

# Working Together

The Newsletter of Monroe County United Ministries

December 2013

## Your Gifts Strengthen the Monroe County Community

A helping hand can make a world of difference for a family in crisis. With a little support, a struggling family can fight hunger as they get back on their feet, and working parents can afford to send their children to a high-quality childcare program. Just knowing there are community members who care for their well-being can change the outlook of families MCUM serves.

Community members like you play an essential role in sustaining MCUM's Affordable Childcare and Emergency Services programs. Your gifts improve lives by preventing homelessness, feeding hungry families, encouraging self-sufficiency, helping parents stay employed, and preparing children for success in school. When you give to MCUM, you're making Monroe County a better place for everyone, one person and one family at a time.

Can your neighbors in need count on you this season? Please give generously today. A gift of any size can do immeasurable good for a vulnerable family struggling to stay afloat. You can make your tax-deductible donation by using the enclosed envelope, giving online at [www.mcum.org](http://www.mcum.org), or contacting us at 812-339-3429.

The support of generous community members has allowed MCUM to provide important services to Monroe County residents for 74 years. We look forward to celebrating 75 years in service to the community next year, and we are grateful to be part of a community of caring supporters like you.

On behalf of the families and  
individuals MCUM serves,  
**thank you** for your generosity!

### 'Tis the Season for Giving Back

It's not too late for your family, congregation, or club, to take part in one of MCUM's many holiday giving opportunities, including:

- donating a ham or turkey for holiday food baskets
- organizing a "Toy Box" drive to collect items needed for MCUM's childcare program
- honoring a loved one with a donation to provide affordable childcare or basic needs assistance to a neighbor
- donating a food basket to ensure families in need can have a festive holiday meal
- collecting socks and underwear so adults and children can stay warm and clean this winter
- making a contribution to the rent and utility fund so a local family can stay in their home during the holidays

For more information about how you can make a difference, visit [www.mcum.org](http://www.mcum.org). Just click on the snowflakes for giving options, lists, and instructions.

# Food Pantry Needs

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

- Jiffy pie crust mix
- canned fruit (no pineapple, please!)
- canned soup - veggie, tomato
- canned hash
- fruit drinks
- Ensure, Boost, or other nutritional drinks
- Spam

# Cleaning Closet Needs

Cleaning and hygiene supplies can't be purchased with food stamps. The following items are in high demand:

- underwear - men's sizes 32-36; boys sizes 2, 4, 8; women's sizes 2-7
- feminine hygiene products
- diapers - size 6
- adult socks - warm or tube
- deodorant
- lotion
- bleach
- floor cleaner
- spray cleaner
- scrubbers

# Childcare Needs

With more than 60 children enrolled, the childcare program needs all kinds of supplies, including:

- dry erase markers (non-toxic)
- 3 mil laminating sheets (9x12)
- construction paper
- AA and AAA batteries
- Barbie dolls and clothes
- baby dolls and clothes

# Opp House Needs

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

- kitchenware
- sheets & blankets
- towels
- coats (especially children's)

# Volunteer Opportunities

For more information about these or other volunteer opportunities, visit [www.mcum.org](http://www.mcum.org), call 339-3429, or email [help@mcum.org](mailto:help@mcum.org).

## Featured Volunteer Position

**Food Drive Assistants:** Drivers are needed to collect food donations at collection sites around the community and deliver them to MCUM during the Winter Food Drive. Are you willing to be on call for the occasional pickup? The schedule is flexible, but pick ups usually occur between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Contact Meri at [mcum@mcum.org](mailto:mcum@mcum.org) or 339-3429 x11 to sign up today!

**Video Expert:** Help MCUM create a video celebrating 75 years in service to the community! We're seeking someone who can produce a short, documentary-style video. Contact Kate at [development@mcum.org](mailto:development@mcum.org) or 339-3429 x15.

**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.

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

**Maintenance Volunteers:** Volunteers are needed to perform basic maintenance tasks of any skill level, from changing light bulbs to basic carpentry. Work is usually performed between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Contact Meri at [mcum@mcum.org](mailto:mcum@mcum.org) or 339-3429 x11.

# A Successful FUNdraiser in the Books!

MCUM hosted its second annual Never Grow Up! FUNdraiser at the childcare center on October 26. More than 60 individuals learned about MCUM during an evening of food—such as rainbow chard tacos from The Rail and s'mores cookies from Baked! of Bloomington—and fun, including karaoke and classic board games. Guests also enjoyed drinks from Upland Brewery and Brown County Winery. Best of all, the event introduced a group of active community members to MCUM's childcare and emergency assistance programs!

