

Working Together

The Newsletter of Monroe County United Ministries

January/February 2012

2011: Year In Review

MCUM's Emergency Services Program provided basic needs assistance to 1,001 unduplicated households last year. This program:

- distributed enough food to make 36,486 meals;
- provided 329 people with clothing and household items from Opportunity House, MCUM's partner resale shop;
- distributed almost 10,000 cleaning and hygiene items; and
- prevented homelessness for 78 families through rent, mortgage, and utility assistance.

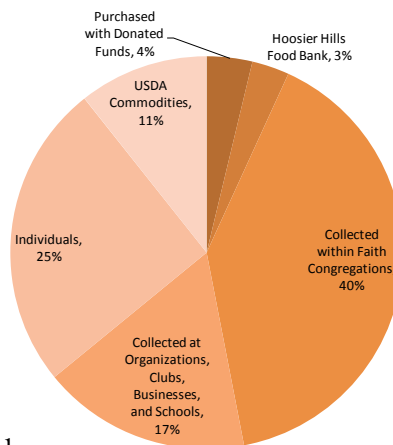
These accomplishments require generous support from the community. Food, cleaning supplies, hygiene items, and all items provided by Opportunity House are donated by community members. We would not be able to help people in financial crisis without your support.

MCUM's Childcare Program cared for 141 preschool children during 2011. These children benefited from our program in numerous ways, all contributing to the overall goal of preparing them for success in school - and in life. The Puffin Room, which had been serving 2 - 2.5 year olds, re-opened in March after being closed over the winter only to be closed again in the fall on 2011 due to ongoing funding concerns. This room sat empty for most of the year while our waiting list grew to a record length. We currently have 85 preschool children on that waiting list.

MCUM also provided summer care for 34 school-age children. These children spent their summer learning new skills, exploring their community, making new friends and being physically active.

While 2011 was a financially challenging year for MCUM, and many other social service providers, we still succeeded in providing a high level of quality service. The support we receive from the community makes our work possible. Thank you!

Food, Cleaning, and Hygiene Donations by Donation Source



Goodbye, Friends

Recently we said goodbye to two friends of MCUM. Helen Stout, a long-time volunteer and supporter, was a valuable member of the mailing team that prepares this newsletter each month and supported the organization in a wide variety of ways. She had served on MCUM's Board of Directors and was involved with Opportunity House, MCUM's partner resale shop. She will be missed by the staff and volunteers of both organizations.



Helen helped with numerous mailings at MCUM and across the community.

Louis Miller, another MCUM friend, also passed away in December. Louis, along with his wife, Norma, had been a long-time supporter of MCUM, on his own and through the Bloomington Central Lions Club.

Childcare Needs

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

- Crayola washable markers
- construction paper
- glue sticks
- non-toxic dry erase markers
- child scissors with blunt tips

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
- household cleaners
- underwear for women (sizes 2-6 and 16+)
- underwear for boys (sizes 2 & 4)
- hair conditioner
- tampons
- diapers, especially size 6, and pull-ups
- baby products (soap, lotion, wipes, etc.)

Food Pantry Needs

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

- fruit juice
- canned potatoes and mixed veggies
- canned meats and fish
- baking mixes
- canned and dried fruit

Volunteer Opportunities

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

Featured Volunteer Position

Filing Assistant: Our Emergency Services caseworkers need your help to keep their program running smoothly. A volunteer is needed to work 1-2 hours per week, helping primarily with filing. Work to be done on your schedule within our office hours: Monday-Friday, 8am - 4pm.

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.

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 or education@mcum.org.

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 8am - 4pm, Monday-Friday. Contact Meri at mcum@mcum.org or 339-3429.

Congregation Spotlight: St. Mark's United Methodist Church

The support Monroe County United Ministries receives from St. Mark's United Methodist Church comes in many forms. Their strong financial support supports MCUM's essential programs. Their food donations feed hungry families in Monroe County. Volunteers from the congregation help our office to run smoothly.

One unique way that the St. Mark's congregation makes a difference at MCUM is through their Shoebox Ministry, organized by the United Methodist Women. This group provides us with shoeboxes full of special treats which we pass on to the children of families seeking basic needs assistance. The children leave our building proudly holding their boxes, excited about receiving special attention and looking forward to discovering the box's contents.

Shoeboxes aren't the only way the United Methodist Women help MCUM. Financial support from this group has helped us to expand and renovate our childcare building, provide summer care for school-aged children, and ensure the overall health of our programs. Recently, a style show put on by this group helped to raise more than \$500 to benefit MCUM.

