

Planned Giving for Tomorrow

By Katie Oreskovich, SPEA Service Corps Fellow

At Monroe County United Ministries, we do our best to meet the needs we see in our community. The economy may fluctuate and new laws may pass, but we hope to have enough security to weather any storms that may come our way. For example, as you may already know, in response to an increase in demand for our Emergency Services Program, we added a second caseworker to our staff in 2006. We were able to meet this growing demand because of your continuous support. In addition to annual donations, planned gifts (gifts made through a will trust or other estate plan) are a sustaining resource which gives us the long-term security and opportunity to meet unforeseeable needs as they arise and to continue our programs for as long as they are needed by our community.

Please contact your attorney or financial advisor today to discuss your gifting options which could include making a bequest, offering gifts of stocks or savings bonds, or naming MCUM as a beneficiary of your life insurance or retirement plan. You can leave a legacy that allows us to adapt and change our programs as necessary to better serve our neighbors in need today and in the future, whatever it may hold.

For more information on planned giving and how you can help, please contact Rebecca Stanze or Meri Reinhold today at (812) 339-3429.

Lead Testing Toys Reveals Few Problems

Thanks to a grant from the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County's Precision Health Fund and the support of Bloomington Hospital, MCUM was recently able to test many of the toys and pieces of furniture in the childcare classrooms for lead. Of all the things tested,



just a few small items had to be removed due to positive results. Because many of our classroom items are donated by generous community members, our toys and furniture come from a wide variety of sources and are of varying ages, making this testing all the more important. We appreciate the assistance we received from Sheila Evans of Bloomington Hospital, shown here testing toys, who made this effort possible.

Dolphin Art Tells a Story

The Dolphin Classroom (5-6 year olds) recently spent some time drawing pictures and dictating the story of their scene to their teachers. These are just a few examples of the Dolphins' creative talent.



This is a 'glatter.' It swims in the ocean. He walks on the ocean floor also. He likes to walk in the sand. He has a whole bunch of legs so he can walk really fast.

~ Mackenzie

SpongeBob and my family are at a picnic table outside. I love SpongeBob - he is really funny.

~ Abigail



This is a queen. She likes pickles and corn. She likes to play in her castle. She is the nicest queen and has three kids.

~ Destinee

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.

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 for details.

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!

Childcare Classroom Calendars

Staff

Childcare Director:

Traci Mehay

Education Coordinator:

Tina Pender

Administrative Assistant:

Sharon McDaniel

Cook:

Cynthia Powers

Assistant Cook:

Derrick Mackie

Puffins: Classroom Closed

Seahorses: 2 - 3 year-olds

Teacher: Marycarole Matlock

Aide: Heather Friend

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

Classroom Assistants:

Rachel Chandler

Whitney Cullnane

Anna Donley

Josie Frankin

Jessica Eads

Keary Houchin

Stephanie Killmer

Kristin McNeely

Jordan Mooney

Staci Radford-Vincent

Scott Smith

Joy True

For Parents Seahorses

Mark Your Calendars!

Flu shots will be available at no cost to enrolled children and their families on October 7 and 14, 3-5:15. All participants must sign up in advance. Please see Traci to sign up or with any questions.

Free lead testing will be available for enrolled children on October 16 and 17, 3-5:15. Please see Traci for a spot on the schedule.

WorkOne Resources

Rose, a representative from WorkOne, is available at MCUM one Thursday afternoon a month to discuss job-related issues. Chat with her about training opportunities, your resume or looking for a new position. Rose will be available on 10/16, 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.

Visit with us

Family members, please remember that visitors are always welcome in our classrooms!

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who supported MCUM's recent Scholastic Book Fair. We sold enough books to receive \$408 in free books for our library.

September 29-October 3 ~ Fire Prevention

This week the Seahorses will talk about fire prevention and safety. We will count fire trucks, see how long the fire hose is and read about firemen. We will make fire hats and ring the bell outside!

October 6-10 ~ Autumn

This week the Seahorses will talk about autumn. We will take walks outside and collect leaves. We will paint our leaves, do leaf rubbings and talk about how leaves change color.

October 13-17 ~ Eric Carle

This week the Seahorses will read books by one of our favorite authors, Eric Carle. We will read *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, *The Grouchy Ladybug*, and many more. We will make bug books and our own caterpillars.

October 20-24 ~ Clifford

Now the Seahorses will talk about one of our favorite dogs: Clifford! We will make 3-D Cliffords to hang from our ceilings and eat people "puppy chow." At the end of the week we will have a pajama party during school hours. Come in, join the fun and take a doggie bag home with you!

October 27-31 ~ Imaginations

This week the Seahorses will be talking about imagination. At the end of the week the Seahorses will have a Halloween celebration and go trick or treating in the building.

Parents, please feel free to come in and join our group anytime. If you wish to eat with us please, tell us in advance so that we may add you to our lunch count. Please check both the green folders and red notebooks daily. Emily Walden (a former MCUM student) will be joining us for the next couple of months as a practicum student.

