

Working Together

The Newsletter of Monroe County United Ministries

May 2009



Spring Into Action!

MCUM's fifth annual *Spring Into Action!* luncheon and silent auction had more than 250 supporters in attendance and raised \$14,000 to fund affordable childcare and basic needs assistance to those in crisis. Thank you to everyone who attended, bid, spoke, participated or otherwise helped to make this event a success!



Mark Your Calendar for a Birthday Party in the Park!

On Sunday, June 7, the City of Bloomington will help both MCUM and Stone Belt celebrate important birthdays. This year MCUM turns 70 and Stone Belt is 50 years old!

We invite you to pack a picnic lunch and join us at Bryan Park for cake and all kinds of fun at the park shelter off South Henderson. The party starts at 1:00 and will wrap up around 3:00.

Bring your friends and neighbors! This party is a great way to learn more about MCUM and Stone Belt and we hope to see lots of new faces, as well as familiar ones, at the event.

Then and Now: Emily Walden

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

This month's alum, Emily Walden, is both a MCUM alum and current employee at the childcare center. Emily attended MCUM's childcare program from 1991-1995. She remembers current teachers Mary Ellen and Marycarole as especially patient and loving caregivers.



Then and Now continued on page 3

Cleaning Closet Needs

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

- dish soap
- laundry soap
- pull up diapers, sizes 2-T

Childcare Needs

The growing season is here and we need supplies to use in our greenhouse in addition to our classrooms! Items currently needed include:

- bags of potting soil
- seeds and seedlings
- Crayola washable markers
- unscented shaving cream
- shoe-box sized plastic storage containers with lids

Special Request: We need one pound coffee cans for our August Each One, Feed One Food Drive. One pound plastic coffee containers are also welcome.

Food Pantry Needs

Our pantry welcomes donations of all non-perishable foods. At this time, we have a special need for:

- pancake mix and syrup
- crackers
- peanut butter
- canned broth and soups
- canned mixed veggies, carrots and Mandarin oranges
- coffee (regular, please)

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

File Assistant: The Emergency Services Program is adopting a new filing system that will save us space and effort in the long term. To get it set up, we need the help of volunteers to help convert an estimated 3,600 files to the new system. Once you are trained, you can set your own schedule during our office hours of 8am-4pm on weekdays.

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.

Each One, Feed One Food Drive

Committee: Help our August food drive to be a success by serving on the organizing committee and preparing for the drive. The committee meets on the third Thursday of the month at 9am. Contact Meri at mcum@bloomington.in.us or 339-3429.

Then and Now: Emily Walden

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Emily's favorite childhood memory of MCUM is riding and racing the little bicycles around the playground and circle drive.

Ms. Walden currently resides in Bloomington with her mother and niece (who is enrolled in the Penguin Classroom of the Childcare Program). In addition to working at MCUM, Emily is also a student at Ivy Tech where she is studying Early Childhood Education. Her other interests include cheerleading, cooking, and crafts. Emily describes MCUM as "a great program for my family and other families that need a little assistance."

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.

Outlook of the Otters

Inspired by spring, the Otter Class recently discussed the different items that are required to grow people and flowers.

What do flowers need to grow?

| | | |
|---------------|------|-------|
| mulch | dirt | seeds |
| mud | sun | soil |
| lots of water | rain | |



What do people need to grow?

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| food (cake and cereal) | shots and doctors |
| drinks (water and chocolate milk) | sleep |

As four year olds, the Otters are curious about a lot of subjects, not just growing flowers and people. The Otters spend their days learning, exploring, thinking and trying. Recently they made a list of the wide range of things that they are curious about, including:

- monsters and ghosts - Eli
- construction equipment - Trent
- what that brown cereal with the raisins at Daddy's is called - Devin
- what my mom is doing all day - Tristan
- my cat - Hannah
- when my daddy is going to take me to the zoo - Kennedy

Thank you!

We would like to thank...

