

Working Together

The Newsletter of Monroe County United Ministries

April 2013

"Spring Into Action!" Luncheon To Promote Healthy Eating & Healthy Families

Join us for a meal that directly supports affordable, high-quality childcare for working families and needed assistance for local households in crisis. We are hosting our ninth annual "Spring Into Action!" Luncheon on Sunday, April 21 at 11:30 a.m. Tickets are only \$25, or \$175 for a table of eight.

With generous sponsorships from local businesses and government, all proceeds will benefit low-income children in need of quality early childhood education and Monroe County families without safety nets that need help during a financial crisis.



Enjoy a five-night stay in a villa at the Omni Orlando ChampionsGate Resort. See page 5 for more auction items!

Get ready to celebrate the importance of fresh fruits and vegetables and healthful foods, because that's the theme of this year's event! Even our desserts will be vegetable-themed. As our childcare kitchen moves toward the gold standard in school lunches, we will

This is what you're supporting:

Jenny was a single mother with a full-time job. She was able to pay the rent and other bills, but there was no way that she could cover the average rate of childcare on top of her other expenses. When she found MCUM, she knew that she wouldn't have to abandon full-time employment to make sure her child was safe. She knew that her little one would receive an early childhood education in a nurturing environment, with healthy meals to boot.

call on our supporters to ensure all of our preschoolers have access to healthful meals featuring fresh produce.

The auction will feature a diverse selection of items (Check out our live auction items on page 5).

Tickets are available through mcum.org, by calling 812-339-3429 x 16, or by mailing payment to MCUM with your contact information (must arrive on or before April 12). We can't wait to see you at the luncheon!

Last Month for the 2013 Feinsein Challenge

As spring moves in and we soak in the warmer weather, there is so much to be thankful for. At MCUM, the Feinsein Challenge has already brought in \$11,134 toward our \$30,000 goal and 1,409 lbs of food, and we are only halfway through the challenge! So as you take a moment to smell the flowers, we hope you will also stop to think of those in need in our community. You can make an impact in the fight against hunger by participating in the 15th annual Feinsein Challenge.

All April food and financial contributions donated to MCUM will qualify for the Feinsein Challenge, and the more donations we receive, the more our neighbors in need will benefit. As we work to increase the food assistance we offer families to help them through a difficult time—providing four days worth of groceries instead of three—we call on you to give generously to the Feinsein Challenge. YOU can make a fundamental difference to those enduring a challenging moment in their lives.

Food Pantry Needs

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

- canned meats - chili, salmon, beef stew, etc.
- fruit juice
- canned vegetables - beets, potatoes, etc.
- snacks - popcorn, granola bars

Meat for our freezer is also welcome, including:

- 1-2 pound packages of meat (can be re-packed at deli counter into smaller packages with freezer wrap)
- whole chickens

Cleaning Closet Needs

Cleaning supplies and hygiene products can't be purchased with food stamps and are in high demand.

Help restock our shelves with:

- shampoo & conditioner
- diapers, especially size 4
- razors
- dish soap
- deodorant
- mouth wash
- cleaners - floor, window, bathroom

Childcare Needs

Spring has sprung! This means the Childcare Program need all kinds of outdoor supplies, including:

- pinwheels
- kites
- rain gauges and outdoor thermometers
- wind socks
- bug catchers

As well as:

- gently used or new small lego sets

Opp House Needs

Opportunity House can find new homes for your gently used items, with the proceeds benefiting MCUM's programs. Please consider donating:

- coats for kids
- sheets & blankets
- towels
- large shopping bags with handles

Volunteer Opportunities

For more information about these or other positions, visit www.mcum.org, call 339-3429, or contact help@mcum.org.

Featured Volunteer Position

Event Volunteers: Looking for a one-time volunteer opportunity that will really make a difference? Help out with our annual spring luncheon on Sunday, April 21! Work check-in, check-out, or help with the live donations. Contact Alison at 339-3429 x 16 or fundraising@mcum.org

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.

Special Event Planners: Got an eye for design or decorating? Help plan fundraising events for MCUM! Volunteer as much or as little as you'd like. Contact Alison at 339-3429 x16 or fundraising@mcum.org.

Opportunity House Volunteers: Opp House is a resale shop at 907 W. 11th Street and is MCUM's important partner. Volunteers are especially needed to sort and price items and serve as cashiers. Call 336-2443 or contact opportunityhouse@yahoo.com for more information.

Calling all musicians! Our preschool children love music. Would you be willing to spend a few hours sharing your instrument with young children? Contact Tina at 339-3429 or education@mcum.org.

