

Working Together

The Newsletter of Monroe County United Ministries

October 2009

“Each One, Feed One” Food Drive

Our “Each One, Feed One” community food drive, held at the end of August was a great success, thanks to the 201 volunteers who donated 766 hours of their time to collect 13,473 pounds of food, cleaning supplies and hygiene items and \$2,369 from generous shoppers. These totals are very similar to last year’s numbers, despite the recent economic downturn. Thank you to all the shoppers who donated items and the volunteers who donated their time! Special thanks also go to our event sponsors:



Then and Now: Tomi Allison

In celebration of MCUM’s 70th Anniversary, this monthly feature highlights the stories of those touched by MCUM’s Childcare Program over the years.

Tomilea “Tomi” Allison moved to Bloomington in the 1960’s and she soon learned about the volunteer opportunities at the Christian Center. Tomi spent a year or two tutoring middle school students as part of the center’s afterschool program and worked with Rev. Marvin Jones, the director of the time. This experience educated her about the issues faced by those who lived in MCUM’s neighborhood, which was often known as “the hill” or “Pigeon Hill.” Working with Rev. Jones, who was passionate about empowering people to make a difference, helped to inspire her to public service.

Tomi was soon involved in a variety of projects to benefit the center’s neighborhood and eventually decided to run for public office. She

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Create Opportunity Through United Way

When you donate to the United Way campaign, you are helping create opportunity for people in Monroe County. The entire community wins when children succeed, our neighbors are financially stable, and all families are strengthened. To create that opportunity, United Way focuses resources on the building blocks for a better life – education, earnings, and essentials. With your help, United Way can invest in 25 certified member agencies, including MCUM, and initiatives that help local residents make lasting improvements in their lives.

Take Action. Create Opportunity. Live United.



Childcare Needs

The Childcare Program currently has 93 children enrolled, which means the program needs lots of supplies! Items currently needed include:

- construction paper - all colors
- Crayola washable markers
- Crayola crayons
- glitter
- glue sticks
- liquid glue
- unscented shaving cream
- bingo dobbers

Office Needs

- Envelopes, printed or plain, are needed for internal office use. Envelopes with left-side windows are especially welcome.
- A laptop with wifi capacity that can run Windows 2007 would be welcome.

Food Pantry Needs

The demand for food assistance continues to grow. You can help by making a donation of non-perishable foods, including:

- carrots, greens, mixed veggies and potatoes
- desserts such as pudding and jello mixes
- canned meat such as chilli, chicken or beef

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 soap
- shampoo and conditioner
- bleach
- trash bags
- baby wipes

Volunteer Opportunities

For more information about these or other positions, contact Cliff Eden, (812)339-3429 or mcumhelp@bloomington.in.us, unless another name is provided.

Featured Volunteer Position

Spring Luncheon Committee Members: Do you love to plan parties? Do you want to help raise funds for MCUM programs? Join the planning committee for the annual Spring Luncheon! Contact Rebecca at mcumfund@bloomington.in.us or 339-3429.

Food Bank Shoppers: One or two volunteers are needed to help our childcare kitchen staff shop at the Hoosier Hills Food Bank. Volunteers must be able to lift 50 pounds and be available to shop with staff one to two days a week, Mon -Thurs. 9:30-10:30.

Landscape Tamer: Our huge forsythia bushes are overrun by vines and saplings. We are seeking an intrepid individual who can get things under control. Landscaping experience welcome. Tools provided, if needed. Contact Meri at mcum@bloomington.in.us or 339-3429.

Labels and Box Top Coordinator: A volunteer is needed to help us to maximize the money and classroom supplies we can claim by submitting labels and box tops clipped by community members. Work at the office or at home.

Pantry Assistants: Volunteers are always needed to sort food donations and bag groceries in the Emergency Food Pantry. Set your own schedule during office hours, once you are trained. Light lifting required.

Then and Now: Tomi Allison

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spent five years on the Bloomington City Council and twelve years as mayor. Tomi was determined to “help people help themselves” and her commitment is still felt in the community through projects that provided quality housing, encouraged self-sufficiency and promoted opportunities for people of all backgrounds to run for office.

In the final month of her final term as mayor, Sally Cook encouraged her to volunteer at Opportunity House, the resale shop on West 11th Street that supports MCUM. Since 1996, Tomi has been a weekly volunteer, currently serving as a cashier and organizing the greeting cards. Feel free to stop by Opp House and thank Tomi for her service to MCUM and the community!

Bloomington Mayor Tomi Allison swears in Nicky Steury as MCUM classroom president in the early 1990's. Nicky was elected as part of a presentation about the election process, the importance of voter participation and the role of the local government. Nicky's primary campaign promise was a class trip to the Waffle House.