- Jim Crabb, Jim Connors and Dave Brinegar from Carpenter's Local #1664 for their help during our recent carpet replacement project.
- Kyle Bures for the endless energy he gave to that same project.
- the First United Methodist Church Youth for collecting crayons, markers, glue and other useful supplies as their Sabbath project.
- all who participated in April's Scholastic Book Fair by purchasing and donating books. We exceeded our goal of 25 donated books by the second day of the book fair!
- Congregation Beth Shalom for collecting and donating 324 pounds of food so far this year.
- United Way of Monroe County, Monroe Bank and Transitional Services Inc. for their efforts to make MCUM's Day of Action projects successful.

Clip Labels and Boxtops

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!

Sponsor a Swimmer

MCUM is located right next to Mills Pool and each summer our enrolled children enjoy regular visits to the pool. However, the additional fee associated with accessing the pool sometimes presents a challenge for parents. Sponsorships from donors can make it easier for kids to swim and splash all summer. \$20 sponsors a preschooler to visit the pool a few times a week and \$42 sponsors a summer camper for daily visits, weather permitting. If you would like to sponsor a swimmer, donations of any amount are welcome. Just make sure to note "swim program" on your donation.

IDEM Grant Purchases Carpet and Playground Equipment

A grant from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) recently helped MCUM to purchase new carpeting for our administrative offices, emergency services offices and one of the rooms used by our Summer Camp Program. This grant also funded the purchase of a toddler size picnic table and two outdoor art easels that will become permanent fixtures on our playgrounds. While we think new carpet and playground equipment are great, you might wonder why IDEM would be interested in these subjects. The answer is that all of the items we purchased contain recycled plastics.

You probably recognize the recycling logo shown here. But have you ever really thought about what the loop represents? The recycling loop can only be completed when we purchase items made from the cans, bottles and paper in our recycling bins. For example, at MCUM we try to reuse and then recycle our paper. Then we purchase paper with recycled content to print this newsletter, which we hope you recycle after a thorough reading. We also recycle plastic, among many other things, and we like the idea of our recycled bottles returning to our program to benefit the children on our playgrounds. If you are interested in "closing the loop," you can look for or request information about a product's recycled content when you are considering a purchase, as well as noting an item's recyclability. If you are interested in learning more about recycling and other environmental issues, please visit www.state.in.us/idem/.



Spring Art

Spring brings daffodils, rain, and the inspiration for lots of art in the childcare classrooms. If you would like to see our "galleries" in person and learn more about the children we serve, please call to arrange a tour.



Feed Our Hungry Summer Campers

MCUM's Summer Camp starts June 1, which means that our kitchen will suddenly need to serve breakfast, lunch and two snacks to 40 school aged children, in addition to the 95 preschoolers already enrolled. If you are interested in supporting this program through donations of food, please deliver items directly to the Childcare Center, Monday-Friday, 6:30-5:30 or make sure they are marked "for childcare" to ensure donations get to the right place. Commercial sizes are most welcome, including size 10 cans, 25 pounds of baking staples, etc. Needed items include:

| | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| oatmeal | granola/cereal bars | graham crackers |
| all-purpose flour | grape jelly or jam | canned veggies |
| yellow cornmeal | elbow macaroni | canned fruit in light syrup |
| granulated sugar | wide egg noodles | cold cereal, including: |
| brown sugar | water packed tuna | Chex, all varieties |
| powdered sugar | mayonnaise | honey-nut O's |
| canola oil | salad dressing | corn flakes |
| honey | ketchup | bran flakes |
| creamy peanut butter | animal crackers | raisin bran |

Planned Giving: Gifting from Your Retirement Plan

by Katie Oreskovich, SPEA Service Corps Fellow

Did you know that by leaving your retirement plan assets to MCUM, you can avoid certain estate and income taxes on the residual of your retirement account? By choosing MCUM as a beneficiary, 100% of your directed assets would benefit the organization. You can also continue to take withdrawals from the account during your lifetime. Should your circumstances change, you can change your beneficiary on the plan. Through gifting of a retirement plan, more of YOUR money goes where YOU want it.