Goodbye, Friend

We recently said goodbye to Joan Schoknecht, a long-time MCUM volunteer. Until her passing on March 11, Joan was part of the volunteer team that prepares our monthly newsletter and other mailings to help us communicate with our many community supporters. More importantly, she brought laughter to our office with every visit. Her colorful personality, sense of humor and giving spirit will be missed.



MCUM's Strategic Plan: Innovation, Leadership & Endurance

Our Board of Directors recently approved a five-year strategic plan that outlines our organizational goals and program directions for 2013-2017. With continued support from the community, MCUM has many exciting initiatives underway to improve program quality and meet changing community needs. Here is just one example from our plan:

Initiative #2: Maximize the number of children funded through the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) voucher program to claim more of the funding available to subsidize the enrollment of low-income families.

Maximizing the number of CCDF voucher-holding families allows your donations to underwrite the enrollment of other families who are just over the eligibility criteria or are on the lengthy voucher waiting list. A complete list of plan initiatives is available at www.mcum.org.

Thank You, Volunteers

Volunteers make our programs possible! Thank you to all those who shared their valuable time and talent with us recently, including:

Jason Allen	Megan Fisher	Allan Paton
Annette Alpert	Evan Hall	Ted Polley
Breana Bannister	Irene Hawkins	Amanda Richardson
Tom Cannon	Katherine Henick	Byron Reinhold
Greg Claretto	Larry Jacobs	Whitney Smith
Brittany Coren	Jeff Lenz	Michelle Stockey
Su Cowling	Jennifer Lloyd	Alexis Strafford
Patty Curry	Derrick Martin	Alexis Swain
Katie Dalton	Valerie Merriam	Cordaryl Taylor
Phil Davis	Gail Merrill	Susie Trisler
Megan Day	Chris Meyer	Wayne Trisler
Fortune Feresu	Samantha Morgan	Jessica Walker

Thank you!

We would like to thank...

- Bloomington Pediatric Dentistry; Sally Sturgeon, DDS; David Warzyniak, DDS; and Jeffrey Allen, DDS for recently donating toothbrushes and toothpaste to the Childcare Program.
- St. Mark's United Methodist Church for their long-time support.
- our generous luncheon sponsors: Bunger & Robertson, Attorneys at Law; Ivy Tech Community College; Bill C. Brown Associates; Bloomfield State Bank; CFC, Inc.; First Insurance Group; the Office of the Mayor; United Commerce Bank; Crane Federal Credit Union; Hilliard Lyons; IU Credit Union; First Capital Group; and Peoples State Bank.
- Midwest Color Printing for their support.
- Janet Donham for donating Easter bags for each child in the Childcare Program.
- First Presbyterian Church members for volunteering together in the Emergency Food Pantry.

Make an Impact with an Estate Plan

How long have you been a MCUM supporter? Do you volunteer? Donate food? Organize a mitten drive within your club? Make a financial donation?

No matter how you support MCUM, you can ensure a meaningful impact on this important community organization by making a gift through your estate plan. A simple bequest (a dollar figure, percentage, or remainder) can go a long way to making sure our programs are available for as long as they are needed.

Sample Language for 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.

Education for Educators

Staff education and training is one of the most important elements in a quality early childhood program. Under MCUM's accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, we must meet these requirements:

- All teachers have a minimum of a Child Development Associate (CDA) or equivalent.
- At least 50 percent of teachers have a minimum of an associate's degree or equivalent
- At least 25 percent of teachers have a minimum of a baccalaureate degree or equivalent
- All must have or be enrolled in an associate's or baccalaureate degree program

These requirements will become more stringent with each renewal of our accreditation but we will not have a problem keeping up. Of our four teachers, two have baccalaureate degrees and the other two are working on baccalaureate degrees. Of MCUM's four classroom aides, who are not required to meet any specific education requirements by NAEYC, three have completed associate's degree and one is working on an associate's. We are proud to have a staff dedicated to continuing their education and providing the best possible program for the families we serve.

From Homelessness to Stability

Sally is a long-time Bloomington resident who had been going through a difficult time. A messy divorce created stress and expense. A drug felony from long ago meant that she is not eligible for food stamps. Unemployment resulted in instability. After six months of homelessness, Sally found a full-time job at a chain restaurant, earning \$8.00 an hour, which allowed her to meet her basic needs. However, she was having trouble finding housing because she couldn't afford the deposit and the first month's rent all at once. These challenges were compounded by a recent illness that caused her to miss four days of work.

Sally approached MCUM's Emergency Services Program for assistance. Her township trustee had pledged to help with a portion of her first month's rent and MCUM was able to pay the balance. We also provided food, cleaning supplies, and hygiene items to help ease her financial burden. Sally paid her own security deposit and moved into her new home. With a GED and a year of college education, stable housing, and a full-time job, Sally's prospects for self-sufficiency in the future are excellent. Without financial, food, and other forms of support from the community, we would not be able to help people like Sally to get back on their feet.