Planned Giving: Making an Impact

by Katie Loudin, SPEA Service Corps Fellow

A recent discussion with former president of MCUM's Board of Directors, Florence Nebergall, brought to light a poignant story about the importance of planned giving and the impact a planned gift can have. In the early 1960s, MCUM was experiencing financial difficulties and needed funds to secure a new executive director. In an extraordinary turn of events, a bequest of \$7,000 arrived unexpectedly, precisely when it was needed most. This bequest allowed MCUM to maintain programming and hire a new director, Marvin Jones. Because of one donor's commitment to the organization, MCUM was able to continue operations, garner support from the community, and now in 2009, celebrate 70 years of service to Monroe County residents!

A planned gift, regardless of size, can have a significant impact on this organization. To learn more about how easy it is to make a bequest, or if you would like to explore other options for making a planned gift to MCUM, please visit www.mcum.org, call Rebecca Stanze or Meri Reinhold at (812) 339-3429 or write to mcumfund@bloomington.in.us.

To learn more about this story and Florence Nebergall, check out the "Then and Now" article in next month's newsletter!

Thank you!

We would like to thank...

- Sheila Evans for attending the Childcare Program's Open House to perform lead tests on toys parents brought from home.
- Fern Stout for sharing her tomato harvest with the Childcare Program.
- Ed McClellan for his hard work in the food pantry.
- the members of the Unitarian Universalist Church for collecting 1,554 pounds of food for MCUM's pantry so far this year.
- the volunteers on the Spring Luncheon Organizing Committee: Emily Gorenz, Jennifer Larson, Kathleen Plucker, John Rucker, Penni Sims and Carl Ziegler.
- all the generous shoppers who donated food, cleaning supplies or hygiene items during the "Each One, Feed One" dood drive.
- Brewster's Ice Cream and the Clear Creek Kroger for donating sweet treats to MCUM's recent Ice Cream Social.

Just the Facts

In 2008, the Emergency Services Program received
3,125 requests for assistance
from
1,074 households,
representing
11,862 people.

37%
of these households had never requested assistance from MCUM before.

New Cell Phone?

When you upgrade your cell phone, stop to consider how to responsibly dispose of your old one. Some “recycling” programs ship phones to developing countries where they put human lives and natural resources in danger. MCUM is paid per phone (\$0.50 - \$35) by a recycling/refurbishing company with zero landfill and no-export policies. In addition, your phone will raise money to fund our programs.

Phones can be donated at TIS Bookstore, Opportunity House, MCUM’s offices and anywhere MCUM items are collected.

Shop with MCUM in Mind

Thank you to our supportive shoppers who helped us earn money and supplies for our school in 2008! If you’d like to make a big difference for MCUM with your purchases, check out these great programs.

Target

Sign up for a Target Visa REDCard and each time you make a purchase Target will donate up to 1% of your total to MCUM. Just make sure to designate MCUM as your rewards recipient. You can enroll online or at your local Target store. Last year we received over \$242 from this program!

Marsh

Use your Fresh Idea card when you shop for groceries at Marsh and earn points for MCUM! All you have to do is go to www.marsh.net and register your card with our school (code 38244). Each time you use your card, points will automatically accumulate, which we will use to buy items from a catalog. Over the past year, your purchases at Marsh helped us get science kits, scissors, craft supplies, and alphabet bean bags.

Box Tops for Education

Just look for the Box Tops logo on hundreds of products. Clip the logos and save them up. Your collection can be mailed, dropped off at our offices or donated anywhere that food is collected for MCUM. Each logo you collect brings 10¢ to our programs - and they add up fast! Box Tops brands include: Betty Crocker, Kleenex, Nature Valley, Pillsbury, Avery office supplies, Hefty, Ziploc, Cottonelle, Huggies, and General Mills. We’ve earned \$738 over the past two years.

Campbell’s Labels for Education

Labels for Education are also found on a variety of brands, including Campbell’s, V8, Spaghetti’s, Prego, Swanson, and Pepperidge Farm. Just clip the logo and the UPC next to it and send it along with your box tops. Last year we redeemed our points for Spanish Bingo and Flashcards, a gardening kit, a cassette player, and colored pencils.

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.

Healthy Families Turn Off the TV

by Jennifer Larson, with help from www.healthandage.com and www.cmch.tv

Watching television can be a nice way to unwind from a long day's work or to escape harsh weather, but when not kept under control, the hours of sedentary, passive entertainment can contribute to detrimental habits and health issues.

