



The Newsletter of Monroe County United Ministries

# Working Together

January 2014

## Celebrating 75 Years Q & A with Meri Reinhold

### What was the community that MCUM serves like in 1939?

The neighborhood where MCUM is located, then referred to as "Pigeon Hill," consisted largely of primitive structures with pounded dirt floors and common latrines. Many residents were brought in from Arkansas and worked at the Shower Brothers Factory. The Bloomington Council of Church Women recognized that better nutrition and supervision for the children were needed. They worked with Reverend W. Douglas Rae of First Baptist Church (now First United Church) to establish the childcare program, which began in a little house on 11th Street.

### How has MCUM changed over the years?

The first childcare program quickly filled, and in 1949, staff and volunteers launched a capital campaign, going door to door to raise money to fund construction of MCUM's current building. The program moved to the new building in 1950. The 1960s was the era of urban renewal and the "war on poverty." The wooden dwellings were bulldozed, the hillside was terraced, and most of current houses were built. MCUM was one of first organizations devoted to children; it moved into emergency services in the 1940s.



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## 2013 Highlights

2013 was an eventful year for MCUM! Here's a look back at some of the year's notable happenings:

- MCUM adopts a new vision statement: "an improved quality of life for individuals, children, and families through education and empowerment."
- The agency establishes and begins implementing its Strategic Plan for 2013-2017.
- MCUM's Board of Directors determines that the Puffin Classroom, serving 2-2.5 year-olds, will reopen in 2014.
- The Childcare Program develops a new Healthy Living Initiative and obtains Gold Standard recognition from the Child & Adult Care Food Program.
- Community events included:
  - 9th annual Spring Luncheon & Auction
  - 2nd annual Never Grow Up! FUNdraiser
  - 8th annual "Each One, Feed One" Community Food Drive
- MCUM adopts a new logo, as seen in the masthead above and on the back of this newsletter.

## ***Food Pantry Needs***

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

- canned fruit - peaches, pears, mandarin oranges, mixed fruit
- instant cocoa
- juice
- peanut butter

## ***Cleaning Closet Needs***

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

- underwear: boys sizes 12-16, men sizes 32-34, women sizes 16-20
- conditioner (we have a lot of shampoo right now)
- floor cleaner
- general cleaning spray
- toilet bowl cleaner
- feminine hygiene products
- deodorant for men and women

## ***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***

#### **Spring Luncheon Committee Volunteers:**

Help plan MCUM's 10th annual Spring Luncheon & Auction! Duties includes promoting the event, attending 3-4 committee meetings, and choosing an area of interest (item solicitation, logistics, crafts, ticket sales, etc.) to play a strong supporting role in planning this fun event.

Interested? Contact Katie at 812-339-3429 x18 or [fundraising@mcum.org](mailto:fundraising@mcum.org).

#### **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.

#### **Mailing Team:**

Our team meets a few times a year to prepare various mailings. If you would like to be notified of the dates, contact Kate at (812)339-3429 x15 or [development@mcum.org](mailto:development@mcum.org).

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MCUM maintained a strong connection to local churches – members shared produce from their victory gardens, as well as hand-me-down coats and extra blankets. By the mid-1960s, the center had too many items to manage. This is when Church Women United established Opportunity House, which created a funding stream for the childcare program. MCUM also served as a site for government distribution of commodities. Its own food pantry was created in 1945, and has been mostly sustained by collections from area schools and congregations. It relies some on the food bank/reclamation system that began in the 1980s as well.

### **Why is this anniversary so momentous?**

Looking at the timeline of social services, a lot of organizations were established in the late 1950s and 1960s that aren't around anymore. Society's needs have evolved over time, but poverty has been an ongoing social concern to which the community has responded. MCUM has had many opportunities to re-examine its mission and has continuously re-affirmed it. With the 75th anniversary, MCUM has been able to step back and look at recommitting to our mission through a new vision statement, "an improved quality of life for individuals, children, and families through education and empowerment."

