

# Working Together

The Newsletter of Monroe County United Ministries

August 2011

## Food Drive, August 26-28

MCUM's annual "Each One, Feed One" Community Food Drive will be held Friday, August 26 - Sunday, August 28. Our goal is to collect 15,000 pounds of food, cleaning supplies, and hygiene items at area grocery stores over these three days. Donations can be made at Bloomingfoods, Ellettsville Hometown IGA, Kroger, Marsh, O'Malia's, and Wal-Mart.

Thank you to our generous event sponsors:



*Heflin Industries – Farmers Insurance Agent, Tawni Hill – The Snyder Family*

## Food Drive Volunteers Needed

Two hundred and fifty volunteers are needed to make this event a success. Here are just a few of the volunteer opportunities available:

Bloomingfoods Coordinator: This individual works with the three Bloomingfoods stores to maximize involvement by Bloomingfoods customers.

Store Coordinators: Shifts are Fri., 4-9p; Sat., 9a-6p; or Sun., 12-6p. Set up for store volunteers and transport collected food to MCUM. Your truck or van will be needed for continuous loops around your assigned route. Gas card provided.

Store Volunteers: Shifts are Fri., 5-8p; Sat., 10a-1p or 1p-4p; Sun., 1-4p. Approach shoppers in a friendly manner at your assigned store to hand out fliers about local hunger and MCUM's pantry. Assist coordinators in loading food into their vehicle. Keep fliers from littering grounds so we will be welcome to return. 140 individuals needed.

Please consider signing up for a shift (or two!) or organizing a group to volunteer together. Visit [www.mcum.org](http://www.mcum.org) to sign up online or contact Meri Reinhold at 339-3429 or [mcum@mcum.org](mailto:mcum@mcum.org).

## Summer Camp Update

Summer Camp will come to a close on August 5th. Over the past 8 weeks, the campers have been both physically and cognitively challenged. They have learned about recycling art, butterflies, astronomy, conflict resolution, and the importance of being active. From daily swimming outings to visiting the Indianapolis Zoo, this summer has been a productive time.

New to the program this year was Zumba (a latin inspired dance exercise) and Minute to Win It Boot Camp. The children have strengthened their balance, eye-hand coordination, strategic thinking, and body control by participating in games like "A Bit Dicey," "Hut, Hut, Hike," "Stack Attack," and "Separation Anxiety." They even created some of their own "Minute to Win It" challenges.

The last week of camp will bring a scavenger hunt, a trip to Wonderlab and everyone's favorite: "Ooey Goey Day!" We will miss our campers when they go back to school!

## Food Pantry Needs

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

- baking mixes (pancake, corn bread, etc.)
- crackers (especially saltines)
- sugar, flour, oil
- canned vegetables (especially mixed)
- canned meats (chili, beef stew, chicken, etc.)

## Cleaning Closet Needs

Demand for these items, which can't be purchased with food stamps, is very high.

Help restock our shelves with:

- laundry soap
- dish soap
- floor or spray cleaners
- deoderant
- women's underwear, size 16+
- toilet paper
- new socks for men and women

**Special Request for Fans:** Many of our Emergency Services clients use fans for cooling during the summer months and we would like to be able to provide fans to low income families in need. Donations of box fans, floor fans, and tabletop fans are all welcome.

## Childcare Needs

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

- Crayola washable markers
- glue sticks and liquid glue
- construction paper (9x12) all colors
- non-toxic dry erase markers

# Volunteer Opportunities

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

### Featured Volunteer Position

**“Each One, Feed One” Volunteers:** Two hundred and fifty volunteers are needed to make this three-day event a success. See page 1 or [www.mcum.org](http://www.mcum.org) for information about volunteer positions and shifts.

**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](mailto:mcum@mcum.org) or (812)339-3429.

**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.

**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.

**Share your hobby!** Our preschool children love to learn about new things. Are you willing to spend a few hours sharing your interests with young children?

# Matching Money for MCUM



MCUM is again participating 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. Contact the foundation at (812) 333-9016 or our office at (812)339-3429 if you have any questions about the Matchstick Program.