These enthusiastic individuals will help MCUM have a greater impact on the lives of community members in need by spreading the word about our services to their friends and neighbors. We look forward to their continued involvement as future MCUM event attendees, advocates, volunteers, or donors. We would also like to thank our other sponsors: Bicycle Garage Inc., Olson & Company P.C., Bloomington Bagel Company, Bloomington Sandwich Company, and Jennifer Titus Photography!

## Keep Your Family Safe This Winter

Did you know carbon monoxide (CO) is the most common cause of poisoning death in the U.S.? CO is an odorless, colorless gas produced whenever fuel is burned. Devices that produce CO include cars, stoves, and heating systems. CO from these sources can build up in enclosed spaces.

Since many symptoms of CO poisoning are similar to those of the flu, it may be difficult to distinguish between the two. Here are some ways to determine if CO may be the culprit.

- You feel better when you are away from your home.
- More than one person in the home gets sick at the same time.
- Symptoms occur or get worse shortly after turning on a fuel-burning device.

If you experience CO poisoning symptoms, open doors and windows, and turn off all fuel-burning appliances. Get fresh air and call poison control immediately at 1-800-222-1222. CO poisoning can be prevented by installing CO alarms in sleeping areas, checking heating systems and fuel burning appliances annually, and avoiding use of non-vented combustion appliances.

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Pub. No. EPA 100-F-09-00

### Want to receive MCUM newsletters by email?

Too much mail? You can reduce clutter and save trees by signing up to receive this newsletter online! To make the switch, email [development@mcum.org](mailto:development@mcum.org), or call 339-3429 x15.

## Thank you!

We would like to extend special thanks to...

- Attendees, volunteers, and sponsors of this year's Never Grow Up! FUNdraiser!
- The individuals, families, and businesses signed up to participate in MCUM's holiday activities.
- Storage Express for generously donating five computers.
- IU Briscoe residence hall staff and students for hosting a fun fall festival for preschoolers in MCUM's childcare program!
- Bloomington Heating Cooling Refrigeration & Electrical for generously donating services to the childcare center.
- The many people who have already donated items for MCUM's Spring Luncheon and Auction, and the luncheon committee members generously giving their time to organize this fun event!

## Be a Part of History

### Help Commemorate MCUM's 75th Anniversary!

We will celebrate 75 years of service to to Monroe County in 2014! Help honor MCUM's impact by sharing your...

#### Historical Documents

Do you have any records from MCUM's early days? Perhaps a letter or photo about the Bloomington Day Nursery?

#### Personal Stories

Did you participate in activities at the Christian Center? Was your mother a volunteer, or were your children lions or cubs (former preschool classrooms)?

Celebrate the difference MCUM (formerly Bloomington Day Nursery and the Christian Center) has made in the lives of Monroe County families by sharing your memories. You can do so by visiting our website ([www.mcum.org](http://www.mcum.org); click on the anniversary icon), mailing your story to the address on the back of this newsletter, or emailing [development@mcum.org](mailto:development@mcum.org).

### Did You Know?

MCUM gladly accepts **Ensure** or **other nutritional drinks** for our food pantry. Many of our clients face health problems that make it difficult to maintain weight or eat solid food. If you or someone you know has and no longer uses these products, please consider donating them to MCUM!

# MCUM's Strategic Plan: Innovation, Leadership & Endurance

MCUM's 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 #10 is to "Expand collaborations with other social service organizations."**

MCUM is a United Way member agency and one of several local organizations with childcare and/or emergency services programs. We look forward to developing partnerships with other organizations as we make progress on our own agency goals! A complete list of strategic plan initiatives is available at [www.mcum.org](http://www.mcum.org).

## Thank You, Pantry Donors

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

Arlington United	Opportunity House
Methodist Church	Orscheln Farm & Home
Ruth Mendenhall Barrett, MD	Dave Riese
Daughters of Isabella	Basilla Jean Rogers
Jef & Pam Davidson	Simpson Chapel United
Fairview United	Methodist Church
Methodist Church	St. Charles Catholic School
First Christian Church	St. Mark's United Methodist
First Presbyterian Church	Church
First United Church	St. Thomas Lutheran
Roger & Neva Gildersleeve	Evangelical Church
Good Neighbors Home	Trinity Episcopal Church
Extension Club	Unitarian Universalist Church
Mary Hawkins	University Baptist Church
Melvin Kem & Mary D. Hawkins	Woodhaven Christian Church
Nine Patches Extension	
Homemakers Club	

MCUM could always use **paper grocery bags** for the Emergency Food Pantry! Paper sacks hold more than plastic, and they stand up nicely on our shelves. Please ask for paper bags when you shop and bring them to MCUM to reuse!