## ***Swahili Day at MCUM***



Children in the childcare program participated in a special activity thanks to MCUM's continued collaboration with Indiana University. Sidney Harris, the Advocate for Community Engagement at MCUM, gave a Swahili presentation to the Dolphins and Otters late last year. Sharing what she has learned in her class at IU, she provided the children with a memorable experience related to this unique language and culture.

The children learned that Africa is a continent and Tanzania is a country in Africa. They located these places on a map and Tanzania's flag. Sidney taught them that Swahili is spoken in Tanzania and that "hakuna matata," from the movie *The Lion King*, is a Swahili phrase meaning "don't worry."

The Dolphins and Otters learned the names of animals, as well as Swahili numbers. They drew their families and labeled their drawings with the Swahili words for mom, dad, sister, and brother. The lesson concluded with the children's favorite part – making traditional scarves called "kangas"!

## ***Thank You!***

### **We would like to extend special thanks to...**

- CFC Properties, Old National Bank, and Ivy Tech for their sponsorship of MCUM's 75th anniversary activities in 2014!
- Girl Scout Troop #3099 for their work in MCUM's Food Pantry.
- The individuals, families, and businesses who participated in MCUM's various holiday activities.
- The individuals, organizations, and businesses who donated to MCUM's Winter Food Drive, and a special shout-out to St. Charles Catholic School for contributing over a TON of food!
- First Insurance Group, the Office of the Mayor, the IU Credit Union, and Hilliard Lyons for sponsoring this year's Spring Into Action! Luncheon & Auction.
- The LeBiens for their donation of items for Christmas and the childcare program.
- Melissa Spas for presenting two mission moments on behalf of MCUM.
- Yarn's Unlimited, Monroe County Parks & Recreation, and Magnificent 7 Race Series for their recent Spring Luncheon donations.

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

Last year, MCUM's Board of Directors 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 one example from our plan:

**Initiative #11 is to "Ensure we are using the latest technology to connect with all segments of the community."**

MCUM is developing a plan to raise awareness among community members about our services and social issues affecting our community. Our outreach efforts will include various channels and improved online communications in addition to mailings. 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:

- American Legion, Post 18
- Baxter Pharmaceutical Solutions
- Bell Trace
- Conversation Club
- Jef & Pam Davidson
- First Christian Church
- First Presbyterian Church
- First United Church
- Jerry & Linda Forshee
- Good Neighbors Home Extension Club
- Danielle Gunkel
- Mary Hawkins
- Melvin Kem & Mary D. Hawkins
- Indiana University, Office of the Vice President of Research
- Jennifer & Randy Lloyd
- McDoel Baptist Church
- Members Choice Federal Credit Union
- Nine Patches Extension Homemakers Club
- Oliver Winery
- Olson & Company, P.C.
- Basilla Jean Rogers
- Sigma Alpha Iota Alumnae
- St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church
- St. Charles Catholic School
- St. John the Apostle Catholic Church
- St. Mark's United Methodist Church
- St. Paul United Methodist Church
- St. Thomas Lutheran Evangelical Church
- Stone Belt
- Stoneybrook Community Church of God
- Three T's Extension Homemakers Club
- Trinity Episcopal Church
- Unitarian Universalist Church
- University Baptist Church
- Susan White
- Woodhaven Christian Church
- Work One
- Yarns Unlimited
- Susan Yoon

## ***Be a Part of History***

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

We are celebrating 75 years of service 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!



## Childcare Program Promotes Healthy Living

MCUM's childcare program is pleased to announce another new effort in its ongoing commitment to health and wellness. The Healthy Living Initiative, made possible through a Precision Health Network grant from the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County, will launch this month. The goal of the initiative is to formalize the inclusion of healthy living in both the curriculum and practices of the preschool.