You may decide to name MCUM as a beneficiary for all or part of your IRA, TIAA-CREF, 401K or any other qualified plan. Also, MCUM may be listed as an alternative or contingent beneficiary. This allows your assets to be transferred to MCUM should your primary beneficiary pass away before your estate is distributed. As another option, you can leave your retirement assets to MCUM through your will or trust.

Through planned giving, you can help provide assistance for those who need affordable, quality early childhood education and provide for the basic needs of those in crisis. For more information about how your planned gift can make a difference to MCUM, please contact Rebecca Stanze or Meri Reinhold today 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.

Veggies Needed!

Your garden is just getting started, but soon you will have an abundance of produce. Too much zucchini? Too many tomatoes? Are you drowning in green beans? Another fun way to support MCUM's Childcare Program is to donate fresh fruits and vegetables from your garden.

Drop off your extra produce at MCUM's Childcare Building (open 6:30am -5:30pm, Monday-Friday) and your donation could be nourishing young bodies the next day.

Childcare Classroom Calendars

Staff

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

Puffins: 2 - 2.6 year olds

Teacher: Heather Friend
Aide: LaDawn Joyner
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 5/7 in the Parent Resource Room.

Graduation

Our graduation program will be held at Tri-North Middle School on Friday, May 15th at 6:30pm. Refreshments will be served after the program.

Puffins

May 4-8 – Bubbles!

This week the Puffins will explore the many shapes you can make with bubbles. Hearts, triangles, and squares are among the many bubble shapes we will make this week. We will even have a bubble party outside on Friday and each child will be able to share the different types of bubbles he or she makes.

May 11-15 – Nursery Rhymes

This week the Puffins will explore nursery rhymes. We will learn about Humpty Dumpty, The Cat in the Fiddle, and many other characters from nursery rhymes that have been around for generations. Be sure to ask your child share with you a favorite nursery rhyme this week.

May 18-22 – Outer Space

This week the Puffin Room will turn into outer space. We will make stars and explore the moon and the many planets that make up outer space. Be sure to stop by and see what we have explored and learned this week, as our imaginations wander to a fun-filled galaxy far and beyond.



May 25-29 – Ocean

This week the Puffins will learn about the many things that make up the ocean. We will explore plants, shells, and the many types of creatures that live in the ocean. We will play in the water table and pretend to be fish that live in the ocean. Be sure to stop by and join in on the fun!

Seahorses

May 4-8 – Gardens

It is that time again when we see the gardens growing up all around us so the Seahorses will be working in the greenhouse. Please feel free to donate any seeds, potting soil, or other garden materials. Also, feel free to come in and plant with us or just look at our worms. We will be making collages of flowers and plants. If you have any garden or flower magazines feel free to donate these as well.

May 11-15 – Ponds

In the Seahorse Room this week we will be looking at ponds and what we can find in them. We will gather up pond water and look at it under microscopes to see the pond creatures that you cannot see with just your eyes. The Seahorses will be creating their own ponds and playing lots of fishing games.



May 18-22 – Health & Safety

Do you know what keeps you healthy? Maybe you could ask a Seahorse as this is what we will be talking about this week. We will talk about safety when we are riding in a car, riding our bikes and crossing the street. In health, we will talk about good nutrition, brushing our teeth and taking baths.

May 25-29 – Kings, Queens, & Castles

This week we will be going back in time and using our imaginations. We will read all kinds of *Dragon Tales* and *Dora the Explorer* books. I hope we do not see any real dragons!

Parents please feel free to join us at any time. Also, please check your folders both up front and in the room.