Studies suggest that the more time an adult spends in front of a television, the more likely he or she is to become overweight or obese, due to increased calorie consumption and lack of sufficient exercise. Children are at risk too. The Center for Screen-time Awareness cites a study that showed that for preschool children (age 1 to 4), a child's risk of being overweight increases by 6% for every hour of TV watched per day, and the risk increases by another 31% for every hour watched if the child has a TV in his or her bedroom. Another study indicates that preschool children whose families watch television during mealtime consume fewer fruits and vegetables during dinner than those that did not watch television.

For better health, television watching should be limited. Alternatives can include reading a book, working on arts and crafts projects, having a family game night, going on a walk, gardening, playing word and number games (crosswords, sudoku, etc.).

Mark Your Calendars!

Spring Luncheon

MCUM's Spring Luncheon and Silent Auction will be held on Sunday, April 25, 2010, at the Bloomington-Monroe County Convention Center. Donations for the auction are welcome at any time.

CROP Walk

The Monroe County CROP Walk will launch from MCUM's campus on Sunday, October 18, 2009. Contact your congregation's walk coordinator or visit www.churchworldservice.org for more information.

Saturday Pantry Hours

MCUM's Emergency Food Pantry is usually only open to volunteers and donors Monday-Friday. But during the busy holiday season, there will be additional Saturday hours available for those who are seeking to volunteer or drop off donations. The pantry will be open 8am to noon on November 7, 14, and 21 and December 5, 12, and 19. Drop-ins are welcome, but please note that work for volunteers depends on donations during the previous week. Call Cliff at 339-3429 on the Friday before if you want to ensure there will be food to sort!

Clip Labels and Box Tops

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 and send them our way. These logos may be in unexpected places so keep your eyes open!

Matchstick Opportunity

The Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County's Matchstick Endowment Matching Initiative adds a dollar to every three dollars donated to MCUM's endowment, a fund held by the foundation, generating interest to support our programs for as long as they are needed. If you would like to help us reach our \$10,000 goal for 2009, donations should be sent directly to:

Community Foundation of
Bloomington and Monroe County
101 W. Kirkwood Ave. Suite 321
Bloomington, IN 47404

Don't forget to write
"MCUM" on the memo line!

Childcare Classroom Calendars

Staff

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

Puffins: 2 - 2.5 year olds

Teacher: Susan Williams
Aide: LaDawn Joyner
Aide: Laura Baker

Seahorses: 2.6 - 3 year olds

Teacher: Marycarole Matlock
Aide: Melissa Chambers

Penguins: 3 year olds

Teacher: Mary Ellen Pierce
Aide: Anna Donley

Otters: 4 year olds

Teacher: Jessica Smith
Aide: Traci Walters

Dolphins: 5 - 6 year olds

Teacher: Kim Clay
Aide: Brock Singleton

Announcements For Parents

Rose Johnson, a representative from WorkOne, is at MCUM one Thursday afternoon each month, 2:00-4:30 to answer your employment questions.

Parents are always welcome in the classrooms. If you would like to stay for a meal, just let the classroom staff know so that they can inform the kitchen.

Thank you to everyone who clips Box Tops for Education and Labels for Education. Such a little thing can make a big difference for your child's school.

Puffins

October 5-9 - Boats

This week the Puffins will row, row, row their boats gently down the stream. We will discuss many different types of boats and where they can be found. We will also discuss their purpose and sizes. We will talk about canoes, sailboats, tug boats and large ships.

October 12-16 - Clifford

The Puffins will read many stories about Clifford's adventures, including *Teacher's Pet*, *Clifford's Puppy Days*, and *Clifford's Kitten*. We will paint the Big Red Dog, discuss manners, friendship, and growing up. We will also throw Clifford a birthday party on Friday! Look for your child to bring home the delicious puppy chow we made in class.



October 19-23 - Dinosaurs

The Puffins will explore the wonderful world of dinosaurs this week. We will discuss what a dinosaur is and when it lived. We will talk about their size and shape, the different types, which ones ate meat and which ones ate plants. We will paint them using watercolors, make dinosaur footprints, and use fun dinosaur stickers.

October 26-30 - Halloween Fun

This week the Puffins will have lots of fun making ghosts out of shaving cream and flashlight shadows. We will make Halloween play dough cutouts and witches' brooms out of straw. Look for your child to bring home a fun Halloween collage. We will discuss how the Puffins will dress for Halloween, the importance of brushing your teeth and Trick-or-Treat safety.

Seahorses

October 5-9 - Disney

The Seahorses will visit with their favorite Disney characters this week. We will be counting the balloons as Winnie the Pooh flies off into the sky on a blustery day. We will explore space with Mickey Mouse and learn what our favorite vegetables are from Rabbit. At the end of the week we will have an un-birthday party for the entire Seahorse class!

