

Working Together

The Newsletter of Monroe County United Ministries

September 2009

Ice Cream Social

to celebrate MCUM's 70th Birthday

Sunday, September 27

3:00-5:00 at MCUM

All are welcome to join us for this event, which celebrates an important milestone and give us a chance to thank our wonderful donors and other supporters. Bring your friends and family!

Just a few reasons to attend:

- see old friends and meet new ones
- tour MCUM's Childcare Center and Emergency Food Pantry
- introduce your children or friends to this important organization
 - see photos and documents from 70 years of history
 - ice cream!

MCUM is located next to Tri-North Middle School and Mills Pool at 827 W. 14th Court.

Then and Now: Joyce Grubb

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

At three years old, Joyce Grubb was one of the first children to benefit from the Bloomington Day Nursery (now known as the MCUM Childcare Program) back in 1940, with her twin sister Janet by her side. Joyce says that her entire life has been tied up with this organization ever since. She later benefitted from a free after-school program that offered activities such as a sewing class and arts and crafts. She also remembers roller skating in the space that now houses MCUM's administrative offices. Coming from a low-income neighborhood, these activities were priceless to Joyce: "I don't know what we would have done for recreation."

Then and Now continued on page 3

"Each One, Feed One" Food Drive

Our food drive 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.

Special thanks to our event sponsors:

Bunger & Robertson

ATTORNEYS AT LAW



103.7 fm



**Cincinnati
Christian
Church**

Childcare Needs

With 97 children enrolled, the Childcare 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

Other Needs

- envelopes, printed or plain, needed for internal office use. Envelopes with left-side windows especially welcome.

Food Pantry Needs

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

- soups, especially vegetable
- pasta
- canned meat - chicken, beef, spam, etc.
- potatoes - canned, dried, instant, etc.

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
- diapers, sizes 4, 5, 6
- laundry soap

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

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.

eBay Assistant: Are you hooked on eBay? Are you looking to develop your eBay skills? MCUM has some items to sell, and we hope you can help. Contact Rebecca at mcumfund@bloomington.in.us or 339-3429.

Book Fair Volunteers: Our Scholastic Book Fair will run much more smoothly with the help of volunteers. The fair is Sept. 14-18 and volunteers are especially needed in the afternoons. Contact Tina at 339-3429 or mcumeducate@bloomington.in.us.

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.

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 .

Then and Now: Joyce Grubb

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Joyce says that this organization was a major part of her life, “a home away from home,” and as time passed, Joyce continued to volunteer and participate in activities at what was then known as the Christian Center. She even found love at the Center when she met her husband, Donald Grubb, who was a fellow volunteer. They were the first couple married by then MCUM director and minister, Nicholas Sileo.

As her family grew to include four children, all of whom attended the Childcare Program, Joyce participated in MCUM’s Young Mothers Club. Years later, the MCUM legacy continued when Joyce’s grandson also attended the program. Joyce continued to volunteer whenever an extra hand was needed. She also worked on the committee which established the HeadStart Program at the child care facility, holding its first meeting under the MCUM roof.



As her children grew older, Joyce volunteered with the Childcare Program, eventually filling in for an absent teacher’s aide. When the program resumed after a brief hiatus, Paul Crafton, MCUM director

at that time, asked that Joyce become a permanent teacher’s aide. For the next 30 years, Joyce worked for the Childcare Program, eventually becoming the program’s director in 1979, a position she held until her retirement in 1997. We appreciate Joyce’s many years of service on behalf of the Christian Center and Monroe County United Ministries.

We would love to feature your story in our newsletter. Contact Rebecca Stanze at mcumfund@bloomington.in.us or 812-339-3429.

Scholastic Book Fair September 14-18

It’s time again for the MCUM Fall Scholastic Book Fair. We will host our fair Monday-Friday, September 14–18, 6:30am-5:30pm each day. This fair is open to the public and provides quality books at an affordable price. Books will be available for infants through approximately the third grade reading level. Shopping at the book fair gets you good books at an affordable price AND benefits MCUM. The more books we sell- the more free books the Childcare Program is eligible to receive!