## Looking for Quality Childcare?

Check out [www.in.gov/fssa/carefinder](http://www.in.gov/fssa/carefinder) and [www.naeyc.org](http://www.naeyc.org) to see the results of recent state licensing inspections or to find childcare programs accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

## Family Literacy: Reading on the Go

**by Danielle Rankin, SPEA Service Corps Fellow**

Family schedules can get bogged down with homework, sports, and chores, making it difficult to dedicate time to reading. Fortunately, children can learn to read anywhere, at any time, with a little help from adults. Here are some ways you can build literacy skills on the go:

- Ask your child write down a shopping list or read the shopping list at the store.
- When driving to your next appointment, read road signs aloud and talk about giving and following directions.
- When you read the newspaper, give the comics to your child. The pictures give the stories depth and the text is short enough to read.
- Label items around the house to help children recognize words and associate their meanings.
- If you are cooking dinner, ask your child to help you by reading the recipe and list of ingredients.
- Keep magazines and books in the car for longer trips.
- Write notes to put in your child's lunch box or leave on his pillow.

## Thank you!

We would like to thank...

- Jill Edie for her service to MCUM.
- Seahorse mom, Yuri, and her guitar, Lola, for providing music lessons to the Seahorses.
- everyone who clips their Box Tops for Education and Labels for Education for MCUM.
- Iris Wood for always thinking of MCUM.
- the Unitarian Universalist Church for donating 1,083 pounds to the food pantry so far this year.
- the college-age volunteers from the North American Interfraternity Conference.
- St. Paul Catholic Center for sharing fresh produce with the Childcare Center.
- the Good Neighbors Home Extension Club for their monthly contribution to the food pantry.
- Valerie Merriam for her tireless support of the Emergency Food Pantry.

## 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!

## 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.

## Mobile Dental Clinic Visits MCUM



A dentist and hygienist set up shop in the Childcare Program's Health Room recently. They provided free cleanings and screenings to 16 children in the Childcare and Summer Camp Programs. Some children received x-rays and sealants. Two of the children received referrals for more extensive treatment but the rest just needed reminders about good brushing techniques.

## Mid-Year Emergency Services Report

In the first six months of the year, MCUM's Emergency Services Program:

- received 1,326 requests for assistance. Assistance includes food, clothing, rent or utility payments, cleaning supplies, bus tickets, and hygiene items.
- distributed enough food to make 17,649 meals.
- prevented homelessness for 32 families, including 78 adults and children through rent, mortgage, or utility payments.
- distributed 4,629 items from our "cleaning closet" of cleaning supplies, hygiene products, diapers, new socks and underclothes.
- provided vouchers to Opportunity House for necessary clothes or household items to 57 families. Community donations to Opportunity House make this service possible.
- received 24,223 pounds of donated food and cleaning closet items, a 20% decrease from this time last year.

## Travel-Sized Toiletries Needed

Will 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 also include a roll of bathroom tissue and a few travel size toiletries with their groceries. Your donations of travel (and regular) size toiletries can be dropped off at our office or anywhere MCUM food is collected.

# Thank You, Pantry Donors

MCUM's Emergency Food Pantry has received 24,243 pounds of donations so far this year. Listed here are some of the groups and households who have contributed to this total in the last month:

Sherry Jeffers	First Presbyterian Church
Kay McMillan	Opportunity House
Jean Rogers	St. Mark's United Methodist Church
Ron & Joan Schoknecht	St. John the Apostle Catholic Church
Trudy Thompson	St. Thomas Lutheran Church
Bloomington Central Lions Club	Trinity Episcopal Church
Daughters of Isabella	Unitarian Universalist Church
Fairview United Methodist Church	Unity of Bloomington
Fayetteville Baptist Church	University Baptist Church
First Christian Church	Woodhaven Christian Church

## Your Produce Needed!

Is your squash blossoming?  
Are your cucumbers vining?  
One fun and easy 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.