The Healthy Living Initiative provides children and their parents with the knowledge necessary to make healthy choices. MCUM Education Coordinator Tina Burress has compiled a multitude of nutritional activities with the intention of introducing the children to a new fruit and vegetable each month. Foods will be chosen based on what is in season, with preference given to items to which the children may not have previously been exposed.

The kitchen will prepare one dish that incorporates each food item. The children will also be able to try them in two different forms as part of the classroom experience. They will report on whether or not they liked the foods and learn to describe the taste and texture. They will also take part in approximately two lessons per month related to healthy eating, food groups, and how foods grow.

Another aim of the Healthy Living Initiative is to increase the children's vigorous physical activity to 20 minutes three times per week in addition to existing play time. It specifically focuses on high-level exercise that increases their heart rate.

## Thank You, Volunteers

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

- |                       |                      |                            |
|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| • Loretta Alonso      | • Seda Jackson       | • Hannah Pimley            |
| • Lisha Beitvashahi   | • Larry Jacobs       | • Betty & Paul Schoonmaker |
| • Marti Black         | • Cole Julick        | • John Sgro                |
| • Margaret Chittum    | • Stephanie Kelty    | • Kuangda Shan             |
| • Greg Claretto       | • Alexandria Klutzke | • Aaron Sullivan           |
| • Su Cowling          | • Jennifer Lloyd     | • Jean Summerville         |
| • Diane Gregory       | • Morgan Loudermilk  | • Murl Summerville         |
| • Tom Gregory         | • Judy McDougal      | • Cara Thompson            |
| • Sidney Harris       | • Leon McDougal      | • Susie Trisler            |
| • Rebecca Hays        | • Darren Mehay       | • Ollie Waldon             |
| • Stella Hooker-Haase | • Samantha Mehay     | • Christina Walters        |
| • Olivia Hopf         | • Valerie Merriam    | • Kiana Werner             |
| • Duane Hornick       | • Chris Meyer        |                            |
| • Pat Hornick         | • Beth Patton        |                            |

## 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!

## Announcements for Parents

### Mark Your Calendars

#### January 1

MCUM closed for New Year's Day

#### January 8

Lunch with your child day

#### January 15

Lunch with your child day

#### January 20

MCUM closed for MLK Day

#### January 22

Lunch with your child day

#### January 29

Lunch with your child day

### Healthy Living at Home

Check out the newsletter insert for information on cooking delicious and nutritious meals at home.

This month's feature:  
An Introduction to Beans!

#### Staff:

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

## Childcare Classroom Information

### Puffins

#### 2-2.5 year olds

Staff TBA

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 will reopen the Puffin Room in 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

#### 2.5-3 year olds

Teacher: Sarah Norzinskay  
Aide: Sarah Landrum

Welcome back, Seahorses! I hope you had a nice week off to spend with your families. Animals will be the topic of discussion this month, which will involve many different species from many different places around the world.

We will talk about animals that live in the zoo, live in the jungle, or are kept at home as pets. One of the books we will read is "The Animal Bop," which allows children to mimic animals based on their sounds and movements. I will bring in various books on specific animals as well, such as the monkey, lion, elephant, and bear, since these may be familiar to some of the children.

The children will also make playdough shapes of animals from different parts of the world, which will enrich their knowledge through play. The seahorses love to play with ponies and other farm animals already, but I will have them count and sort them by color and size. We will also sing "Old MacDonald," "B-I-N-G-O," and other new and old songs.

The seahorses will keep working on their shapes, colors, and counting, so they stay sharp and continue to develop new skills. The shape of the month is the star, and the color of the month is brown, so we will make our own star decorations and work with animals that are brown.

I hope we have a lot of fun and that the children will share their experiences with their parents!

## Childcare Classroom Information (continued)

### Penguins

#### 3 year olds

Teacher: LaDawn Joyner  
Aide: Emily Walden

This month, the Penguin classroom will learn about animals. We will learn about what they eat, where they live, and how big they are. We will read Eric Carle's "Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?", talk about the colors in the book, and play a heads and tails matching game with animals from the book.

