

Working Together

The Newsletter of Monroe County United Ministries

August 2013

Get Involved With "Each One, Feed One" August 23-25 at area grocery stores



Nancy Kalina, Kim Davis, and Pat Barber get ready to collect food donations during the 2012 drive.

Volunteers are needed for the ninth annual "Each One, Feed One" Community Food Drive, Friday, August 23 through Sunday, August 25.

A three-hour shift will help us meet our goal of raising 16,000 pounds of donations in only three days.

Volunteer positions include:

- Store Volunteer - pass out shopping lists to entering customers and collect food, hygiene products, and cleaning items
- Drivers and Riders - follow designated routes to pick up donations from stores and deliver them to MCUM for sorting
- Troubleshooters - our favorite volunteers! Fill in wherever needed!

So how do you sign up? Visit www.mcum.org or contact Meri Reinhold at (812) 339-3429 x 11 or mcum@mcum.org.

We appreciate our sponsors!



More Food Needed for Emergency Services Program

In 2012, MCUM received 72,371 pounds of donated food, hygiene products, and cleaning items. This was 12% less than in 2011. However, at a time when we are trying to expand the amount of food we provide to each household from a three-day supply of food to a five-day supply of food, more donations are needed. A successful "Each One, Feed One" Community Food Drive can help to stock our shelves but the pantry also need more ongoing food drives and larger food donations. Contact our office or visit www.mcum.org for more information on how you can help the pantry bring in and distribute more food.

Celebrating 75 Years

In 2014, Monroe County United Ministries will celebrate 75 years in service to the community.

Calling for Historical Documents

We are seeking documentation from the earliest days of our organization. If you have any notes, photos, or other records from 1939 (or earlier) about the formation of the Bloomington Day Nursery, please contact our office.

Share Your Story

Did you participate in activities at the Christian Center? Was your mother a volunteer? Were your children lions and cubs (classroom names from the early days of MCUM). We are collecting stories from across the community to help us understand and document the impact MCUM (formerly known as the Christian Center and Bloomington Day Nursery) has had on the community.

You can share your story on our website (go to www.mcum.org and click on the anniversary icon), mail your story to the address on the back of this newsletter, or email to development@mcum.org. Photos and documents are also welcome.

Food Pantry Needs

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

- canned meats - sausage, beef stew, salmon
- baking mixes
- canned vegetables - potatoes, mixed vegetables
- canned fruit - pears, oranges
- peanut butter

Meat for our freezer is also welcome, including:

- 1-2 pound packages of meat (can be re-wrapped at deli counter into small packages)
- 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:

- bleach
- toothbrushes & paste
- floor cleaners
- socks and underwear for adults
- razors and shaving cream
- baby wash and shampoo

Childcare Needs

With 84 children enrolled, the Childcare Program needs all kinds of supplies, including:

- Scrabble letter tiles
- two-pocket folders, without fasteners
- non-toxic dry erase markers
- school supply boxes, approx. 6" x 8"
- clipboards (9"x12")
- Crayola crayons, 24 packs
- Crayola washable markers, 8 packs

Opp House Needs

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

- kitchenware
- sheets & blankets
- towels
- large shopping bags with handles

Volunteer Opportunities

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

Featured Volunteer Position

Food Drive Volunteers: Volunteers are needed to fill 250 slots during the "Each One, Feed One" Community Food Drive, August 23-25. Help us collect 16,000 pounds of food in one weekend! Volunteers are especially needed to collect donations at area grocery stores during these three days.

Learn more about shifts and volunteer needs at mcum.org or by contacting Meri Reinhold at mcum@mcum.org or 339-3429 x11.

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 x11.

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.

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 x19 or education@mcum.org.

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 Kate at 339-3429 x16 or fundraising@mcum.org.

Childcare Curriculum Changes



Over the past several months, the Childcare Program teachers have been working diligently on creating a new and improved curriculum. This is part of our efforts to provide continuity between what is taught here and what is taught in elementary school. The most significant changes we've been making are based on the Common Core Standards for Kindergarten. The Dolphin Class (the 5- and 6-year-olds) will follow these standards. For the other classrooms, each standard is scaled down based on the children's ages. For example, the Dolphins will learn to count to 100,

the Otters (the 4-year-olds) will learn to count to 50, and the Seahorses (the 2.5 to 3-year-olds) will learn to count to 10. The goal of this new curriculum is to systematically move all children in the direction of school readiness, regardless of age.

We have made modifications to our routine as well, incorporating a separate "free play" time, with broad choices of activities, to compliment a new "mini-lesson and rotation" learning time, which provides structured team and large group activities. Additionally, the weekly themes you could have read about in this newsletter have been expanded to monthly themes that will include special school-wide events, allow for deeper exploration of topics, and use favorite classroom topics to inspire learning in new areas - it's more fun to count to 100 when counting dinosaurs!