October 12-16 - Nutrition

The Seahorses will learn what foods are healthy and what foods are considered "junk food" this week. We will make our own nutrition chart and graph what our favorite foods are. The Seahorses will read the book *Tops and Bottoms* this week. We will also talk about where our food comes from. We will do some experiments with milk and taste vegetables and fruits.

October 19-23 - Our World

Have you ever wondered what the world looks like from a two year old's perspective? Feel free to stop in and play with us as the Seahorses create their version of what they think the world looks like. What is their favorite part of what is around them? Where are their favorite places to go? We will be doing lots of graphing this week.

October 26-30 - Building

Now that they have explored their world around them, Seahorses will build what they would like their world to look like. We will construct building and play areas with play dough, cardboard boxes, blocks and construction paper. We will read about the three pigs, and building stick houses so that the Seahorses can see how the sticks will work together. Feel free to come in and build with us this week!

Penguins

October 5-9 - 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. Penguins 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 first hand the transformation taking place.

October 12-16 - Trees And Leaves

While the Penguins are busy looking for signs of autumn, the most obvious will surely be the changing leaves on the trees. The children will find beautiful red, yellow and orange leaves as we take walks around the neighborhood. Parents should also look for other wonderful nature creations such as leaf rubbings, waxed paper leaves, collages, etc.

October 19-23 - 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 look for pumpkins on display around us and will make a jack o' lanterns of our own. We may even find some very interesting and fun things to do with these big orange fruits.

October 26-30 - 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. We will also spend time discovering what other festivities this season has to offer.

Otters

October 5-9 - Apples

A is for Apple! This week the Otters will be spending time learning all about apples. We will talk about the different colors, names, and shapes of apples. Our housekeeping area will turn into an apple orchard and the children will read books about apples, paint with apples, and even have an apple tasting party on Friday! Check the hallway for our graph to see which apple is liked best.

October 12-16 - Pumpkins

As the Otters embrace the autumn season we will learn about another fall favorite, the pumpkin! This week we will learn how and where pumpkins grow, talk about what you can make with pumpkins, play with pumpkin play dough, create a pumpkin snack, and bring in some pumpkins to weigh and then decorate for our classroom.

October 19-23 - Trees and Leaves

The Otters have noticed a change on the playground...the trees and leaves are different! The Otters will be discussing why leaves change color and fall to the ground in autumn. We will tell which color of leaves is our favorite, go on a walk to collect leaves to play with in our sensory table, and make leaf rubbings.

October 26-30 - Halloween

This week the Otters room will be transformed into a den of ghosts, witches and all things creepy as we talk about Halloween. We will tell scary stories, dig for spiders, bones, and other eerie things in our sensory table, and even make our own spooky snacks and witches brew to enjoy! If you're brave enough, feel free to come see what's bubbling in our cauldron!

Dolphins

October 5-9 - Autumn

This week the Dolphins will discover the season called "autumn". In many areas of the world autumn brings many changes. We will ask the children what changes they detect outside. We will also discuss what some animals do in the autumn to prepare for the winter. At the end of the week we will go of a leaf hunt around the neighborhood.

October 12-16 - Ooey-Gooney

It's ooey-gooney time in the Dolphin room! We will spend this week getting our hands and feet into everything: baking soda and vinegar, clean mud, flubber, gak and so much more. We will experiment with lots of cool things and discover what happens when we mix shaving cream and glue together. This week is going to be filled with fun and gooney things so be sure to dress your Dolphins in old clothes.

October 19-23 - Pumpkins

This week the Dolphins will learn about pumpkins. We will learn about its history and how they grow. We will make pumpkin play dough and try growing our own pumpkins. We will also carve our very own pumpkin into a jack-o-lantern to display in our classroom.

October 26-30 - Halloween

Ghosts, and witches and spiders - oh my! Between writing spooky stories and sharing costumes, the dolphins will be learning about the history of Halloween. We will decorate our class with festive Halloween decorations, tell ghost stories and make fun projects to take home. On Friday we will have our annual Halloween celebration, so don't forget your costume!

Monroe County United Ministries

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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: Jill Edie

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

We still have fall silk arrangements and Halloween items for sale but soon our store will turn into a winter wonderland with all kinds of Christmas goodies. We can help you with great decorations for your house; such a fun time for all.

Our volunteer appreciation luncheon will be held October 20th at the Fountain Square Ballroom. Volunteers should sign up at the store and let me know if you need a vegetarian lunch. All volunteers are welcome and those who sign up should be sure to arrive by noon.

Please recycle this newsletter or share it with a friend.