*Patriotic art decorated the halls of the Childcare Building to celebrate Independence Day!*

# Thank You, Volunteers

Volunteers make our programs possible. Thank you to all those who shared their time and talent with us in the last month, including those listed here:

Bailey Arnold	Samantha Mehay
Sydney Arnold	Chris Meyer
Phil Davis	Anthony Pizzo
Rebecca Hays	John Sgro
Larry Jacobs	Mary Jo Sgro
Emily Knapczyk	Grace Shockley
Rebecca Mandell	St. Thomas Youth Group
Bryant Mehay	

## 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.

# Childcare Classroom Calendars

## Staff

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

### **Puffins: 2 - 2.5 year olds**

Teacher: Susan Williams

### **Seahorses: 2.5 - 3 year olds**

Teacher: Marycarole Matlock  
Aide: Amanda Pursell

### **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

### **Summer Camp:**

Maddie Ryan  
Josie Goldsberry  
Scott Lohmar

## Announcements For Parents

WonderLab is having a \$1 admission day on Sunday, August 28, 1:00-5:00 pm. What a great opportunity experience WonderLab with your child!

Family members are always welcome to join their child in the classroom. Please let the staff know in advance if you would like to join us for a meal so we can notify the kitchen staff.

## Puffins

### *August 1-5 - Community Helpers*

This week, the Puffins will learn about people in our community who regularly help us and how we can help others. We will share our experiences with doctor's visits and paint with tongue depressors. We will discuss how police officers and firefighters help us stay safe. We will make a fire collage and put it out with a water collage. We will also talk about the way forest rangers protect the land and animals.

### *August 8-12 - Transportation*

It's time for the Puffins to explore different ways to travel. We will talk about how trains, boats, and airplanes help us travel long distances and how trucks, cars, public transportation, and our own feet help us go short distances. We will share how we get to school every day. We will also discuss vehicle safety. The Puffins will ride bikes both in the classroom and on the playground. We will paint with wheels and create traffic scenes with stickers.

The Puffin Room will close at the end of the day on August 12th. Due to continuing funding challenges, we are not able to keep all five classrooms open during 2011. However, beginning on the 14th, the Seahorse Room will begin to serve "younger" two year olds as well as "older" twos.

## Seahorses

### *August 1-5 - Camping*

With summer going strong, what is the most popular thing to do? Camping outside! We have already explored lots of outside activities but now we will focus on outdoor camping. We will make pretend camp fires and sing camp fire songs. Maybe Lola will be help us to learn new camp fire songs?

### *August 8-12 - Bubbles*

The Seahorses love to play with bubbles. This week we will be painting with bubbles of all kinds. We will make bubbles and learn the different ways to play with bubbles. Has anyone been to Wonderlab? Can you make bubbles with your hands? What keeps the bubbles from popping?

### *August 16-19 - Welcome!*

We will be closed on August 15 to prepare for a classroom full of new faces. The rest of the week, the Seahorses will learn all about our room and how much fun it can be. The Seahorses will help to make a short list of classroom rules.

### *August 22-26 - All About Me*

With a new group of students, we need to learn about our new friends - and ourselves. What do we like to eat? What are our favorite games? This week the Seahorses will be decorating and arranging the room. What will be the best place for their quiet area, the art area or the science area?

### *August 29 - September 2 - Shapes*

This week the Seahorses will look for shapes both in the classroom and outside. What are shapes good for? What can they tell you? How about a stop sign or railroad crossing? The Seahorses will paint and make collages with shapes. At the end of the week we might even have a small snack made out of shapes.

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# Penguins

## *August 1-5 – Nursery Rhymes*

Where did Little Bo Peep leave her sheep? What was Humpty Dumpty thinking when he climbed up on a wall? These are just a few of the questions that we will ponder this week as we enjoy nursery rhymes. We will take a trip with Mother Goose as we read and act out the rhymes.

## *August 8-12 - End of Summer*

Now it's time to wind down from the summer fun and look ahead to the school year. We'll talk about the good times we had this summer and what we liked most. Even though it will be sad to say goodbye to all of the "fun in the sun," we'll end the week looking forward to the school year.

## *August 16-19 - New Friends*

This will be a week of adjustment as we lose some of the older Penguins to the Otter's Room and welcome new Penguins. We will learn that it is possible to maintain friendships with children outside our classroom. Former "younger" Penguins will realize that they are now the "older" ones with new responsibilities.