Penguins

September 29-October 3 – Counting

This week the Penguins will begin learning how to count. We will learn a finger play song about counting and sing silly songs. We will also make a number train to take home!

October 6-10 – Bernstein Bears

This week the Penguins are going on a bear hunt with the Bernstein bears. We will meet and learn all about each bear. As we continue the bear hunt we will learn how to get along with our classmates, how to be polite and how to treat our friends. We'll finish the week with a bear hunt celebration.

October 13-17 – Pumpkins

This week the Penguins will learn about pumpkins. We will find out where pumpkins grow. We will make pumpkin play dough and try growing our very own pumpkin. We will also carve a pumpkin into a jack-o-lantern to display outside our classroom.

October 20-24 – Ooey Gooney

It's ooey-gooney time in the Penguin room! We will spend this week getting our hands into everything: baking soda and vinegar, flubber, mud, play dough and, yes, gak! We will experiment with water and shaving cream and discover what happens when we mix shaving cream and food coloring. This week is going to be filled with fun and gooey things so be sure to dress your Penguin in old clothes.

October 27-31 – Halloween

Ghosts, and witches and spiders, oh my! This week the Penguins will celebrate Halloween. We will decorate our class with festive Halloween decorations, tell ghost stories, and make fun art projects to take home. On Friday we will have our annual Halloween celebration, so don't forget your costume!

Otters

September 29-October 3 – Apples

It is apple season and the Otters are going to spend the week discovering wonderful things about apples. The children will find apples in the art area as they make apple prints, in the science area as we examine the seeds and in the reading centers as we read *Ten Apples Up On Top*.

October 6-10 – Autumn

We can now feel a slight chill in the air and hear the sound of leaves crunching under our feet as we enjoy the autumn days. The Otters will discuss changes in the clothing we need and the changes in the world around us as we prepare for winter. We will venture out on walks around the neighborhood to see the transformation that is taking place.

October 13-17 – Trees & Leaves

The Otters will be busy looking for signs of autumn, including the changing leaves. The children will find beautiful red, yellow and orange leaves as we take walks around the neighborhood. Parents should look for wonderful nature creations such as leaf rubbings and waxed paper leaves.

October 20-24 – Pumpkins

October is the time of year to enjoy one of our favorite autumn fruits: pumpkins! We will spend time talking about this fruit and the wonderful treats we can make with it. We will even make jack-o-lanterns of our own!

October 27-31 – Autumn Celebrations

Summer is over and winter has yet to blow its cold winds, so it's time to celebrate! While there are many traditional autumn celebrations we will focus mainly on the most famous one, Halloween. The children will dress-up, trick-or-treat around the building and have a little party on Friday. It's sure to be a fun week in the Otter room!

Dolphins

September 29-October 3 – Health & Safety

At work or play, the Dolphins will learn why health and safety is always important. We will learn why safety rules are essential and who our community's safety providers are. We look forward to a visit from Van Buren Fire Chief, Tim Deckard, who will tell us all about fire safety!

October 6-10 – Food & Nutrition

This week the Dolphins will learn about nutritious food and the importance of eating healthily. We will discuss the food pyramid and categorize different types of food. We will look forward to a trip to Greek's Pizzeria, where we will watch how pizza is made and also make our own pizza!

October 13-17 – The Five Senses

This week the Dolphins will be learning all about the five senses. We will do a taste testing and a "touch tunnel" which will give the children a sense of what it is like to be visually impaired, or blind. We will also learn about deaf culture and sign language.

October 20-24 – The Human Body

This week the Dolphins will learn about how the body works. We will be working on a "Human Body Project" where the children partner up, trace the outline of each others' bodies, and then each day we will learn about and add something new (bones, heart, brain, etc.) to our bodies.

October 27-31 – Halloween & Pumpkins

Goblins, ghouls, and witches...oh my! Between spooky stories, pumpkin carvings, and costume contests, the Dolphins will be learning all about the history of Halloween. You may dress your child in a costume on Halloween, but please keep the weather in mind—if it is chilly, don't forget a jacket! Closed toed shoes with straps are still required.

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:



**Upcoming
Events**
Page 1

**Agency
Needs**
Page 2

**Men as
Educators**
Page 3

**Lead
Testing**
Page 4

**Cell Phone
Collection**
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

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. Currently store hours are 9:00-2:00, Monday-Saturday. Donations are accepted 8:30-3:00, Monday-Saturday. Opp House is not able to accept appliances or large pieces of furniture. Call 336-2443 for more information.

Opportunity House Update

by Janet Donham, Opportunity House Board President

Now that we have cooler weather, our customers are buying clothing for fall and winter. We are putting out lighter weight coats now and soon our heavier coats will be available. We have a beautiful cello to sell so if you know of any musicians needing a replacement or just starting lessons please let us show you the instrument and case for \$600.00. Help! We need blankets, sheets, towels and washcloths. If you have some extras please bring items to Opp House Monday thru Saturday from 8:30am to 3:00pm.

Please recycle this newsletter or share it with a friend.