This congregation, described as "diverse and generous" by one member, is involved in numerous missions and makes financial donations through a "Faith Promise" mission giving program. The church's Great Room displays information about all the outreach and mission opportunities that the church supports. Under MCUM's display, you will find a wooden box, made by Dr. Mark Braun, a woodworker and friend of the congregation. Long-time MCUM volunteer, Ron Schoknecht, delivers food and other donations that members leave in the box for MCUM.

The history between MCUM and St. Marks is as long as the history of the church itself, as long-time members of the congregation can't remember a time when the two weren't connected. We truly appreciate the longevity and depth of their support.

Looking Ahead to Spring

Mark your calendars for the "Spring Into Action!" Luncheon and Auction, which will be held on Sunday, April 29, 2012. Contact Rebecca Stanze at (812) 339-3429 x15 for more information about:

- donating to the auction - Services and consumable items (food, tickets, classes, etc.) tend to be our most popular items.
- selling tickets and promoting the event at your place of worship, workplace, or club
- volunteering to help with craft projects or on the day of the event

Thank you!

We would like to thank...

- the members of the Unitarian Universalist Church for donating 75 holiday food baskets!
- University Baptist Church for collecting 2,245 pounds of food and other items for the Emergency Services Program.
- United Presbyterian Church for organizing a successful hat and mitten tree.
- Tri Kappa - Gamma Chapter for donating hats and gloves.
- Ivy Tech Community College - Bloomington for donating art supplies to the Childcare Program.
- Cub Scout Pack 136 for donating 38 pounds of new socks to the Emergency Services Program. In a fun twist, these cub scouts had a massive sock fight (rolled up tube socks do resemble snow balls) before packing up the socks for donation.
- the Bloomington Chapter of the IU Alumni Association for donating fun items, ranging from tissue paper to bubbles, for the Childcare Program.

Make an Impact with Your Estate Plan

As the holidays have come and gone, I remember the legacies of deceased loved ones and the impact they made in the community and on us as individuals.

The recent passing of my step-father, Bruce Siebert, from cancer at the age of 55 left a lasting impression. While most do not necessarily like to think about not waking up tomorrow, life is fragile. It is never to soon plan what will happen to your estate when you are gone. Plan accordingly. Think MCUM.

-by Patrick Coad, SPEA Service Corps Fellow

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.

Thank You, Pantry Donors

We depend on donations from individuals, clubs, congregations, and families during the holiday season and throughout the year. Listed here are some of the groups and households who have recently contributed food, cleaning supplies, and hygiene products:

Susan Barker	First United Church
Dr. Ruth Barrett	Bloomington Monthly Meeting of Friends
Kim Davis	Good Neighbors Home Extension Club
Jessica & Bryan Hane	Harrell-Fish
Dorothy Hanvey	Highlanders Home Extension Club
Melvin and Mary Hawkins	IU Department of Psychology
The Hill Family	IU Institute for Development Strategies
Sara & Bob LeBien	IU Kelley School of Business
Jennifer Lloyd	IU Office of the Vice President of Research
Louetta Mercier	IU Press
Norm & Jeanne Overly	IU Wruble Computer Center
Mike Pate	Long Family Eye Care
Jean Rogers	McDoel Baptist Church
Mary Jo and John Sgro	Monroe County Corrections Department
Lara Stanford	Monroe County Probation Department
Susan White	Oliver Winery
American Legion Post #18	Peoples State Bank - Ellettsville
Bell Trace	Sigma Alpha Lota Alumnae
Bill C. Brown Associates	SIHO Insurance Services
Bloomington Central Lions Club	Simpson Chapel
Bloomington Pediatric Dentistry	St. Charles Catholic School
Bloomington Social Security Office	St. Mark's United Methodist Church
Church Women United	St. Thomas Lutheran Church
Congregation Beth Shalom	Stone Belt
Conversation Club	TIS College Bookstore
Cook Medical, Inc.	Trinity Episcopal Church
Country View & Providence Place Apartments	Unitarian Universalist Church
Cub Scout Pack #136	United Presbyterian Church
Edgewood High School	University Baptist Church
Edgewood Jr. High School	Woodhaven Christian Church
Evening Glories Extension Club of Ellettsville	
Fairview United Methodist Church	
First Christian Church	
First Presbyterian Church	

Looking for Quality Childcare?

Check out 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 for a list of childcare programs accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children or more information about accredited programs.