As we read books like "Roar! A Noisy Counting Book" and "A Little Penguin," we will talk about the characters in the books. We will also talk about the difference between fiction and non-fiction when we read "Rumble in the Jungle," and "Bears and Their Cubs."

The penguins will work on the numbers 1 and 2, the star shape, and the color brown. We will make graphs of our favorite animals and where they live.

We will also see how our hand measures up to that of a gorilla, and sort animals and shapes. Art projects will be in abundance this month. We will draw animals and make collages and paintings to show our favorite animals and what we have learned.

Our little Penguins will act like horses, rabbits, and cheetahs as we work to get them up and moving. We will also experience cabbage and papaya in many different forms. Have you ever tried these foods? If not, you should. What a great way to start the New Year!

### Otters

#### 4 year olds

Teacher: Jessica Mackie  
Aide: Brittney Denton

This month, the Otters will share the ways they celebrated the holiday and what gifts they received. They will learn about animals, such as what they eat and what sounds they make. The Otters will also study different animal habitats. They will focus on animals that live in the ocean, arctic, desert, forest, jungle, and on farms. Through books, songs, games, and other activities, they will explore animal homes, and examine the relationship between different animals that inhabit the same space.

They will also learn by:

- Classifying animals by size, where they live, what they eat, etc.
- Counting animals
- Graphing their favorite animals, habitats, etc.
- Creating animal habitats in the art area
- Making animal masks to wear

After Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, the Otters will learn more about Dr. King and his cause. They will learn about peace and share ways to make peace within our selves, classroom, community, and world. (Watch the hallway for our peace displays!)

In addition to learning about animals and Martin Luther King, Jr., the Otters will continue to work on:

- Our weekly homework folders
- Writing our names
- The letters of the alphabet
- The numbers 0 through 20
- Using words to express our emotions
- Following school expectations

### Dolphins

#### 5-6 year olds

Teacher: Kim Clay  
Aide: Krystal Weavers

Happy New Year! We hope you had an enjoyable and peaceful holiday. As we have just finished celebrating the holidays and have already seen some snow, it is now time to discuss the season in which these events take place. We will talk about winter and all the different types of cold-weather activities we enjoy.

This month, we will also travel to the arctic regions to see how bears and other animals happily survive in sub-zero temperatures. We will discover how their lives differ from those of their warmer climate relatives. For our writing activity, the dolphins will choose their favorite arctic animal and write a story about the ways they would survive in this frozen world.

In addition to learning about winter and animals, the Dolphins will continue to focus on the following:

- Letters and Numbers
- Sight words
- Experiencing cabbage and papaya
- Learning about money



## Monroe County United Ministries

Non-Profit Organization  
US Postage Paid  
Bloomington, IN 47404  
Permit #186

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Member Agency

### *Inside This Issue*

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**Save a tree!** Sign up to receive this newsletter online. Email [development@mcum.org](mailto:development@mcum.org), or call 339-3429 x15 to make the switch.

### *Staff:*

Executive Director: Meri Reinhold  
Development Associate: Katie Broadfoot  
Development Associate: Kate Zilvinskis  
Emergency Services Coordinator: Cliff Edens  
Emergency Services Caseworker: Justin Smith  
Office Manager: Shannon Hampton  
Childcare Director: Traci Mehay  
Education Coordinator: Tina Burress

### *Hours of Operation:*

#### **Office and Emergency Services**

Monday - Friday: 8am - noon + 1-4pm

#### **Childcare**

Monday - Friday: 7am - 5:30pm

## ***Opportunity House***

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.



**Tick tock** - time to shop at  
Opportunity House!

Come see us today to find home decor (like the clock pictured to the left), games and books, sporting equipment, clothing and accessories... and much more!



Please recycle this newsletter  
or share it with a friend