

Working Together

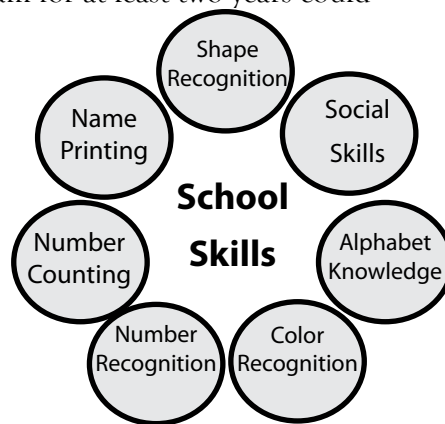
The Newsletter of Monroe County United Ministries

January/February 2013

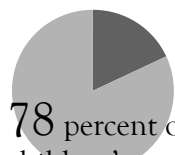
Excelling Preschoolers & Satisfied Families: 2012 in Review

When we started off 2012, we couldn't predict what would be in store for MCUM's programs. How many preschoolers would come through the Childcare Program doors? (124). Would children leaving the program be ready for elementary school? (A definitive yes). What situations would arise for low-income families in our community, and in what ways would we be able to help?

Well, by the end of 2012 we discovered that 67% of children enrolled continuously in our Childcare Program for at least two years could be classified as "school-ready." As a community, only one-third of students entering kindergarten are "school ready," which means our programs are having a significant impact on the children we serve. We'd love to thank our dedicated childcare staff for helping enrolled preschoolers succeed!



Parent Satisfaction



78 percent of parents surveyed have seen improvement in their children's understanding of basic literacy (ABCs, etc.) and math skills (counting, etc.). 100 percent said they would recommend the program to others.

We would like to thank our supporters ~ individuals like you ~ for making our programs possible. You make these parent quotes possible: "We couldn't be happier with the quality of care and detailed attention to development our child receives at MCUM!" and "As a parent being away from your child is difficult but when they are excited about the day and engaged socially with the staff it is so much easier to part ways during the day. THANK YOU!"

See "2012 in Review" on Page 4 for an update on our Emergency Services Program.

In 2012...

MCUM received 71,137 pounds of donated food, cleaning supplies, and hygiene products, the majority of which came from individuals, congregations, and clubs in the community.

MCUM's Emergency Services Program assisted 971 families in financial crisis last year. These families benefited from food, clothes, hygiene and cleaning supplies, financial assistance to prevent homelessness, and more.

This assistance included...

- 37,557 meals worth of food provided from the pantry
- 11,172 items from MCUM's "Cleaning Closet" and Opportunity House
- 95 bus passes handed out to help individuals get to important appointments, such as job interviews
- 61 families who received financial assistance to help keep them in their homes and the utilities on

Food Pantry Needs

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

- canned fruit, dried fruit (such as raisins), and applesauce
- baking mixes
- canned meats - chili, chicken & dumplings, salmon, beef stew
- fruit juice
- peanut butter
- canned vegetables, including mixed veg and potatoes

Frozen items are also welcome, including:

- whole chickens, frozen
- small packages of ground beef

Cleaning Closet Needs

Cleaning supplies and hygiene products can't be purchased with food stamps and are in high demand. Help restock our shelves with:

- new socks & underwear for adults
- items for babies such as wipes, shampoo, and toothpaste
- cleaners - window, bathroom, floor
- shaving cream
- facial tissues
- shampoo & conditioner
- lotion and lip balm

Childcare Needs

The Childcare Program still needs all kinds of classroom supplies, including:

- shoe-box size plastic containers with lids
- construction paper, all colors
- wooden clothespins (spring-type)
- magnet strips with adhesive
- glue sticks

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

Maintenance Volunteers:

Volunteers are needed to perform basic maintenance tasks to fit any skill level, from changing light bulbs to basic carpentry. Work is usually performed between 8-4, Monday-Friday. Contact Meri at mcum@mcum.org or 339-3429.

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.

Special Event Planners: Got an eye for design or decorating? Help plan fundraising events for MCUM! Volunteer as much or as little as you'd like. Contact Alison at 339-3429 x16 or fundraising@mcum.org.

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

Calling all musicians! Our preschool children love music. Would you be willing to spend a few hours sharing your instrument with young children? Contact Tina at 339-3429 or education@mcum.org.

Paul Crafton: A Leader Remembered



When Paul Crafton started as the director of this organization in 1967, it was known as The Christian Center. Soon it became Monroe County Ecumenical Ministries and it would become Monroe County United Ministries before his departure in 1973.