This year we are participating in a program called One for Books, which allows us to collect cash donations that will be used to buy more books from the Book Fair. Anyone can donate to the book fund by writing a check to MCUM with “One for Books” in the memo or dropping off your loose change when you come in to shop. Volunteers are welcome. See page 2 for more information.

Thank you!

We would like to thank...

- Ellen Goodman for volunteering in the Dolphin Room through the RSVP America Reads Program.
- Jennifer Larson, SPEA graduate student, for her service as our summer intern.
- Shauna Williams, Norm Overly, Rebound and Trinity Episcopal Church for their extra special efforts in recruiting food drive volunteers.
- Michael Vargas for helping us keep some maintenance and painting projects within budget.
- Candace Kuby for volunteering in the Dolphin Room.
- Caela Wood for volunteering in the Childcare Kitchen this summer.
- St. Thomas Lutheran Church for collecting 2,394 pounds of food so far this year.

Just the Facts

- Monroe County has 102 licensed or registered childcare providers.
- Monroe County has 20 licensed child care centers, 68 licensed child care homes, and 14 unlicensed registered child care ministries.
- Of the 102 total, 37 are participating in Indiana's Paths to Quality Program, a voluntary assessment and rating system.

Two Monroe County providers, including MCUM, have achieved the highest rating of "Level 4."

For more information about care options, visit www.childcarefinder.in.gov.

Travel-Sized Toiletries Needed

Did you do a lot of traveling this summer? Do you stockpile those little bottles of shampoo and mini bars of soap?

When people in crisis need food assistance, we include a roll of bathroom tissue and a few travel size toiletries with their groceries. So if you decide you will never use all those little bottles and bars, we can certainly use them at MCUM. Drop them off at our office or include them anywhere MCUM food is collected.

NAP Tax Credit Update

Changes continue to be made in how the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority administers the Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP) tax credits. These changes resulted in a 2009 award of \$15,690 in credits to support the Childcare Program, compared to last year's \$20,828 and \$50,000 from a few years ago. Such a small award means that they went very quickly and many seeking credits were disappointed. Thank you to everyone who gave - or tried to give - during this very brief campaign, which lasted less than one day. We especially appreciate those donors who were able to make a donation even after the credits were depleted.

Planned Giving: Plan Today for a Better Tomorrow

by Katie Loudin, SPEA Service Corps Fellow

Ninety percent of adult Americans have no plan or need to update the plan for their estate. If you fall in this category, it is time to move into action to protect the interests of you and your family. On a lazy Sunday afternoon, you can gather the necessary paperwork to review your will, your life insurance policy, and your retirement plan to benefit your family. This is also a good time to consider how your plan can benefit the community organizations that are important to you.

Naming MCUM as a beneficiary of a planned gift is an investment in the future of your community. Your gift will make a significant impact in the lives of low-income families who need access to affordable childcare. Working parents can maintain employment so the entire family can feel the benefits of a stable, safe, and secure household.

"As a working parent of three children, the support of the facility and staff of MCUM has been outstanding... The addition of the summer camp meant that we could continue to work through the summer, knowing that our second grader would be engaged in an enriching program of fun and learning."

-Parent of Enrolled Child

Additionally, your gift can help those in crisis through basic needs assistance in the form of food and hygiene items as well as rent and utilities assistance. Often, this kind of assistance can prevent a family in crisis from spiraling downward into a catastrophe that might include like job loss, eviction, or homelessness.

"I want to thank you for the help you provided to my boys and me last month. You made a humbling experience quite normal and easier to accept. Your kind heart and generous offerings really helped make a difference in our difficult time."

-Emergency Services Client

A visit to your attorney or financial advisor today can ensure the success of our programs for as long as they are needed. If you would like to learn more about giving options or the work that we do in the community, please contact Rebecca Stanze or Meri Reinhold at (812) 339-3429 or mcum@bloomington.in.us.

Big Band Kickoff for United Way Campaign



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 collaborative initiatives that help local residents make lasting improvements in their lives.