Great Auction Items for a Great Cause

Check out what's available ahead of time for the Spring Luncheon and Auction and you'll be ready to bid on the 21st!



Seven nights to explore Williamsburg, VA over the Independence Day holiday!



A two-night stay in a log cabin, with brunch or dinner served to you and your guests!



A wine tasting for eight by Monkey Hollow Winery accompanied by cheese, truffles, and crème brûlée from The Rail!



A five-night stay at the Orlando Luxury Resort Villas at ChampionsGate. Great for golfers!

You can pay with cash, check, or credit card!

Thank You, Pantry Donors

We depend on donations received throughout the year to make a difference for local households in crisis. Listed here are some of the groups and households who have recently contributed food, cleaning supplies, and hygiene products:

Tiffany Carmichael
Jef & Pam Davidson
Nancy Kalina & Kim Davis
Sue Ferentinos & Danielle McClelland
First Christian Church
First Presbyterian Church
First United Church
First United Methodist Church
Good Neighbors Home Extension Club
Rita James
McDoel Baptist Church
Randy & Jane Pitt
Basilla Jean Rogers
St. Charles Borromeo Church, Daughters of Isabella
St. Mark's United Methodist Church, XYZ
Trinity Episcopal Church
Unitarian Universalist Church
United Presbyterian Church
University Baptist Church
Woodhaven Christian Church
Work One

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 Opportunity House, MCUM's offices, and anywhere MCUM items are collected.

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!

Childcare Classroom Calendars

Staff

Childcare Director: Traci Mehay
Educ. Coordinator: Tina Pender
Cook: Denise Garrett
Assistant Cook: Derrick Mackie

Puffins: room closed

Seahorses: 2 - 3 year olds

Teacher: Marycarole Matlock
Aide: Sarah Norzinskay

Penguins: 3 year olds

Teacher: Kim Clay
Aide: Emily Walden

Otters: 4 year olds

Teacher: Jessica Mackie
Aide: Serenity Guthrie

Dolphins: 5-6 year olds

Teacher: Brock Singleton
Aide: LaDawn Joyner

Puffins

The Puffin Room previously served 2 - 2.5 year olds. This room was closed in August 2011 as a cost-saving measure due to continuing funding challenges. While the room sits empty, we are considering plans for how to re-open the classroom in the future.

Seahorses

April 1-5 Cats and Dogs

This week the Seahorses will talk about cats and dogs. Do you have any as pets at your house? What do you do to take care of them? We will read about our favorite dog Clifford, and see what mischief he gets into. We will also make our own 3-D Clifford and some puppy chow at the end of the week. We will also read *Skippy Jon Jones* and see what kind of fun he has.

April 8-12 Painting

This week is all about painting! We will talk about painting as well as trying creating paintings with some materials we have never used before, such as potatoes and recyclable materials. We will also paint our own feet and identify colors! We will also read *I Ain't Going to Paint No More!* and *Max Paints the House*.

April 15-19 Science

Science can come in all different forms. Something that adults may take for granted can be very exciting to two- and three-year-olds. Some of our experiments will look at properties such as sink or float, shadows, and sounds. We will make our own drums with different materials to see they create different sounds and echoes. We will read books such as *Moon Game* and *Bear's Shadow*.

April 22-26 Animal Babies

Do you know the name for a baby goat? How about a baby kangaroo? This week the Seahorses will talk about baby animals, their names, and how we take care of them. Do animals care for their babies the same way we take care of human babies? We will read books such as *Whose Baby am I?*, *Baby Animals*, and *Baby Bear Baby Bear*. Then we will talk about and match which baby goes to which animal.



Announcements For Parents

Mark Your Calendars!

April 3 - Lunch with your child
April 10 - Lunch with your child
April 15-19 - Scholastic Book fair
April 17 - Lunch with your child
April 24 - Lunch with your child

Scholastic Book Fair:

Visit our Scholastic Book Fair Monday, April 15-Friday, April 19, 7:00am -5:30 pm daily. This fair is open to the public and will be held in MCUM's Childcare Center.

Scholastic provides quality books at an affordable price and books for infants through approximately the third grade reading level will be available.

Penguins

April 1-5 Weather

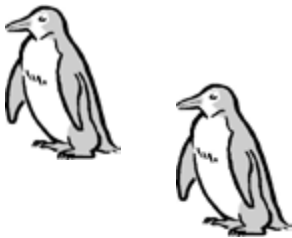
This time of the year the Penguins often turn to one of their favorite stories which asks the question, "What will the weather be like today?" We will spend some time in the science area creating some of our own weather conditions. What could be more fun than creating a tornado in a jar?