When Paul and Sue Crafton moved to Bloomington, Paul was only 30 years old but had already spent years helping people in poverty at the West Side Christian Parish of Chicago and the East Side Christian Center of Indianapolis. He had graduated from Indianapolis' Arsenal Tech in 1954, Indiana Central College in 1958, and received his bachelor of divinity degree from the University of Chicago in 1962.

Paul was our director during a time of great growth and change for this organization and was involved in reinstating a day care program after more than a decade of closure, establishing The Dugout and The Boxcar (off-site recreational units), founding Opportunity House, and galvanizing the community around issues of poverty. His name and photo regularly appeared in local papers, including the series of photos above from The Bloomington Tribune on February 9, 1967.

Paul passed away in Nutley Park, New Jersey in December 2012 after a lifetime of service.

Changes to MCUM Board of Directors

We would like to thank Lorne Aubin, Marcia Bishop, Jerry Cravens, and Norm Overly for their service on MCUM's Board of Directors. Their willingness to give time, energy, and expertise were much appreciated - and their influence will be felt by this organization for years to come. Terms ended in December 2012, making way for new board members: Byron Bangert, Diane Gregory, Al Ruesink, and Diana Smith. Welcome, new members!



MCUM's 2012 Board of Directors: (back, l-r) Carol Peterman, Phyllis Eads, Amy Young, Marcia Bishop, Jo Weddle, Mary Ellen Brown, Judy Bush (front, l-r) Norm Overly, Lorne Aubin, Jerry Cravens, Brian Drummy (not pictured - Larry Jacobs, John Rucker, Wendy VanderZee)

Thank you!

We would like to thank...

- Greg Claretto for his time and dedication to the Emergency Services Program.
- Leslie Green for keeping those in need warm this winter.
- Byron Reinhold for helping out with our recycling.
- Sigma Delta Tau for a large donation to our Emergency Food Pantry.
- Patty Pizzo for supplying the Childcare Program with books!
- Mark, Karen, Bryant, Jordan, Bailey, and Scotty Scales for donating grocery store gift cards to the Emergency Services Program.
- St. Thomas Lutheran Evangelical Church for donating 2,882 pounds of food and other items to MCUM's Emergency Food Pantry last year.
- everyone who helped make Christmas merry for those we serve.
- Fred Roedl for his support of MCUM's Strategic Planning Committee.

Make an Impact with an Estate Plan

How long have you been a MCUM supporter? Do you volunteer? Donate food? Organize a mitten drive within your club? Make a financial donation? No matter how you support MCUM, you can ensure a meaningful impact on this important community organization by making a gift through your estate plan. A simple bequest (a dollar figure, percentage, or remainder) can go a long way to making sure our programs are available for as long as they are needed.

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, Volunteers

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

Annette Alpert	Janeth Gonzalez	Allan Paton
Amal Altoma	Emily Graham	Harry Patton
Lorne Aubin	Shayla Hill	Sagar Pithadia
Belaynesh Beyene	Youth Advocating	Alison Pitt
Saksham Bhatia	Learning-Leadership	Ted Polley
Gabrielle Burress	Larry Jacobs	Danielle Potesman
David Chiang	Brandon Jones	Ron Schoknecht
Margaret Chittum	Josh Krinick	Betty Schoonmaker
Greg Claretto	Jennifer Lloyd	Paul Schoonmaker
Kasey Crouse	Ed McClellan	John Sgro
Patty Curry	Donna McGarvey	Mary Jo Sgro
Phil Davis	Darren Mehay	Solsberry Hill Retreat Center
Masie Duncan	Valerie Merriam	Cordaryl Taylor
Joann Eberly	Gail Merrill	Susie Trisler
Maggie Edens	Chris Meyer	Shantia Usher
Jalynne Foley	Megan Muehling	Jessica Walker
Neal Gammons	Sarah Parrish	Deven Washington
Shirley Goins	Bryan Parrott	

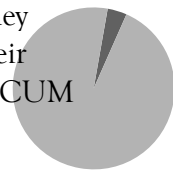
2012 in Review

What happens when two talented caseworkers work with community members requesting assistance? They dedicate hours of their time, during the work day and beyond, to meeting the needs of low-income families in Monroe County. Last year, Cliff and Justin met with 971 unduplicated families, providing a listening ear, referrals, food, cleaning and hygiene items, bus tickets, vouchers to Opportunity House, and rent and utility assistance. We conducted a voluntary client survey to gauge how well we serve our clients. The survey showed that:



90% said that receiving assistance from MCUM eased their worries about having enough to eat.