In the Otter (Pre-K) and Dolphin (Kindergarten and Pre-K) Classrooms, math and literacy boxes will encourage teamwork in activities such as graphing and reading. This month we will celebrate National Friendship Week, August 12-16, as well as host MCUM's first annual Comedy Show on August 16 in celebration of National Tell-a-Joke Day!

Our teachers are excited to get the school year underway but could use some help in gathering specific supplies. Check out the wish list below and help us launch our new curriculum with all the necessities!

- 3- or 6-drawer plastic storage containers (we need a total of 24 drawers - see our online wishlist at mcum.org for examples)
- Crayola crayons, 24 pack
- Crayola washable markers 8 pack
- non-toxic dry erase markers
- clipboards (9 x 12)
- school supply boxes (approximately 6 x 8)
- two-pocket folders (without fasteners)
- Scrabble letter tiles

Thank you!

We would like to thank...

- Cafe Pizzaria, Global Gifts, United Way of Monroe County, Know Yoga Know Peace, and WonderLab for donating prizes for our Never Grow Up! FUNraiser to be held on October 26.
- John and Mary Jo Sgro for being our best "hole in one" volunteers!
- the organizers and models of the St. Mark's United Methodist Women Style Show, which raised \$1,259 for MCUM programs.
- the volunteers who administered surveys to our Emergency Services clients in July.
- Emily Kehoe for her service as Development Assistant this summer. Your enthusiasm, creativity, and hard work are appreciated!
- Linda Ripperberger for helping us get rid of our goo.
- the staff who have worked so hard to develop and implement our new Childcare Program curriculum.

Make an Impact with Your Estate Plan

Generous gifts and goodwill from community supporters have allowed MCUM to provide essential community services since 1939. If you would like to ensure the continuation of our programs for as long as they are needed, consider making a gift to MCUM through your estate plan. Numerous giving options, and tax benefits, allow you to create a lasting legacy in the community in a manner that suits you.

All gifts, large and small, make a lasting difference for MCUM's ability to serve our community's most vulnerable citizens.

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.

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 #6: Expand the Emergency Food Pantry to provide fresh produce to those in need.

To accomplish this goal, we have already acquired an industrial refrigerator (thanks to Mother Hubbard's Cupboard!) and we are now seeking sources of fresh produce and volunteers to help us maintain this initiative.

Interested in helping out? Contact Emergency Services Coordinator Cliff Edens at help@mcum.org or (812) 339-3429. 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:

Loretta Alonso	Judy McDougal	John Sgro
Bryant Balasa	Leon McDougal	Mary Jo Sgro
Whitney Buccicone	Rob McMurray	Michelle Stockey
Greg Claretto	Samantha Mehay	Jean Summerville
Su Cowling	Scott Meneou	Murl Summerville
Phil Davis	Valerie Merriam	Susie Trisler
Sidney Harris	Chris Meyer	Ollie Waldon
Melanie Hicks	Donna Michael	
Larry Jacobs	North-American	
Emily Kehoe	Interfraternity	
Eleanor Lloyd	Conference	
Jennifer Lloyd	Betty Schoonmaker	

Travel-Sized Toiletries Needed

Are you 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.



Matchstick Success!

Thank you to everyone who helped us meet our 2013 Matchstick goal of \$30,000. The Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County will now add an additional \$10,000 to our endowment to help ensure MCUM's essential programs are available as long as we have neighbors in need.

Supporters are always welcome to make donations to our endowment fund at the foundation, even when no matching funds are available. Donations can be made directly to:

Community Foundation of Bloomington & Monroe County
 101 W. Kirkwood, Suite 321
 Bloomington, Indiana 47404

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:

Jef & Pam Davidson
 Lisa Ensman
 First Christian Church
 First Presbyterian Church
 First United Church
 Indiana University Health Center
 Chris Meyer
 Opportunity House
 Mary Jo & John Sgro
 Simpson Chapel United Methodist Church
 Penni Sims
 St. Charles Borromeo Church, Daughters of Isabella
 St. John the Apostle Catholic Church, Vacation Bible School
 St. Thomas Lutheran Evangelical Church
 Stoneybrook Community Church of God
 Trinity Episcopal Church
 Unitarian Universalist Church
 United Presbyterian Church
 University Baptist Church
 Woodhaven Christian Church
 Work One

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

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: Brittney Denton

Penguins: 3 year olds

Teacher: Kim Clay
Aide: Sarah Norzinsky

Otters: 4 year olds

Teacher: Jessica Mackie
Aide: Anne Wyatt

Dolphins: 5-6 year olds

Teacher: Brock Singleton
Aide: LaDawn Joyner

Puffins

The Puffin Room served 2 - 2.5 year olds until closing in August 2011 as a cost-saving measure due to funding challenges. Ready to help us re-open the Puffin Room? We are currently collecting three-year pledges from community members who are committed to quality, affordable early childhood education for the very youngest children we can serve. If you would like to get involved in re-opening the Puffin Room, contact Executive Director Meri Reinhold at mcum@mcum.org or 812-339-3429 x11.