Healthy Homes: Fighting Fast Food Cravings

by Patrick Coad, SPEA Service Corps Fellow, with help from www.letsmove.gov

Let's face it, in society today people are busier than ever. We are always rushing to get from one place to another, whether it be the next meeting, a friend's house, or a vacation destination. Often times we substitute our normal diet for fast food to fit our "on-the-go" lifestyles. Though we are busy, our health does not have to suffer. Here are a few tips to keep you healthy while accommodating your lifestyle:

- Avoid soda and other carbonated beverages
- Take snacks into the car and eat periodically
- Eat energy bars, peanut butter and jelly or foods high in protein
- Drink plenty of water or try a hot beverage such as tea

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:

Loretta Alanno
Rae Andrews
Berea Antakli
Brianna Baranawski
Brett Bassock
Barb Berggoetz
Kathryn Boots
Chelsea Burris
Margaret Chittum
Samantha Clodfeller
Jackie Crabb
Jim Crabb
Phil Davis
Joshua A. Dias
Joshua Diaz
James Duzan
Margaret Edens
Jason Fricke
Molly Gigax
Kaitlyn Gorman
Kelsey Gorman
Bonnie Harp
Brittany Howard
Sarah Huguenard
Lillian Jackson
Seda Jackson
Larry Jacobs
Raymond Ledo-Bunt
Arlyn Llewellyn

Steven Llewellyn
Eleanor Lloyd
Jennifer Lloyd
Rebecca Mandell
Darren Mehay
Samantha Mehay
Luetta Mercier
Chris Meyer
Rachel Milen
Harry Patton
Ashley Peterson
Domingo Prud'homme
Pat Pyfer
Ellen Richter
Betty Schoonmaker
Paul Schoonmaker
John Sgro
Brian Simmons
Ashley Sowders
Abbey Stamm
Helen Stout
April Tatom
Mark Tatom
Ollie Waldon
Jenny Walker
Jordan Weinreb
Melanie Wink
Daniel Yu

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!

Childcare Classroom Calendars

Staff

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

Puffins: room closed

Seahorses: 2 - 3 year olds

Teacher: Marycarole Matlock
Aide: Amanda Pursell-Smith
Aide: Lisa Minor

Penguins: 3 year olds

Teacher: Susan Williams
Aide: Laura Baker

Otters: 4 year olds

Teacher: Jessica Mackie
Aide: LaDawn Joyner

Dolphins: 5-6 year olds

Teacher: Kim Clay
Aide: Brock Singleton

Puffins

The Puffin Room previously served 2 - 2.5 year olds. This room was closed as a cost-saving measure due to continuing funding challenges. At this time, the Seahorse Room, which had been serving children 2.5 - 3, is serving children ages 2 - 3. Although we had hoped to re-open this classroom in 2012, our budget for the upcoming year, recently finalized by our Board of Directors, will not allow for it. This room will continue to sit empty as our waiting list grows.

Seahorses

January 30 - February 3 Dental Health

This week the Seahorses will learn what it takes to keep a healthy smile. They will learn what their teeth are good for and discuss how animals use their teeth, such as the beavers, sharks and other animals. The Seahorses will practice brushing their teeth properly, and receive new toothbrushes to take home.

February 6 - 10 Experimenting

This week the Seahorses will learn by experimenting. We will experiment with water, milk, baking soda, vinegar and many other types of safe materials. Our friends will help us carry out the experiments and show us different ways we can do the experiment. We will use the book I "Wonder Why Soap Makes Bubbles?"

February 13 - 17 Nursery Rhymes/Feelings

During Valentine's week the Seahorses will talk about two themes, nursery rhymes and other feelings. The Seahorses will dictate letters that they will give to their friends. On Tuesday we will have a Valentine's Day Party. Please feel free to join us, we will exchange Valentine's Day cards and pin the heart on the letter.

February 20 - 24 Taste/Hearing

Two important senses are taste and hearing. We will taste different kinds of food. We will listen to different sounds. What are we listening to; can you identify what it is? We will also sign circle songs and learn some signs for friends and what we do with them.

Parents please remember that Fridays are show and tell days. This is a great chance for your child to share a favorite toy or story with their friends. Also please remember to check both folders at school, this helps to continue communications between everyone.

Announcements For Parents

Mark your calendars:

2/1 Lunch with your Seahorse
2/8 Lunch with your Penguin
2/15 Lunch with your Otter
2/22 Lunch with your Dolphin

2/18 Barnyard Bash Children's Expo, presented by the City of Bloomington at Fairview Elementary School, 500 W. 7th Street, 1-4 p.m. Information and entertainment, free for families.

