

Working Together

The Newsletter of Monroe County United Ministries

April 2011

Are You Up to the Challenge?

The Feinstein Foundation of Rhode Island is offering agencies fighting hunger a chance to receive a portion of a \$1 million match. For the 14th year, MCUM will participate in the "Feinstein Challenge" and take advantage of this wonderful matching gift opportunity.

Until April 30th, all donations made to MCUM's Feinstein Challenge increase the portion of match we receive. Donations can include cash, check, and food items (valued at \$1.00 per pound). You can also host a food drive to maximize your impact and further increase the portion of funds we receive. Last year, MCUM supporters donated over \$47,000 and nearly 12,000 pounds of food to meet the challenge!

Financial donations can be made online at www.mcum.org, by calling our office or mailing in a check. Food donations can be made to our pantry or anywhere that food is collected for MCUM.

Tickets Still Available!

"Spring Into Action!" Luncheon and Auction

Join us at the Bloomington-Monroe County Convention Center on Sunday, April 3. The doors open and the silent auction begins at 11:30am. Coffee and snacks prepared by culinary students at Ivy Tech Community College will be available while you enjoy music by a Bloomington High School North jazz combo. A hot buffet lunch with a vegetarian option will be served at 12:30. The event will end with a round of MCUM Bingo.

Auction items include a week's stay in Williamsburg, Virginia, over Christmas 2011; an acoustic guitar with accessories and lessons; a new, wrapped copy of *The Trees of Indiana*, which can be autographed by the authors; art; jewelry; books and much more.

Tickets are available by calling our office at 812-339-3429 or by visiting www.mcum.org.

Our Sponsors Know How to "Spring Into Action!"



Hilliard Lyons

First Insurance Group

United Commerce Bank

Bloomington Convention Center

These sponsorships have paid for the expenses associated with the luncheon, which means that the proceeds from ticket sales and the auction will benefit the Emergency Services and Childcare Programs.

Food Pantry Needs

The pantry welcomes donations of all nonperishable foods, but we currently have a special need for the following items:

- rice, especially in one-pound bags
- canned meats such as chili, beef stew, spam, tuna, chicken
- canned greens, carrots, yams, and beets
- fruit juices, especially in 46 oz bottles

Cleaning Closet Needs

Demand for these items, which can't be purchased with food stamps, is very high. Help restock our shelves with:

- diapers, especially larger sizes
- baby wipes
- feminine hygiene products
- new women's underwear

Special Request for Summer Camp

Our campers have a busy summer ahead of them. Please see page 3 for a list of common household items that this program can use.

Childcare Needs

The children enrolled in the Childcare Program use many supplies, including:

- Crayola washable markers
- glue sticks and liquid glue
- construction paper (9x12) any color
- washable tempera paint

Volunteer Opportunities

For more information about these or other positions, contact Cliff Edens at (812)339-3429 or help@mcum.org unless another name is provided below.

Featured Volunteer Position

Luncheon Assistant: Help out before, after or during the "Spring Into Action!" Luncheon on April 3rd. Jobs range from event photographer to clean up helper. Contact Rebecca at development@mcum.org or 339-3429 to discuss the possibilities!

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 between 8-4, Monday-Friday. Contact Meri at mcum@mcum.org or 339-3429.

Calling all artists! Our preschool children love art. Would you be willing to spend a few hours sharing your talent with young children? A demonstration and/or a hands-on activity would be welcome. Contact Tina at 339-3429 or education@mcum.org.

Classroom Assistants: Do you want to work with preschool age children? Do you love to read? Love to do crafts? Do you enjoy being outside? We will find a task that suits you best.

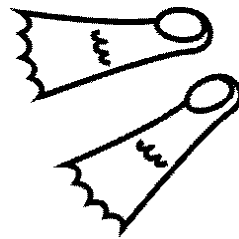
Newsletter Team: Our team meets one morning during the last week of each month to prepare the newsletter for mailing. If you would like to be notified of the dates, contact Rebecca at 339-3429 or development@mcum.org.