Seahorses

There will be a lot of changes in the Seahorse Classroom, the biggest being the many new faces that are being added to our class! Some of our old friends will move to the Penguin Room and we will welcome some new friends take their place.



The Seahorses will start out the year by learning all about their classmates. We will graph each other's eye color. We will also see how tall we are, how much we weigh, and what hair color we have. At the end of the month we will look at how many girls and how many boys we have. The Seahorses will update our family tree and take new pictures. We will also talk about our favorite books and food.

Once we learn a bit more about each other, the Seahorses will learn how we take care of ourselves. We talk about taking care of our teeth and keeping our bodies healthy. Later, the Seahorses will focus on our families, since they are so important to us. We will discuss who is in our family and who we live with.

We will finally celebrate National Friendship Month with a tea party. At our tea party, we will try to put together a scrapbook to remember all of our wonderful friends.

Please feel free to and join us at any time. The Seahorses love to read books, play with new friends, and be pushed on the swings.



Announcements For Parents

Mark Your Calendars for August!

August 5 & 6

- Childcare Closed

August 7

- First day of new school year

August 14

- Lunch with your child

August 16

- MCUM Comedy Show

August 21

- Lunch with your child

August 23-25

- Each One Feed One Food Drive

August 28

- Lunch with your child

Parents, please make sure your child has a change of summer clothes, sunscreen, and an empty bottle for water. Please label these items and give them to your child's teacher.

The lunch with a child dates to the left are only suggested dates. You are welcome to join us for a meal any day, but please let the classroom staff know so that we can alert the kitchen.

Penguins

This will be a month of adjustment as we lose some of the older Penguins to the Otter Room and welcome new Penguins. We will spend time playing name games and getting acquainted with each other. The Penguins will also learn what is expected of them as they begin exploring their new classroom. We will review our daily schedule, set classroom rules, and discuss how to treat each other.

This year we will be implementing a new monthly theme format. This month we will learn “All About Us.” Over the course of the month we will be exploring:

- likes and dislikes;
- similarities and differences;
- our five senses; and
- what makes us special!



We will write “Me” books, create self-portraits, and engage in many other activities that encourage self-awareness. We will also be introduced to graphing.

We will graph our:

- our eye color;
- our hair color; and
- our favorite color.

We will also spend the week of August 12-16 practicing our jokes for the MCUM Comedy Show! So many fun things to learn this month!

Otters

During the summer, Tina, Brock, and Jessica worked really hard to create a new and exciting curriculum for the Otter and Dolphin classrooms. The new curriculum will bring many changes to the way we spend our days in the classrooms, but it will also promote a more intentional learning experience for the children. We are very excited for this new chapter. We also look forward to see the children come in, and be excited to learn new things!

With that being said, the Otter Room will be buzzing with new faces, new names, and new adventures! During the first few weeks together, we will spend time getting to know our teachers and our classmates. Also, we will familiarize ourselves with the Otter Classroom, the schedule and routines, and the expectations in classroom, hallway, dining room, and playground.

Once we learn how to be an Otter, we can finally dive into our curriculum. First, we will learn more about our classmates. We will share things about ourselves, our families, some of the special things we are able to do. We will also practice our math skills and learn more about science. We will do activities such as measuring our heights. We will also see what eye color each Otter has and graph results. Afterwards, we will identify the various body parts of a human body. It will surely be a great month for the Otters!

Dolphins

This month we will welcome a bunch of new Dolphins to our room. What better way to learn about each other than by making our own All About Us poster with all of our favorite things? We will work on these posters and then hang them up in the hallway for everyone to see and enjoy. It will be exciting to see what they come up with.

We will introduce our Common Core Curriculum to the students. We have fun activities already planned dealing with number sorting, shape matching, and reviewing the alphabet using our own little All About Us envelope. Our library will be stocked with All About Us books dealing with being unique and loving, and embracing what is different about each of us. We will also start our count to 100 days of school project. On day 100 we will have a big celebration and hopefully be able to count to 100 as a class.

The Dolphins also look forward to participate in National Tell a Joke Day. In honor of the holiday, on August 16 we will have a school-wide MCUM Comedy Show where the kids will be able to present their funniest jokes. Parents are more than welcome to attend this great event and tell a few of their own jokes as well - as long as they are clean jokes! We have a month full of fun activities planned and we are excited about our new school year. I know the kids will have a blast because we make learning fun.

Monroe County United Ministries

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Return Service
Requested

Staff:

Executive Director: Meri Reinhold
Development Coordinator: *position open*
Development Associate: Kate Zilinskis
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

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.

Donations of gently used items are always welcome, including: books, clothing, household items, collectibles, toys, pictures, antiques, and linen.

Opportunity House Update

by Jill Argenbright, Opportunity House Co-Chair

The Opportunity House is once again accepting your generous donations after a couple of weeks to "catch up" with sorting and organizing our donation areas.

Be sure to come check out our low prices and sales on all our summer clothes as well as many other items. We have been receiving many great items that you are sure to like. Give us a try.

Please recycle this newsletter or share it with a friend.