Parents and other family members are always welcome in our classrooms. If you'd like to share a meal with your child on a day not listed to the left, just let us know so we can update the kitchen staff.

Penguins

January 30 - February 3 Dental Health
Beautiful smiles will fill the Penguin room this week. We will learn the best way to brush our teeth, how often we should brush, and why flossing is important. The Penguins will enjoy using the dental health kit in the science area so that they can demonstrate proper brushing techniques. We will have fun painting with dental floss and toothbrushes. We will even make nice smiles out of healthy snacks.

February 06 - 10 Oceanography
Fish, dolphins, octopi, and whales... The Penguins will learn about these sea creatures and more! The Penguins will learn what these animals eat and how they breathe. At the end of the week, we will talk about who helps these animals when they are sick or hurt. We will discover the types of plants that thrive in salt water. We will look at seashells and play with them in our water table.

February 13 - 17 Friendship
This week Penguins will take time to reflect on their friendships. We will discuss what qualities we think are important in friends. The children will have the opportunity to tell us about their closest friend. We will also make surprises to share with our friends for Valentine's Day.

February 20 - 24 Light
There are many sources of light in the world. We will list them and discuss how each of them helps us see. We will talk about how the absence of light forms shadows. We will use flashlights in the science area to look closely at rocks, shells, and pinecones. We will also use flashlights and homemade attachments to make constellations on our ceiling.

Otters

January 30 - February 3 Famous People
What makes a person famous? We're going to find out! The Otters are going to talk about famous people. We will discuss reasons people become famous, as well as share about some of our favorite famous people. Then we will even try to decide what we are going to do when we become famous!

February 6 - 10 Black History
This week will be spent celebrating Black History! The Otters will be learning all about some of the amazing inventions made by black Americans that we still use in our every day lives. Last month we learned about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., but this week we will learn the names of several more important people who also made huge differences for us all.

February 13 - 17 Love & Friends
Love is in the air this week in the Otter room! Our class will spend time talking about people, things, and places we love. We will decorate boxes to hold all of the cards and goodies we receive during our Valentine's Day party! We will spend time sharing the things we look for in a friend, as well as chat about those pesky traits we don't like! Our classroom will be buzzing as we do many activities in pairs and groups with our buddies!

February 20 - 24 Presidents
As a four year old, most of our experience with presidents is seeing their faces on dollar bills. This week the Otters will spend time talking about how a person becomes president, what being a president means, some of the duties the president has, and learning the names of some of our presidents. We might even discuss what we would do if we were president!

Dolphins

January 30 - February 3 Dental Hygiene
February is Dental Health Month and a good time to discuss why dental hygiene is important. This week Dolphins will learn that going to the dentist can be a fun experience, not a scary one and that a dentist just wants to help keep our teeth healthy and clean. During this week they will also learn how to properly take care of their teeth.

February 6 - 10 Heart
Last week the dolphins learned how important it is to take care of your teeth. This week they are going to learn how important it is to take care of your heart. They will learn why the heart is a very important organ in our body and what we need to do to keep it healthy. They will also learn a very big word this week so don't forget to ask your Dolphin what it is.

February 13 - 17 Valentines Day
Every February, across the country-candy, flowers, and gifts are exchanged between love ones all in the name of St. Valentine. The Dolphins are no different, so we will be busy making beautiful Valentines Day cards and crafts for our loved ones. We will end the week with our annual Valentine's Day party in a box.

February 20 - 24 Presidents
How many presidents can you name? That will be the question the Dolphins will answer after spending a week talking about presidents. We will learn where they live and how long they stay in office and what duties they are responsible for. Who is your favorite president and why? The biggest question we will ask is "Would you want to be president?"

Monroe County United Ministries

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Return Service
Requested

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
SPEA Service Corps Fellows: Patrick Coad
Emily Pike

Hours of Operation:

Office and	Monday - Friday
Emergency	8:00am - noon
Services:	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 Volunteer

Need a stuffed animal for Valentine's Day? We have them throughout the store.

Martin Luther King Day was January 16th. We want to thank St. Mark's Methodist Church for helping us celebrate the holiday by helping us price and tackle other jobs on the day.

Help us out in 2012 by donating men's clothes as we are always short of those items. Of course, keep your other donations coming as well.

Thanks for your support!