Join United Way for An Afternoon of Magical Music featuring the Stardusters Jazz Orchestra and star vocalist Janiece Jaffe on Sunday, September 20th at the Buskirk-Chumley Theater. This family-friendly show will be followed by an opportunity to join the musicians and meet the instruments. Show begins at 4pm. Tickets available at the Sunrise Box Office, all Bloomingfoods locations, bloomingarts.info & United Way of Monroe County. Tickets: \$20 advance/\$25 day of show. All proceeds benefit the United Way of Monroe County Community Action Fund.

Take Action. Create Opportunity. Live United.

Minds in Motion!

The Childcare Program staff participated in two day of training in August, covering a variety of topics. Childhood Connections, an agency that works closely with parents, early childhood professionals, and the community, provided two fun-filled sessions. The teachers learned about the importance of visual-spatial learning through an activity that asked them to create a display using items they collected outside and then re-create the display using their bodies, resulting in some very comical collaborations!



Hands-on activities illustrated the developmental connection between body and brain, such as the importance of performing activities that cross the midline of the body. Although seemingly unrelated, this physical movement helps the brain to develop in such a way that improves literacy skills.

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!

Veggies Needed!

Are you lucky enough to have too much zucchini? Are you drowning in green beans? Too many tomatoes? 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 very next day.

Childcare Classroom Calendars

Staff

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

Puffins: 2 - 2.6 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

Important Dates in September:

7th - Closed for Labor Day
14th-18th - Book Fair*
15th - Open House
27th - Ice Cream Social/Open House

*Volunteers are needed to help with the book fair in the afternoons. Please see Tina for more info.

WorkOne Resources

Rose Johnson, a representative from WorkOne, is at MCUM one Thursday afternoon each month, 2:00-4:30. Rose will be available on September 10 in the Parent Resource Room.

Puffins

August 31-September 4 - Sesame Street
The Puffins will learn, dance and sing along to the music of Sesame Street. We will practice counting and discover numbers with The Count, play in the water and sing with Ernie and his rubber ducky, become friends with Big Bird, and have fun with Elmo.

September 7-11 - Shapes
This week we will study shapes. We will talk about the number of sides each shape has. The children will go on a shape walk to find different shapes around the school and playground. What a wonderful world of shapes!



September 14-18 - Community Helpers
The Puffins will talk about the many kinds of community helpers. We will talk about firemen, policemen, construction workers, nurses and doctors. We will discuss the different ways these people assist us every day and make our community a better place.

September 21-25 - Leaves and Trees
This week we will begin by discussing how trees grow. We will compare and contrast different types of trees by examining the color and shape of their leaves, flowers, and fruit.

September 28-October 2 - Transportation
At the end of the month, we will explore different types of transportation, including cars, trucks, buses, boats, and planes. We will consider what each vehicle is used for and how each vehicle moves.

Seahorses

August 31-September 4 - New Friends
The Seahorses will discuss new friends, talking about what we do with friends and how we treat them. We will read stories like Bernstein Bears' *Trouble with Friends*. We will scrapbook and work on joint art projects. Later, we will work on small motor skills, making friendship bracelets and playing in drama boxes. Friday we'll even have a slumber party!

September 7-11 - Autumn
We will talk about the change of seasons, including what we wear and what activities we do in the autumn compared to the summer. We will discuss animal behavior during this season and how they prepare for the next. What do the trees look like? What happens to the leaves?

September 14-18 - Transportation
Next we will discuss transportation. How do we get around? Has anyone ever ridden on a plane, train or boat? What is your favorite mode of transportation? We will be sailing boats and making paper airplanes.

September 21-25 - Music
The Seahorses will dance, sing, and play instruments. We will look at different kinds of music from many cultures. Friday, we will have a sock hop and dance-off. Please share your favorite kinds of music with us!

September 28-October 2 - Shapes
This week we look at our world for shapes! We will trace, match and draw all different kinds of shapes. Friday we will go on a shape hunt: who can find the most?
Parents please remember to sign the red books daily. Friday is always Show and Tell! (Please no toy weapons of any kind.) Please join us in our classroom! We love to read stories, play dress up and dance.