# Make Helping the Community Part of Your Legacy

Since 1939, generous community members have allowed MCUM to provide essential services like high-quality, affordable childcare and emergency assistance to some of Monroe County's most vulnerable residents. You can ensure that MCUM's programs have an impact well into the future by making a gift to MCUM through your estate plan.

Numerous giving options and tax incentives allow you to create a lasting legacy in a manner that suits you *and* benefits the community. Gifts of all sizes boost MCUM's capacity to serve local residents in need of support.

Making a bequest to MCUM is a simple, meaningful way to demonstrate your commitment to helping your neighbors in need. You may use the sample bequest language below to guarantee MCUM's ability to put your gift to its best possible use.

*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.*

If you would like to find out more about the impact you can have, contact us at [development@mcum.org](mailto:development@mcum.org) or 339-3429 x15.

## Thank You, Volunteers

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

Loretta Alonso	Larry Jacobs	Hannah Pimley
Karen Apple	Brandon Jones	Betty & Paul
Lauren Arnold	Stephanie Kelty	Schoonmaker
Lisha Beitvashahi	Alexandria Klutzke	Kuangda Shan
Nathan Broadfoot	Jennifer Lloyd	Zach Skidmore
Margaret Chittum	Taryn Lyman	Melissa Spas
Greg Claretto	Sean MacLennan	Aaron Sullivan
Su Cowling	Judy & Leon	Jean & Murl
Madison Crawford	McDougal	Summerville
Erika Dorff	Valerie Merriam	Cara Thompson
Brian Drummy	Chris Meyer	Jennifer Titus
Nick Farid	Donna Michael	Susie Trisler
Priscilla Foltz	Gordana Mircic	Ollie Waldon
Donna Gagnon	Lavanya Narayaner	Christina Walters
Diane Gregory	Julia Nash	Kiana Werner
Sidney Harris	Lindsay Nash	John Zilvinskis
Olivia Hopf	Beth Patton	
Seda Jackson	Brittney Paulk	

## 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 items you already buy and send them our way. These logos may be in unexpected places, so keep your eyes open!

## Your routine trip to the grocery store can benefit MCUM!

When you shop at Marsh, O'Malia's, or Kroger, your purchase can earn points for MCUM's childcare program! Those points can be redeemed for great supplies for our classrooms. Here's what to do:

**For Marsh or O'Malia's:** Sign up by e-mailing the 12-digit number on the back of your card to [development@mcum.org](mailto:development@mcum.org), calling our office at (812) 339-3429 x15, or visiting Marsh's website to register your card number under MCUM's school code 38244.

**For Kroger:** Register at [www.labelsforeducation.com](http://www.labelsforeducation.com)

Thank you! Happy shopping!

# Childcare Classroom Calendar -

## Staff

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

**Puffins:** Room closed

**Seahorses: 2.5-3 year olds**

Teacher: Sarah Norzinskay

**Penguins: 3 year olds**

Teacher: LaDawn Joyner

Aide: Emily Walden

**Otters: 4 year olds**

Teacher: Jessica Mackie

Aide: Brittney Denton

**Dolphins: 5-6 year olds**

Teacher: Kim Clay

Aide: Krystal Weaver

## Puffins

Have you heard the news? The Puffins are coming back! The classroom, which serves 2 - 2.5 year olds, has been closed since August 2011 due to funding challenges. We plan to reopen the Puffin Room in early 2014.

Help us keep the Puffin Room open! We are collecting three-year pledges from community members who are committed to high-quality, affordable early childhood education for the youngest children we serve!

Please contact us today to learn more about how you can support this important goal.



## Seahorses

Season's Greetings from the Seahorse room! This month, we will talk about all the holidays people celebrate around the world. Some of these include Christmas, Kwanzaa, and Hanukkah, which are celebrated in different ways in different countries. While not all people celebrate these holidays, it is important the children know about them so they can share them with their friends and family members.

We will listen to music from around the world and read the books, "Must be Santa," "5 Christmas Penguins," and others about Hanukkah and Kwanzaa. Some of the books we will read are about letters and numbers; specifically the numbers 4 and 5, and the letters G and H. We will also focus on the color red and the rectangle shape, so you will start to see different labels around the school and classroom to facilitate this.

We will present our annual Holiday program this month, which the children have really enjoyed in the past! All the MCUM children will perform a few of their favorite songs onstage! The kids dress up, and it is a joy for the parents to see their children having fun! Plus, Santa will come for a visit and talk to the children about what they want for Christmas or whichever holiday their family celebrates!

Happy Holidays! Stay safe and enjoy all the excitement of the winter season!