96% of respondents felt that the services they received during their previous visit to MCUM met their need.



Thank you for playing such a vital role in supporting our neighbors. Without donations to the pantry, financial support, and volunteer help, we wouldn't be able to serve our neighbors in need!

The Feinstein Challenge Beckons

Ready to get the most out of your support for low-income families in need? Any food or monetary donation received for the challenge during March or April will qualify for matching funds from the Feinstein Family Foundation. Last year's Feinstein campaign raised more than \$40,000 for our neighbors in need of assistance!

“Spring Into Action!” Approaching

Mark your calendars for Sunday, April 21, 2013 - the date of the ninth annual “Spring Into Action!” Luncheon and Auction at the Monroe County/Bloomington Convention Center. Last year we raised more than \$20,000 through this event, but we’re shooting for \$25,000 in 2013! You can help us meet our goal by:

- Attending the luncheon
- Selling tickets to friends, family, co-workers, and acquaintances
- Donating unique, quality auction items (call Rebecca Stanze at 812-339-3429 x 15 to discuss an item)
- Asking for gift certificates and auction items from local businesses with which you have a connection
- Volunteering the day of the event or during planning

Get ready for an afternoon of delicious food, excellent auction items to fit any taste or price range, and stories of how your participation positively impacts our community. We hope you can make it!

Spotlight auction item: Fourth of July vacation in Williamsburg, Virginia

Thank You, Pantry Donors

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

All Saints Orthodox Church	Sherry Jeffers
American Legion, Post 18	Brian Keith
Andrews, Harrell, Mann, Carmin & Parker	Jennifer & Randy Lloyd
Bloomington Monthly Meeting of Friends	Long Family Eye Care
Bloomington Pediatric Dentistry	McDoel Baptist Church
BNI Elite	Members Choice Federal Credit Union
Russell Chance	Oliver Winery
Church Women United	Olson & Company, P.C.
Jef & Pam Davidson	Opportunity House
Delta Zeta Alumnae	The Sluss/Wright Family
Judith & Thomas Dillon	St. Charles Borromeo Church, Daughters of Isabella
Evening Glories Extension Club of Ellettsville	St. Charles Catholic School
Jeff Firestone	St. Thomas Lutheran Evangelical Church
First Christian Church	The Witzke Family
First Presbyterian Church	TIS College Bookstore, Accounting
First United Church	Tri-North Middle School
Danielle Gunkel	Trinity Episcopal Church
Harrell-Fish	Howard & Joy True
Melvin Kem & Mary D. Hawkins	Unitarian Universalist Church
Highlanders Home Extension Club	University Baptist Church
Phil & Frances Hill	Susan White
Indiana University Press	Yarns Unlimited
Indiana University, VP of Research	Susan Yoon

Cell Phone Recycling

When you upgrade your cell phone, stop to consider how to dispose of your old one responsibly. Some “recycling” programs ship phones to developing countries where they put human lives and natural resources in danger. MCUM is paid per phone (\$0.50 - \$35) by a recycling/refurbishing company with zero landfill and no-export policies. In addition, your phone will raise money to fund our programs.

Phones can be donated at Opportunity House, MCUM’s offices, and anywhere MCUM items are collected.

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: position open
Assistant Cook: Derrick Mackie

Puffins: room closed

Seahorses: 2 - 3 year olds

Teacher: Marycarole Matlock
Aide: Sarah Norzinskay

Penguins: 3 year olds

Teacher: Kim Clay
Aide: Emily Walden

Otters: 4 year olds

Teacher: Jessica Mackie
Aide: Serenity Guthrie

Dolphins: 5-6 year olds

Teacher: Brock Singleton
Aide: LaDawn Joyner

Puffins

The Puffin Room previously served 2 - 2.5 year olds. This room was closed in August 2011 as a cost-saving measure due to continuing funding challenges. While the room sits empty, we are considering plans for how to re-open the classroom in the future.

Seahorses

February 4-8 Dental Health

This week the Seahorses will be talking about dental health. What are some ways that we can keep our teeth healthy? We will sing songs about brushing and flossing teeth and practice brushing on a big set of teeth. We will also discuss what foods and drinks are good for our teeth.

February 11-15 Senses/ Hearts

This week the Seahorses will be talking about our senses. What do we hear, see, feel, and taste with? We will do rubbings from our Braille books and talk about how people get along without being able to see. We will test our other senses by matching listening jars and tasting different foods. We will also learn how we can feel with our feet and faces and not just our hands. On Friday, the Seahorses will be having a Valentine's party.