Sponsor a Summer Swimmer

Everyone is looking forward to summer and a favorite warm-weather activity is swimming! MCUM's summer campers visit Bloomington's Mills Pool, conveniently located across the street, every day of the program, weather permitting. The Penguin, Otter and Dolphin Classrooms (ages 3-6) visit the pool a few times a week. While this is a great opportunity for children to learn water safety rules, learn new skills, and enjoy a new physical activity, there is an additional fee that some parents struggle to pay. A donation of \$52.50 would sponsor a low-income summer camper and \$24 would sponsor a younger child, but donations of any size can help reduce the cost of swimming for our families. If you would like to sponsor a swimmer, just add a note "swim sponsorship" on your donation.

Supplies for Summer Camp

In addition to swimming, summer campers will face the "Minute to Win It" summer challenge. Enrolled children will participate in challenges that use a variety of skills during the nine-week program. These "games" require a lot of common items, listed below. In most cases, new or gently used items are welcome, if you are interested in making a donation.



- golf balls
- cotton balls (new packages only please)
- ping-pong balls
- dice
- yoga mats
- pedometers
- marbles
- empty cereal boxes (not single serving sizes)
- empty rectangular tissue boxes
- swim flippers (adult or child)
- tennis balls
- exercise balance balls

Please DO Feed the Penguins

The Penguins recently made a list of their favorite foods and raw fish didn't appear anywhere on the list!

Grapes
-Santiago

Strawberries and ice cream
-Ellie

Cheese
- Emery

Cheese hamburger
-Noah

Chocolate ice cream
-Noah

French fries
-Trinity

Thank you!

We would like to thank...

- The Bloomington Bicycle Club for their support of MCUM's young bike riders.
- everyone who has donated silent auction items to MCUM's upcoming luncheon.
- Pam Marlett for donating supplies to the Childcare Program.
- the Diaper Ministry at Trinity Episcopal Church for working with MCUM's Emergency Services Program to care for our community's youngest citizens.
- Hazel Christy for donating an assortment of toys to the childcare.
- Frieda Hoffman for her many forms of support.
- the students of IU's S411 Spanish class, who have been providing weekly Spanish instruction in our classrooms.
- the Unitarian Universalist Church for collecting 644 pounds of food, cleaning supplies and hygiene items so far this year!

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!

Cell Phone Recycling

When you upgrade your cell phone, stop to consider how to dispose of your old one responsibly. 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.

Homeward Bound: Fighting Homelessness One Step at a Time



Please join MCUM for the upcoming 9th Annual Homeward Bound Walk on Sunday, April 10, 2011, leaving from Third Street Park. The walk benefits 11 local agencies, including MCUM, which provide services and raise awareness for homelessness issues in the community.

Last year more than 800 walkers raised nearly \$55,000 for local agencies to help meet the needs of people facing homelessness and poverty.

Ready to fight homelessness, support MCUM, and enjoy a beautiful day outside with friends? Now is the time to register a team and start raising money. Don't want to start a team of your own? Join the MCUM Marchers! To register or join a team, simply visit:

www.homewardboundindiana.org/bloomington

Family Literacy: Español en el aula!

by Danielle Rankin, SPEA Service Corps Fellow

Teaching Spanish in early childhood classrooms has become increasingly common in recent years, and for good reason. Developing second-language skills actually improves comprehension and literacy in the first language. Research has shown that bilinguals tend to be more creative thinkers than those who speak one language, and one study suggests that their brain functions stay sharper as they age. In MCUM's Childcare Program, children learn basic Spanish words and phrases to advance their overall language learning. To encourage your child to learn a new language, try the following tips from www.parents.com.

Introduce a second language no later than 2-3 years old

The earlier you introduce a second language, the easier it will be for your child to pick up its unique sounds. The ability to hear different phonetic pronunciations is sharpest before age 3, and we lose the capacity to hear and produce certain sounds if we are not exposed to them early on.

Teach a word at a time

If you choose not to do formal lessons, you can introduce bilingual basics by pointing out to your child that objects can have two names ~ one in each language. As your child learns new words, tell him what they are called in a second language too.

Your Gifts Helped Childcare Program Families Succeed in 2010

Each fall and spring, MCUM surveys parents in the Childcare Program for feedback on the services we provide. The outstanding reviews we received from parents in fall 2010 are a direct result of financial support from donors like you. Thank you for helping...

