

# Working Together

The Newsletter of Monroe County United Ministries

February 2011

## MCUM's Programs in 2010

Last year was another busy one for United Ministries and we'd like to share a few facts about what we accomplished with your help.

In 2010, MCUM's Emergency Services Program:

- distributed enough food to make more than 44,000 meals;
- prevented homelessness for 124 households through rent, mortgage, and utility assistance;
- distributed 10,500 cleaning supply and hygiene items;
- provided Opportunity House vouchers for clothing and basic household items to 272 households;
- received 3,373 requests for assistance from 1,096 households; and
- 38% of clients seeking basic needs assistance in 2010 had never sought assistance from MCUM before.

MCUM also provided quality, affordable care for 121 preschool children. Our NAEYC-accredited program provides children with basic health services, qualified staff, 75% of each child's daily nutritional needs, and a curriculum focused on preparing children for success in school. In August, we were forced to close our Puffin Room, the room that serves two to two and a half year olds, due to funding losses. Although we hope to reopen the room soon, the closure caused our waiting list to grow to 70 children.

MCUM's Summer Camp provided nine weeks of summer care for 41 children ages 6-12. Campers participated in a variety of enrichment activities including field trips, art projects, games, outdoor play and daily swims in Mills Pool.

## [www.mcum.org](http://www.mcum.org)

Monroe County United Ministries has a new website, thanks to the team of Priscilla Borges and David Ernst. Please visit our site and learn a little bit more about MCUM. If you have any comments or suggestions regarding the site, just go to the "contact us" page to share them with us.

### "Spring Into Action!" for MCUM

MCUM's annual "Spring Into Action!" Luncheon and Auction will be held on Sunday, April 3, 2011, in the Bloomington-Monroe County Convention Center. Contact Rebecca Stanze, Development Coordinator, at 812-339-3429 or [development@mcum.org](mailto:development@mcum.org) for information on how you can "spring into action" on behalf of this event.

Here are just a few suggestions:

- Donate an item to the auction. Desired items include art, interesting household pieces, services, certificates, and fun experiences.
- Provide a corporate sponsorship to cover event expenses, such as food and printing.
- Sell tickets to the event within your congregation, club, or social circle.

# Cleaning Closet Needs

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

- socks for adults
- diapers, especially size 4 & 5
- men's underwear, especially sizes 30-34
- household cleaners (cleansers, bleach, spray cleaner, floor cleaner, etc.)

# Childcare Needs

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

- dry erase markers
- food coloring
- liquid starch
- Crayola "Pipsqueak" markers
- bean bag chairs
- baby dolls and baby doll clothes (preemie and infant clothes will often fit)
- clip boards

# 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, cornbread, etc.
- crackers, especially saltines
- juice and other beverages
- canned meats: beef stew, spam, etc.

## Special Request:

Do you have a like-new ergonomic keyboard you no longer need? We would love to use it in our office.

# 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

**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. Moderate lifting required.

**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 339-3429.

**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? Contact Tina at 339-3429 or [education@mcum.org](mailto: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](mailto:development@mcum.org).

# Family Literacy: Incorporating the Arts

by Danielle Rankin, SPEA Service Corps Fellow

Studies have shown that the use of drama, art, and music helps children develop strong literacy and math skills that outperform those of their peers later in life. When children act out stories, their understanding of plot and literary devices improved significantly. Additionally, regular interaction with music can increase oral language skills. By encouraging children to analyze art, you help them develop their imagination, critical thinking skills, and powers of observation. On your next trip to an art museum, try this fun game from Reading Is Fundamental to learn about art and practice literary skills in a new way:

## *Postcard Treasure Hunt*

Start your visit at the museum gift shop. Have each child pick out several postcards of art they'd like to see and start the treasure hunt. If the museum is a big one, consult a map or ask someone at the information desk to help you plan your route. Once you are in the right set of rooms, start the hunt. Children get excited when they find "their" painting or sculpture. Once they've found their treasure, ask the children if the postcard is a good representation of the work of art. Are the colors in the postcard the same as in the painting? What do they like best about the work of art?

## *Other Suggestions for Art Museum Visits:*

- Allow children to explore. Try not to hurry them from one piece to another.
- Discuss background information about the artwork: time/era of the action depicted in the piece, the artist's life, artistic technique used, etc.
- Make comparisons and connections between paintings and children's experiences.
- Compare works to one another, and help children develop an appreciation for the styles, techniques, or tools the artists used to create their work.

# MCUM Volunteers in 2010

MCUM's programs would not be possible without the help of volunteers. In 2010, generous community members donated 5,084 hours of their time to programs, fundraising efforts, food drive, and general operations. We would like to say a special thank you to those volunteers who donated more than 100 hours of their time:

Larry Jacobs, 337.45 hours  
Haley Mclean, 183.25 hours  
Valerie Merriam, 387 hours  
Chris Meyer, 272 hours

Norm Overly, 134.3 hours  
Ron Schoknecht, 206.25 hours  
Frances Walden, 202.75 hours

# Thank you!

We would like to thank...

