

Monroe County
United Ministries



Winter Food Drive 2011!

Dear Neighbor,

Every year at this time, we all look forward to gathering with friends and family to share delicious holiday meals. Unfortunately, for some working families in our community, the lingering economic downturn has left them in crisis: food is an expense that they just can't cover.

This year we hope that all of our Monroe County neighbors will participate in MCUM's annual *Winter Food Drive*, to help make sure everyone has enough to eat this season. Here are a few important stats to keep in mind:

- The number of Indiana residents living below the poverty line jumped from 12.9 percent in 2008 to more than 14 percent last year!
- The Monroe County unemployment rate jumped to a 20 year high in June 2010 and is now more than 7 percent!

-- MCUM previously offered families a five-day emergency meal package, but due to increased demand and limited resources, we've been forced to cut back to a package lasting only three days. --

Our goal is to collect **100,000 pounds** of food by the end of December. The *Winter Food Drive* is *critical* to reaching this goal: **our current tally is just over 52,000 pounds.**

What You Can Do: Organize a Food Drive!

- It's easier than you think! Any group you belong to—a school, workplace, neighborhood, club, or congregation—can be a great host. AND the food drive can bring your community closer together in pursuit of a common good. Win-win!
- Decide on a time-frame (a week or two) in which to collect food.
- Next, announce that you're holding a food drive for MCUM and why. (MCUM is happy to help with this step by providing fact sheets, etc.) Use the poster on the back of this sheet so the group knows what items to donate.
- Decide on a location for group members to drop off **non-perishable** food and hygiene items, and call MCUM to arrange a pick-up. (Rather than dropping off the donation yourself, please contact us to arrange a date so we know when to expect you during this busy time).
- Congratulate your group for being a vital part of MCUM's work by helping us reach our goal of 100,000 pounds of food!

Please contact Justin Smith (food@mcum.org) or Colton Hubbard (comahubb@indiana.edu) to let us know that you will be participating in the food drive this year, or simply designate your interest on the enclosed "Holiday Commitment Sheet" (found on the reverse side of Meri Reinhold's letter).

If we don't hear from you, we may call to find out if you will need one of our volunteers to pick up donations.

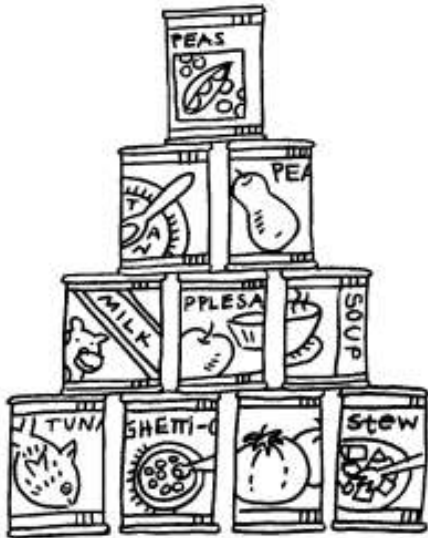
Thank you for all your help this holiday season!

Sincerely,

Cliff J. Edens
Emergency Services Coordinator
Monroe County United Ministries

HELP FIGHT HUNGER.

PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY TO THE MONROE COUNTY UNITED MINISTRIES WINTER FOOD DRIVE!



Thousands of people come to MCUM
each year seeking emergency
assistance.

Help us restock our food pantry and
reach our goal of collecting 100,000
pounds of food!

ITEMS MOST NEEDED:

CANNED MEAT- salmon, chili, beef stew, chicken, corned beef hash, spam (no tuna please)
CANNED FRUIT- oranges, pineapple, pears, apricots, and mixed fruit
SOUPS- cream-based soups are most needed, tomato soup, broth, vegetable soup
CANNED VEGETABLES- mixed veggies, carrots, potatoes, peas (no green beans or corn please)
HAMBURGER AND CHICKEN HELPER MEALS
PANCAKE AND BAKING MIX
RICE AND PASTA MIXES -boxed sides (Rice-A-Roni, Uncle Ben's, etc.)

ALSO NEEDED:

CRACKERS	SUGAR
POWDERED MILK	FLOUR
FRUIT JUICE	COOKING OIL- olive, vegetable, or canola
JAM & JELLY	SYRUP
BOXED POTATOES	PUDDING
SPAGHETTI SAUCE	COOKIES, CAKE MIX, FROSTING, PIE FILLING
COFFEE AND TEA	

CLEANING CLOSET ITEMS:

DIAPERS- sizes 4, 5 and 6 are needed most	UNDERWEAR - men's 30-36, women's 2-7
DEODORANT	ALL SIZES OF SOCKS
SHAMPOO	LAUNDRY/DISH SOAP
CONDITIONER	CLEANING SUPPLIES
PAPER TOWELS	OTHER PERSONAL CARE ITEMS- razors,
FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS	shaving cream, baby powder, baby shampoo etc.

PLEASE NOTE THAT WE CANNOT ACCEPT PERISHABLE ITEMS, HOME-CANNED
ITEMS, EXPIRED FOOD, OR OPENED PACKAGES