## Announcements for Parents

### Mark Your Calendars - December

#### December 2

- Holiday program

#### December 4

- Lunch with your child day

#### December 5

- Santa's helpers wrap gifts

#### December 6

- Santa's helpers wrap gifts

#### December 10

- Santa visits

#### December 11

- Lunch with your child day

#### December 19

- Lunch with your child day

The annual MCUM Holiday Program will take place on Monday, December 2, from 6:30 - 8:00 pm at Tri-North Middle School. All preschool friends and family members are invited to enjoy the show and light refreshments.

MCUM's childcare program will close at 1:30 pm December 24 and remain closed until 7:00 am January 2. We look forward to starting the new year with you January 2!

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# Penguins

During the month of December, the Penguins will learn about holidays around the world. We will focus on Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanza, since those are typically celebrated in the United States. We will read books, such as “Hanukkah Lights, Hanukkah Nights,” “K is for Kwanzaa,” and “Merry Christmas from Biscuit.”

The Penguins will also continue learning letters, numbers, colors, and shapes. We will focus on: Ee and Ff; 3 and 4, red, and rectangles.

We will taste new foods, like cranberries and mushrooms, as well as learn about the food groups. We will also continue working on our classroom rules, such as using our words and not our hands, and using nice words and not hurtful or curse words.

For the holiday season, we will transform our classroom into a winter wonderland. We will make paper chains representing the different holidays (red, green, and black for Kwanzaa; blue and white for Hanukkah; and red, green, and white for Christmas). We will also have a felt Christmas tree the Penguins can decorate and undecorate as they desire. We will make ornaments and do other projects (some top-secret) related to the holidays we study.

We will round out the month with a holiday party and a visit from Santa. The Penguins would like to wish you a very merry Christmas and a wonderful new year!

# Otters

This month, the Otters will learn about different holidays from around the world. We will talk about Mardi Gras, Cinco de Mayo, Chinese New Year, and many more! We will also spend time on familiar winter celebrations, such as Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa. The Otters will be busy, and our art area buzzing, as we make festive decorations to hang around our classroom and some to take home. As part of our school’s celebration, we will join the other classes to sing for our families on stage in our holiday program at Tri-North Middle School.

We are familiar with how our own families celebrate the holidays, but what do others do? We will share how our unique families enjoy the holidays, as well as read some of our favorite holiday stories, listen to holiday music, and spread our own brand of holiday cheer! We would love for families to get involved, so please come and share some your favorite holiday traditions with us!

Holidays aren’t the only thing the Otters will learn about ! We will still:

- learn new letters of the alphabet
- practice writing those letters
- remember various numbers
- practice writing those numbers
- practice spelling and writing our names
- remember school expectations
- remember to use classroom materials appropriately

And, most importantly, have fun!

# Dolphins

It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas! The month of December is an exciting and busy time of year. It’s a time for decorating Christmas trees, sharing meals with family, and of course, waiting for Santa to arrive! This month, the Dolphins will spend time creating a festive mood in the classroom. We will decorate our Christmas tree, hang paper chains from the ceiling and put candy canes in our windows. We will also write letters to Santa, and make special ornaments to send home.

This month is a time to learn about the many Holidays that are celebrated around the world. We will learn about Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa and other holidays people celebrate this season. We will discuss how we celebrate, and invite families to come in and share their stories. The dolphins will begin to see that people often celebrate holidays in a similar manner.

We will have a Christmas party on December 20 before our long break, and would like to invite parents to join us. The Dolphins will perform special songs just for their families. We will also perform our favorite holiday songs at MCUM’s annual Holiday Program on December 2. Please invite your family and friends to joins us at Tri-North Middle School for some holiday cheer (and yummy refreshments, too!).



# Monroe County United Ministries

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Permit #186

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Return Service  
Requested

## Staff:

Executive Director: Meri Reinhold  
Development Associate: Kate Zilvinskis  
Development Associate: Katie Meier  
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, located at 907 W. 11th Street, is a volunteer-run resale shop that raises funds to support MCUM's programs. Store hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Saturday, with donations accepted 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call 336-2443 or follow Opportunity House on Facebook!

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

## Opportunity House

*by Jill Argenbright, Opportunity House Co-Chair*

Opp House has a large supply of Christmas decorations and continues to add to regular departments. We have received some great donations, so be sure to stop by to check them out!

If you have some free time and like the idea of volunteering, please give us a call. Specifically, we need volunteers to help price household items, purses, scarves, and shoes.

We wish everyone a great Thanksgiving! We will be closing at noon on Wednesday, November 27 and opening again on Monday, December 2. Hope to see you then!