- All the volunteers who made our programs possible in 2010.
- Priscilla Borges and David Ernst for helping to create our new website at [www.mcum.org](http://www.mcum.org).
- the Bloomington Central Lions Club for their ongoing support.
- Kip May for donating his skills to our Emergency Services Program.
- First United Church members for donating batteries, totes, toys and other goodies.
- Katie Matson for donating fingerpaints and paper.
- Bunger & Robertson, Attorneys at Law, for their ongoing support of MCUM.
- Valerie Merriam for donated the largest number of hours in 2010. Wow! 387 hours!

## 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.

## 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!

# Thank You, Kip May!

Kip May, in addition to being an excellent photographer, is also a generous community member.

He recently donated his time and talent to take photos of MCUM’s Emergency Services Program. Above is a photo of Valerie Merriam clipping Box Tops for Education and Labels for Education from pantry items.



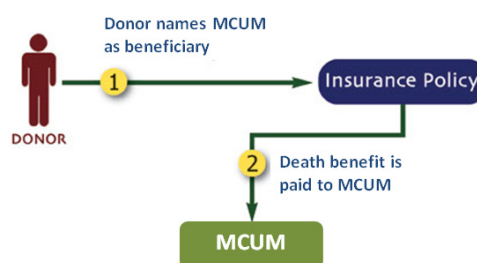
## Travel-Sized Toiletries Needed

Will you do a lot of traveling this year? 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.

## MCUM and Your Estate Plan: Gifting a Life Insurance Policy

Donors often ask how they can show their financial commitment to MCUM’s programs without jeopardizing their current flow of income. One estate planning option in particular provides flexibility and affordability for an individual’s philanthropic desires - gifting of a life insurance policy. For a relatively small annual cost in the form of premiums, donors can provide a more significant charitable contribution than they would normally be able to. Life insurance policies can be utilized many different ways to pay a benefit to MCUM:

- Designate MCUM as a beneficiary for a fully-paid policy.
- Continue to own and maintain a policy with remaining premiums and name MCUM as the beneficiary
- Start a new life insurance policy and name MCUM as the full or partial beneficiary



Gifting of life insurance may even provide you and your family with an income tax deduction or estate tax relief. To learn more what options are available, contact Meri or Rebecca at (812) 339-3429.

## Mark Your Calendar for Upcoming Events



### Homeward Bound Walk

Sunday, April 10, 2011  
Third Street Park

Noon - registration & pre-walk entertainment begins  
1:00 PM - walk starts  
2:00 PM - return to the park for music, food, fun, and team recognition

### "Spring Into Action!" Luncheon

Sunday, April 3, 2011  
Convention Center of Bloomington and Monroe County

11:30 AM - doors open  
12:30 PM - lunch is served



## 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.

## 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](http://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.

## Looking for Quality Childcare?

Check out [www.in.gov/fssa/carefinder](http://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](http://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**

Room currently closed.

### **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: Susan Williams

## Puffins

The Puffin Room closed in August due to several funding losses. Thanks to careful planning, the closing was delayed long enough to graduate the Puffins into the Seahorse Room so none of our families lost care. However, MCUM's waiting list will continue to grow as families search for affordable care for their two year olds.

We hope to reopen the Puffin Room in March.

## Seahorses

*January 31-February 4 - Dental Health*  
This week the Seahorses will talk about their teeth and how to take care of them. We will learn proper cleaning techniques, and brush big teeth with a big toothbrush. We will also talk about what foods make our teeth healthy and how often we need to visit the dentist. The Seahorses will play memory games, make smile collages and paint with toothbrushes. At the end of the week they each will get a new toothbrush.

*February 7-11 - Insects*  
This week the Seahorses will get creepy-crawly with their study of insects. We will read Eric Carle's *The Grouchy Lady Bug*. We will talk about feelings and count the ladybug's spots. Then the children will make their own books. Next, we will read *The Very Busy Spider*. We will play the spider web game with yarn and construct caterpillars on a log. Of course, we will sing songs including "The Ants Go Marching," and the "Itsy Bitsy Spider."

*February 14-18 - Feelings*  
This week the Seahorses will talk about their feelings and create collages to show their emotions. What makes us happy and how do we show it? What surprises us? We will also learn some sign language for our feelings. We will read *The Pigeon Has Feelings Too*, *Feelings are Important*, and *Happy*.