April 8-12 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 might be the best. We will find out which type of garden the Penguins prefer, vegetable or flower? We will leave that up to a class vote.

April 15-19 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 work.



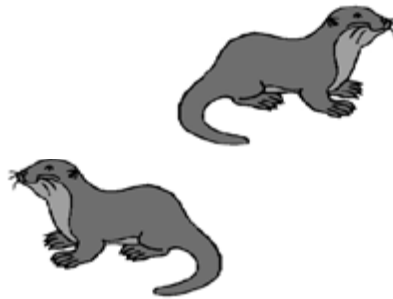
April 22-26 Earth

The Penguins will learn about our planet. We will talk about what is on our planet and where it lies in our solar system. We will have some fun creating silly grass heads. At the end of the week, we will discuss how we can keep our planet nice by reducing, reusing, and recycling.

Otters

April 1-5 Opposites

Up & down, left & right, inside & outside...this week the Otters will be exploring the world of opposites! In the art area we will chat about the differences between light and dark colors and in science we will discuss above & below, heavy & light, sink or float, as well as many other opposites!



April 8-12 Rhyming

For a young child rhyming can be a lot of fun and a great way to learn! This week the Otters will investigate words, sounds, and other things that rhyme. We will read rhyming books, play rhyming games, listen to silly songs, and more.

April 15-19 Patterns

This week the Otters will be practicing some very important math skills. We will be identifying, describing, and creating patterns. We will create patterns from colors, numbers, shapes, animals, or whatever else we can get our hands on!

April 22-26

Getting Ready for Kindergarten

There are many aspects of Kindergarten readiness and this week the Otters will be mastering many different tasks. We will spend time reviewing letters, numbers, colors, shapes, and other fun things. We will also practice writing our names, snapping, buttoning, and zipping, and even try tying our own shoes! Wish us luck!

Dolphins

April 1-5 Zoo Animals

This week we will talk all about zoo animals. We will talk about our favorite animals at the zoo, and tell stories of times we visited the zoo. We will talk about the people that work at the zoo and all the responsibilities they have. We will also read books about the zoo, and will try a new computer game called *Putt-Putt Saves the Zoo*.

April 8-12 Flowers

Spring is finally here and the flowers will be blooming soon. This week we will study flowers. We will study different types of flowers and will talk about how flowers grow. At the end of the week we will plant our own flowers, and use our knowledge of how flowers grow to take care of them.



April 15-19 Bugs/Butterflies

This week we will study different types of bugs and butterflies. We will talk about how spring and warmer weather bring the bugs back out. We will go outside and try to find some of the bugs that we have talked about. We will also study the different stages of butterflies and read books about butterflies.

April 22-26 Earth Day

During this week we will celebrate Earth Day. We will discover different ways that we can help the earth such as; recycling, not polluting, and not littering. We will have a recycling lesson where we will identify items that we can recycle and what happens to these items when they are recycled.

Monroe County United Ministries

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Get your ticket for the "Spring Into Action!" Luncheon and Auction:
Sunday, April 21, 2013.
Tickets are only \$25!

Staff:

Executive Director: Meri Reinhold
Development Coordinator: Rebecca Stanze
Development Associate: Alison Pitt
Emergency Services Coordinator: Cliff Edens
Emergency Services Caseworker: Justin Smith
Office Manager: Shannon Hampton
Childcare Director: Traci Mehay
Education Coordinator: Tina Pender

Hours of Operation:

Office and Emergency Services: Monday - Friday
8:00am - noon
1:00pm - 4:00pm
Childcare: Monday - Friday
7:00am - 5:30pm

Please recycle this newsletter or share it with a friend.

Opportunity House Update

Opportunity House, located at 907 W. 11th Street, is a volunteer-run resale shop that raises funds to support MCUM's programs. Store hours are 9:00-2:00, Monday-Saturday, with donations accepted 8:30-3:00. Call 336-2443 or follow Opp House on Facebook.

by Jill Argenbright, Opportunity House Co-Chair

Spring has arrived at the Opportunity House; but, unfortunately, the weather hasn't caught up to us yet! We have a great selection of children's spring and summer clothes - all sizes and low prices. We even carry prom dresses! For those in the medical field, we have a nice selection of scrubs as well. Come check us out!

We have added a few new volunteers since last month who have chosen to be cashiers. We have very friendly and helpful cashiers, according to our customers, so come see for yourself. We also have had some volunteers unable to work due to illness and accidents. We wish them speedy recoveries, as we miss seeing all the members of our volunteer family.