## *August 22-26 - Colors*

The Penguins will begin this week reading *What Makes A Rainbow?* as they prepare to learn about the many colors in our world. We will identify the colors in our classroom and discuss our favorites. Look for some masterpieces as the children paint with their favorite colors.

## *August 29 - September 2 - Shapes*

We are going to spend some time naming shapes in our world. Diamonds, squares, triangles... the list goes on. We will become masters at shape naming and will soon be pointing them out to you wherever you go!

# Otters

## *August 1-5 - Ooey Gooley*

This week will be the slimy, squishy, ooey gooey-est week ever! Our hands and feet will be squeezing and squishing all kinds of different textures. Oobleck, gak, slime, and all sorts of other slick mixtures will be concocted in the Otter Room this week as we enjoy our Ooey Gooley adventures.



## *August 8-12 - Our Five Senses*

After our Ooey Gooley week, the Otters will dive deeper into the world of senses by learning about our five senses. We will be taking a hands-on approach to learning the senses this week. Our Otters will be listening to different types of music/sounds, painting blindfolded, as well as enjoying many other fun experiences!

## *August 16-19 - Welcome to the Otters!*

This week the Otter Room will be buzzing with new faces, new names, and new adventures! Our time will be spent getting to know our teachers, classmates, and familiarizing ourselves with the Otter Classroom. Feel free to come in and join us as we start our new school year together!

## *August 22 - September 2 - All About Me*

For two weeks the Otters will be learning each other's favorite songs, foods, colors, books, etc. We will also be sharing about our families, homes, traditions, cultures, and other things that make us unique. Watch the hallway for our "All About Me" displays!

# Dolphins

## *August 1-5 - Kids*

We have celebrated Mother's Day and Father Day, now its time to celebrate Kid's Day. National Kid's Day has been celebrated on August 2 since 1994. It is an opportunity to celebrate childhood and encourage parents to spend more meaningful time with their children. We will spend this time playing games, getting messy, running, dancing, and enjoying being a kid.

## *August 8-12 - Time to Say Goodbye*

It's time to start winding down from the summer and look forward to the upcoming school year. During this time we will be saying goodbye to our friends who are heading off to first grade or attending kindergarten at another school. We will spend this week reminiscing about all the fun and exciting things we did in the Dolphin Room.

## *August 16-19 - Welcome Week*

This week we will welcome our new Dolphin friends into our class. We will spend time playing name games and getting acquainted with each other. During this week we will also go over our daily schedule, set classroom rules, and learn what is expected of us.

## *August 22-26 - All About Me*

During this week we will learn more about the new Dolphins in our class. We will tell our classmates about ourselves and design a poster that represents us. We will also cover body parts, manners, behavior, and feelings.

## *August 29 - September 2 - Letters*

Everyone knows that before you can read and write you first have to learn the alphabet. During the next 13 weeks, we will discuss two letters a week. We will learn how to write them, the sounds they make, and learn words that begin with those letters.

## Monroe County United Ministries

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Permit #186

### Inside this issue:



#### August Food Drive

Page 1

#### Current Needs

Page 2

#### Family Literacy

Page 3

#### Pantry Donors

Page 4

#### Thank You, Volunteers

Page 5

#### Childcare Calendar

Pages 6-7

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter or you want to switch to e-mail delivery, please contact our office at 812-339-3429 or [development@mcum.org](mailto:development@mcum.org).

## 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  
NLA Intern: Rebecca Mandell

## Hours of Operation:

Office and Emergency Services: Monday - Friday  
8:00am - noon  
1:00pm - 4:00pm  
Childcare: Monday - Friday  
6:30am - 5:30pm

Please recycle this newsletter or share it with a friend.

*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 have started our summer sale, so come in between 9am-2pm, Monday - Saturday, and check out our summer clothing sale. In a few weeks fall items will be priced and ready for sale. We are sure you will be able to fill your closet with the best prices ever at Opp House.

IU students will be moving back to Bloomington in a few weeks so demand for household items will be especially high. Donations of sheets, blankets, bedspreads, towels, washcloths, small furniture items, lamps, dishes, and silverware are all needed.

We hope you've been having a great summer!