*February 21-25 - Space Explorers*  
3..2..1..BLAST OFF! The Seahorses will talk about space this week. How do astronauts get to the moon? What are some of the things we can find in space? We will play with space puzzles and count rocket ships. We will dance to "Way Out" and read about Moon Bear. We will also read *Baby Bear's Rocket Ride* and talk about what he does.

## Announcements For Parents

### **Visitors Welcome:**

Family members are welcome in our classrooms. Feel free to visit - and play - anytime. If you would like to stay for a meal, please let the staff know so we can help the kitchen plan.

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# Penguins

*January 31- February 4 - Dental Health*  
February is Dental Health Month and this is a good time to discuss our teeth and just how important it is to care for them properly. We will learn the right way to brush our teeth, how often we should brush and why flossing is so important. The Penguins will also enjoy using the dental health kit in the science area so that they can demonstrate proper brushing techniques on the “Big Teeth.”

*February 7-11 - Friendship*  
With Valentine’s Day just around the corner, the Penguins are going to take some time to reflect on their friendships. The children will have the opportunity this week to tell us about their closest friend and to share with us this person’s special qualities. We will also make surprises to share with our friends during the Valentine’s Day party that we will have on Monday!

*February 14-18 - Frog & Toad*  
The Penguins will begin a six-week exploration of great authors. This week, in honor of Valentine’s Day, we are going to meet two of Arnold Lobel’s most famous characters, Frog & Toad. While we join these two characters in their adventures, the Penguins will learn that friendship is a wonderful thing, no matter how different two people may be.

*February 21-25 - Clifford the Big Red Dog*  
Now we are going to spend a week enjoying the antics of one of our favorite friends: Clifford. We will discover just how fun friends can be no matter their shape, size, or color. We will also experience many learning activities involving size, color, and one of our most popular animals, dogs. We will celebrate Clifford with a party at the end of the week!

# Otters

*January 31-February 4 - Days of the Week*  
There are seven days in a week, and the Otters will learn the names of the days. Why does every name have “day” in it? We will sing songs, play with puzzles, and come up with other ways to help us remember the days of the week!

*February 7-11 - Months of the Year*  
The only way to follow up the days of the week is with the months of the year! This week, the Otters will learn how many months there are in a year and work on memorizing the names of the months. When is October and when is March? We will also look at calendars and discuss how they are used.

*February 14-18 - Love*  
Love is in the air this week in the Otter Room! Our class will spend time talking about the people, things, and places we love. We will make crafts and pictures about this day to celebrate family and friends. We will also decorate bags to hold all of the cards and goodies we receive during our Valentine’s Day party!



*February 21-25 - Opposites*  
Up, down, short, tall, big, small...our world is full of opposites and this week we will search for the pairs around us! We will draw and paint pictures of things that are opposites, as well as do puzzles and other fun activities.

# Dolphins

*January 31-February 4 - Dental Hygiene*  
Dental hygiene is important! The Dolphins will learn that going to the dentist can be a fun experience, not a scary one. They will learn that a dentist wants to keep our teeth healthy and explain how to properly take care of them. We will also learn the proper way to brush and floss our teeth.



*February 7-11 - Valentine’s Day*  
Every February, loved ones across the country exchange candy, flowers, and gifts all in the name of St. Valentine. The Dolphins are no different! We will be busy making beautiful Valentine’s Day cards and crafts for our friends and family. We will end the week with our annual Valentine’s Day party in a box.

*February 14-18 - Presidents*  
How many Presidents can you name? Dolphins will attempt to answer this question after spending a week talking about Presidents. We will learn where they live, how long they stay in office, and what duties they are responsible for. Who is your favorite President and why? Would you want to be President?

*February 21-25 - Doctors*  
It is no fun to be sick, so this week we will learn about the different types of doctors. How do they find out if we are sick or not? What kind of instruments do they use? We will learn more about our body parts and what we can do to keep our bodies in good shape.

## Monroe County United Ministries

827 West 14th Court  
Bloomington, Indiana 47404  
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mcum@mcum.org  
www.mcum.org

Non-Profit Organization  
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Bloomington, IN 47404  
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## 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

*Please recycle this newsletter or share it with a friend.*

*Opportunity House, located at 907 W. 11th Street, is a 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 welcome new volunteers for 2011: Martha Barnhill, Jill Argenbright, Charlene Braun, Joan Lyndon, Elizabeth Hanson and Matt Joseph. Volunteers who might like to work on electrical merchandise or repair furniture are welcome. We also need volunteers to help with pricing items on Tuesdays and Friday mornings and volunteers to serve as cashiers throughout the week. If you are interested, call me at Opp House, preferably on Mondays.

We are seeking a donation of a snow blower. Help us keep our sidewalk and parking areas clear by making a tax-deductible donation. Speaking of snowy weather, the store sometimes closes due to bad winter weather. If it's snowing, you might call first before heading over to donate or shop.