- families improve their employment or educational opportunities (76%)
- improve quality time for families (83%)
- positively impact families' financial situations (93%)
- strongly improve communication and cooperation skills for children (95%)
- increase understanding of literacy and math skills (100%)

What Families Liked Best:

"The staff provides individual help when needed and has the ability to make the children WANT to learn. My child feels special."

"The care my child receives. On a daily basis, I observe staff treating children with kindness and love. [My child] loves school and talks endlessly of it while at home!"

Light the Way for MCUM

This is the sixth year MCUM has participated in the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County's Matchstick Endowment Matching Initiative. When community members donate \$7,500 for MCUM's endowment fund, an additional \$2,500 will be added by the foundation. This is a great opportunity to maximize the impact of your donation, thanks to a 3:1 match, and to strengthen the endowment that will support our programs for as long as they are needed. Donations should be sent directly to the foundation:



Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County
101 W. Kirkwood, Suite 321
Bloomington, Indiana 47404-6129

Please note "MCUM/Matchstick" on the memo line. Donations can also be made online at www.cfbmc.org. Contact the foundation at (812) 333-9016 or our office at (812) 339-3429 if you have any questions about the Matchstick Program.

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.

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 registered ministries. This site also shows the results of recent licensing inspections. Visit www.naeyc.org for a list of childcare programs accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children or more information about accredited programs.

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: Emily Walden

Seahorses: 2.6 - 3 year olds

Teacher: Marycarole Matlock
Aide: Melissa Chambers

Penguins: 3 year olds

Teacher: Mary Ellen Pierce
Aide: Laura Baker

Otters: 4 year olds

Teacher: Jessica Smith
Aide: LaDawn Joyner

Dolphins: 5-6 year olds

Teacher: Kim Clay
Aide: Brock Singleton

Floater: Amanda Pursell

Announcements For Parents

Scholastic Book Fair

April 11-15, 6:30am-5:30pm

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. The more books we sell, the more free books the Childcare Program will receive!

Volunteers are needed to help work the book fair in the afternoons. Please contact Tina, the Education Coordinator, if you are available.

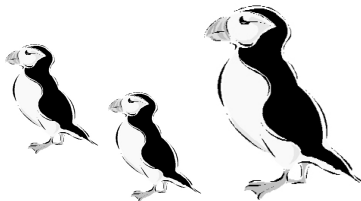
Puffins

April 4-8 - Jungle

This week the Puffins will travel deep into the jungle to find wildlife. We will talk about where jungles are, what they look like, and what animals we could find there. We will sharpen our math by sorting the different animals into groups and by counting the animals. The Puffins will end their week by reading *Rumble in the Jungle*.

April 11-15 - Farm Animals

What is a farm? What happens there? What animals can you find on farm? This week, the Puffins will discuss these questions. They will sort the animals based on size, color, and type. Look for your child to bring home the animals they made throughout the week.



April 18-22 - Weather

Wind, snow, rain, or sunshine? This week, the Puffins will go outside to discuss the weather every day. They will share their favorite types of weather and the activities they enjoy doing. The Puffins will use construction paper, clay, glitter, and paint to create representations of each weather type. We will also discuss how to keep safe during inclement weather.

April 25-29 - Spring

This week, the Puffins will examine the changes in the weather and what these changes bring. We will talk about how to prepare for these changes. The Puffins will discuss how flowers grow and play with potting soil in our sensory table. We will use different texture and mediums to make our own spring garden.

Seahorses

April 4-8 - Winnie the Pooh

This week the Seahorses will talk about their favorite bear, Winnie the Pooh. We also love his friends of 100 Acre Woods. We will go on a heffalump hunt and fly kites on a blustery day. The Seahorses will taste many kinds of honey, paint, and plant carrots. The Seahorses will practice their math with Pooh Sticks. We will count balloons, bees, and honey pots.

April 11-15 - Zoos

Do you hear roaring coming from the Seahorse room? That is because the Seahorses will discuss the zoo this week! We will talk about open zoos that keep animals safe while letting them run free. Watch out as our masked Seahorses choose their favorite animal to transform into! We will read books such as *Goodnight Gorilla*, *Polar Bear Polar Bear*, and *Never Ever Shout In the Zoo*.