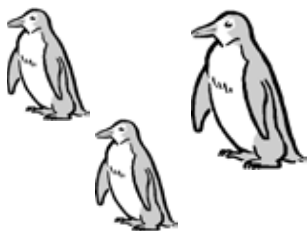
Penguins

May 4-8 – Our Families

This week the Penguins will focus on the importance of our families and family members. We will learn about different kinds of families from all around the world and explore their lives. We will talk about Mother's Day and make special gifts for our mommies.

May 11-15 – Pets

During the first week of May, the Penguins are going to celebrate National Pet Week (May 6-12). We will talk about different pets and the profound effect they can have on our lives. The Penguins will learn how to be responsible pet owners. We are going to set up our own little pet shop in our housekeeping area as well.



May 18-22 – Rain Forests

This week the Penguins will take a long walk into the colorful world of rainforests. We are going to talk about the benefits of rainforests, animals that live in them and taste some of the nutritious fruits that grow in rainforests. We will also learn what we can do to preserve our rainforests.

May 25-29 – Summer Is Coming

This week the Penguins are going to get ready for the continuous sunshine of summer. We will learn about the reasons that sunshine is good for us and also how to protect our bodies from excessive sun exposure. We will learn about fun activities we can do on hot summer days and decorate our halls with sunflowers.

Otters

May 4-8 – Mothers

This week the Otters will focus our attention on some of the most important people in the world, our mothers. We will discuss how mothers take care of us and our families, go to work, run errands, and sometimes even manage to have fun and take care of themselves. Mothers, look for a special surprise at the end of the week!

May 11-15 – Fun & Games

This week the Otters are going to spend a lot of time out in the sunshine as we enjoy a fun-filled week of games. We will dust off the bats and balls, soccer nets, kick balls, jump ropes and all of the other outdoor equipment as we prepare for summer fun. The Otters will learn many new games and spend time refreshing their memories on old favorites.

May 18-22 – Racing

It is nearly impossible to make it through the month of May in Indiana without thinking about racing. The Otters are going to focus on the big race coming up next week as we do some racing of our own. The children will do quite a bit of racing around the school as they engage in many different relay races, foot races and bike races.

May 25-29 – Water Fun

With summer just around the corner, this seems like a good time to play in the water. We will talk about all of the different types of water activities that people enjoy and find out which ones the children have actually tried. The Otters will spend a great deal of time outside splashing about as they play in the water table, have spray bottle fights and even hook up the hose for sprinkler fun.

Dolphins

May 4-8 – Cinco de Mayo

Viva la Mexico! This week we will be celebrating Cinco de Mayo. Cinco de Mayo is celebrated much like American Independence Day; however Cinco de Mayo is separate from the Mexican Independence Day. We will talk about the culture, food, music, and beverages unique to Mexico. We will close the week with a fabulous fiesta!

May 11-15 – Farm Animals

The Dolphins will learn about many different farm animals this week. We will learn farm songs, make farm animals out of clay and read books about the different types of animals. At the end of the week, the Dolphins will be able to identify and describe common farm animals. We will make a graph showing our favorite animals.

May 18-22 – Space

This week the Dolphins will be talking about outer space, the stars, moons, planets and what it would be like to travel into space. We will also talk about astronauts. The Dolphins will have a lot of fun looking at pictures of planets and learning their names.

May 25-29 – Memorial Day

In honor of Memorial Day, this will be a week of remembrance for the Dolphins. We will be making pictures and writing letters of appreciation to selected veterans and mailing them off. We will learn about the American flag: what it means, how it was created, and more.



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: Justin Smith
Office Manager: Shannon Hampton
Childcare Director: Traci Mehay
Education Coordinator: Tina Pender
Administrative Assistant: Jeannie Shaffer

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. 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

Friday, May 15 will be special. We invite all of you to join us for our Style Show for the Senior Expo, starting at 1:00pm at the Convention Center.

My wonderful volunteers will have a style show you won't be able to forget. Circle May 15 on your calendar and we will see you there. We will accept cash or checks if you can't live without buying something, or you would like to make a donation to Opp House.

Please recycle this newsletter or share it with a friend.