Penguins

August 31-September 4 - Self Awareness

We will learn about ourselves, discovering how we are alike and different. We will find out what makes us special. We will make “Me” books, create self-portraits and engage in other self-awareness activities. Friday we will celebrate with an “I’m Special” party!

September 7-11 - Family

We will examine the role of family life and its importance in society. We will ask ourselves: what makes up a family, who’s in our family, what role do we play in our family and how are families alike and different? At the end of the week we will celebrate knowing that, while families may be different, all are full of love and are important in our lives.

September 14-18 - Community

We will explore how we fit in the “big picture.” We will learn how we work together to form a community. We will talk about what our parents do for a living and why their jobs are vital to the community. Friday we will set up our own community to demonstrate everyone’s role in the running of a town!

September 21-25 - Transportation

We will discover the best way to get from here to there. We will explore different types of transportation and which are best depending on where we need to go. This will allow the children to share travel stories. We will also share our favorite types of travel!

September 28-October 2 - Apples

It’s apple season! We will find out all the different colors and flavors of apples. We will make apple prints in the art area, examine apple seeds and parts in the science area and read *Ten Apples Up On Top* in the math & reading centers.

Otters

August 31-September 4 - All About Me

This week things will be a little different in the Otters classroom. As Seda moves on and Jessica becomes the lead teacher, we will spend time getting to know each other. We will discover new things about our friends. Everyone will be encouraged to share their favorite things from home, including family pictures. We will compare favorite colors, foods, and other things. Watch the hallway for “All About Me” displays!

September 7-11 - Promoting Literacy

September 8 is National Literacy Day. According to UNESCO, one in five adults is illiterate, and two-thirds of these are female. Meanwhile 75 million children are not in school. Based on this information, the Otters dedicate this week to reading lots and lots of books. Please join us as we share books with other classrooms!

September 14-18 - Counting

1, 2, 3, ready or not, here I come! This week we venture into the world of math. We will count everything including how many steps it takes to get to the dining room and how many boys and girls make up our class. You can COUNT on us having fun with numbers!

September 21-25 - Shapes

This week we hunt for shapes. We will look for shapes in our classroom, around school, and even outdoors on a nature walk! Feel free to come in and check out our shapes display!

September 28-October 2 - Classical Music
September is Classical Music month!

We will listen to Mozart, dance to Vivaldi’s Four Seasons, dream to Beethoven’s piano concertos, and learn about Tchaikovsky’s Swan Lake and Nutcracker ballets.

Dolphins

August 31-September 4 - The Alphabet

During the first month of the new school year we spent time getting to know each other and classroom rules. We will now move toward educational themes and what better way to start then with the alphabet. This week we will explore how letters are used to make words, including our names. We will read books and sing songs that will help us recognize of the letters of the alphabet.

September 7-11 - Months of the Year

For the next three weeks we will build a calendar. We will begin by learning the months of the year. We will learn how many months there are, their order, and how to identify them. Then the children will start building their own calendar to take home!

September 14-18 - Days of the Week

The second step in building our calendar will be the days of the weeks. Just as we spent the time learning about the months we will do the same for the days of the week. We will learn fun songs and how to spell them!

September 21-25 - Numbers

Time to add the final part to our calendar! We can’t have a calendar without numbers! We will learn how to write and count numbers and put them on a calendar. We will even learn how to say them in a different language. At the end of the week we will take home calendars.

September 28-October 2 - Colors/Shapes

It’s time to learn about colors and shapes. This week we will review the names of the shapes and colors we know. Then we will learn to draw, name and identify new shapes and colors. Friday will have our own classroom shape book and another shape book to take home.

Monroe County United Ministries

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

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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: position open

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 have two new red maple trees in our parking lot, which were donated by Erika Edens. Thank you, Erika! We can't wait for them to provide shade for our parking lot.

A lot of garage sales are taking place this summer and many people are generously donating leftover items, which means our basement is loaded. We need extra volunteers to help us process donations more quickly. If you are interested in scheduling some time to volunteer, give me a call at the store on Mondays at 336-2443. Volunteer sorters can start their shifts at 8:30 or 11:30. I look forward to hearing from you!

Please recycle this newsletter or share it with a friend.