April 18-22 - Farms

The Seahorses will move on from the zoo to the farm this week. Which is your favorite and why? What animals do you see on the farm rather than the zoo? What kinds of food do we get from a farm? The Seahorses will do some planting in the greenhouse this week. We will make our own barns and fill them with horses.

April 25-29 - Jungles

This week the Seahorses will get wild in the jungle! What animals do you find in the jungle? We will read about one particular animal, who is a monkey named Curious George. What else do you find in the jungle besides the animals? We will read the book *The Umbrella* and make our own umbrella of the animals we want in our jungle.

Penguins

April 4-8 - Spring

This week we should hear the sweet sound of singing birds, see the wee green buds of blooming plants, and smell the nice fresh air as we welcome a new season. We will also write out plans of all the things that we want to do now that the weather is nice enough to be outdoors. The Penguins will then take a nature walk to note the changes that spring has brought to our neighborhood

April 11-15 - Weather

This is the time of year when the Penguins often turn to one of their favorite stories which asks the question, "what will the weather be like today?" We will also spend some time in the science area creating some of our own weather conditions. What could be more fun than creating a tornado in a jar?

April 18-22 - Insects

The Penguins will spend this week exploring the world of insects. The children will learn the distinctive parts of an insect and that they all have six legs. We will also discover which types of insects are beneficial and which are just plain pesky. We plan to spend a great deal of time outdoors looking for insects and watching them as they are hard at work.

April 25-29 - Growing Things

The time is finally right for planting and the Penguins are going to be busy digging in the dirt. We will talk about the different types of things we can plant in a garden and what things we like the best. We will find out which type of garden the Penguins prefer, vegetable or flower. Are we going to plant vegetables or flowers? We will leave that up to a class vote!

Otters

April 4-8 - Birds

We all know what birds are, so this week the Otters will spend time learning the names of the more common birds, as well as what they eat, where they are from, and what they sound like. We will also make birdfeeders to place outside our classroom window.



April 11-15 - Shadows

This week the Otter room will learn about those dark things that follow us around all the time...our shadows! We will try our hand at shadow puppets, examine silhouettes, and explore the classroom discussing all the different shadows we see!

April 18-22 - Money

The Otters will learn about money this week. We will work on learning the names of the various coins and bills, how much money is worth, and what people use money for. Our housekeeping area will become a bank for the Otters to use their very own play money to buy and sell things!

April 25-29 - Gardening

We have our seeds, potting soil, and pots and we are ready to garden! This week the Otters will discuss the process of planting seeds while we get our hands dirty planting our own garden. We will take a poll and decide what exactly we want to plant. After our seeds are planted we will keep record of our plants' growth and create a watering schedule. If you enjoy gardening, feel free to come in and help us out!

Dolphins

April 4-8 - Money

Knowing how to count money is very important! The Dolphins are always telling us they get allowances, so this week we will focus on counting and telling the difference between the dollars and the coins. How much money do we have? What does a quarter look like?

April 11-15 - Community Helpers

Dolphins will learn about the important helpers in our community this week: police officers, firefighters, teachers, librarians, postal workers, and many more. Which helper is your favorite and why? The Dolphins will discover why and how these various individuals make our community fun and unique.

April 18-22 - Space

This week the Dolphins will kick back and have fun as we travel to outer space. While in space, we will learn about the stars, moon and the galaxy. We will also learn the names of planets in our solar system and talk about what it would be like to be an astronaut. If you could go to space, what would you want to see?



April 25-29 - Mexico

Viva la Mexico! This week we will celebrate Mexico. Mexico celebrates Cinco de Mayo in a festive way similar to our American Independence Day. During the week, we will talk about culture, food, music and beverages unique to Mexico.

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: 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 volunteer-run 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 want to thank the community for continuing to support our store. Our winter clothing sale went very well. We are now bringing out spring items, with a nice selection of clothes and Easter bunnies all through the store.

Do you need more space in your kitchen? Maybe you could donate cooking pans, skillets, small appliances, dishes, silverware and glasses. Our household area needs these items. Donations can be dropped off Monday-Saturday, 8:30am-3:30pm. Thank you!

Please recycle this newsletter or share it with a friend.