February 18-22 Camping

This week the Seahorses will pretend to go camping. What do you do when you go camping? Who has been camping? On Friday the Seahorses will be having a camping party! We will make our own s'mores and play with our flashlights.

February 25- March 1 Community Helpers

This week the Seahorses will be talking about Community Helpers. Who do you see when you are out every day? Who helps you to keep your teeth clean, your body healthy, and you safe in your community? What do you want to be when you grow up? We will use the Community Helpers drama box and dress up as our favorite workers.



Announcements For Parents

A six-week parenting workshop called "Positive Solutions for Families" will begin on January 28. This series will focus on building the social and emotional competence of children as well as preparing children for school. This project is funded by Old National Bank, who is providing childcare, meals, and resources for each family. Thanks, ONB!

See Tina for more information about this opportunity or CPR training.

Mark Your Calendar

February 4: "Positive Solutions for Families" Session 2
February 6 - Lunch with your child
February 11 - "Positive Solutions for Families" Session 3
February 13 - Lunch with your child
February 20 - Lunch with your child
February 23 - CPR for Parents, 9:30-1:00
February 25 - "Positive Solutions for Families" Session 4
February 27 - Lunch with your child



Penguins

February 4-8 Dental Health

February is Dental Health Month and smiles will fill the Penguin Room as we discuss why dental health is important. This week we will learn that going to the dentist can be a fun experience, not a scary one. The Penguins will also enjoy using the dental health kit in the science area to demonstrate proper brushing techniques.

February 11-15 Valentine's Day

Every February, loved ones across the country exchange candy, flowers, and gifts all in the name of St. Valentine. The Penguins are no different! We will be busy making beautiful Valentine's Day cards and crafts for our friends and family. We will also use this time to reflect on our friendships as all the Penguins will have a chance to share stories about their closest friend and their friend's special qualities.



February 18-22 Frog & Toad

This week marks the beginning the Penguins' six-week exploration of great authors. This week 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 25-March 1 The Berenstain Bears

This week we will look at strong family values as seen through the eyes of the Berenstain Bears. We will stumble along with the bears as we learn how; to get along with our siblings, to be polite, and to take care of our home. We'll be celebrating families with many activities.

Otters

February 4-8 Black History

This week the Otters will celebrate Black History! The Otters will be learning all about some of the amazing inventions made by black Americans that we use in our everyday lives. Last month we talked a little about Martin Luther King, Jr., but this week we will learn the names of several other important people who made a big difference.

February 11-15 Love & Friends

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 also decorate boxes to hold all of the cards and goodies we will receive during our Valentine's Day party!! We will take a look at friendship as we share the things we look for in a friend, and chat about those pesky traits we don't like! Our classroom will be buzzing this week as we do many activities in pairs and groups with our buddies!

February 18-22 Dental Health

Toothbrushes...check. Toothpaste...check. Floss...check. The Otters are going to be reminded of the importance of good dental hygiene and practice the right way to brush our pearly whites. This week our housekeeping area will become a dentist's office and we'll even do some painting with toothbrushes!

February 25-March 1 Healthy Bodies

There are many different factors when it comes to keeping our bodies healthy. This week the Otters will be learning about nutrition, exercise, and other ways to keep healthy. We will be talking about the importance of baths, brushing our teeth and hair, going to doctor's appointments, visiting the dentist, and more!

Dolphins

February 4-8 United States

This week the Dolphins will learn all about the beautiful country we live in. We will talk about the different states in the Union, some of our famous landmarks, and the special things that make this country so great. We will also be doing special activities dealing with the American flag and making a bulletin board about what we learned about the United States this week.

February 11-15 Valentine's Week

This week we will be having our Valentine's Day party. We will read books and learn all about the joy of sharing and loving others. We will also decorate the classroom with our own Valentine's Day art, and make special bags for our cards and treats.



February 18-22 Presidents

This week the Dolphins will celebrate Presidents Day, so we will spend the week learning all about presidents. We will read books about past presidents, where they lived and what they did. We will also talk about our currency and which presidents are on our money.

February 25-March 1 Pets

From dogs to cats to fish this week we will talk about all the pets that live in our households. The Dolphins will be introduced to a wide variety of pets, from the basic ones to ones they wouldn't necessarily think of. We will also read and discuss what is needed of each of us when owning and caring for a pet.

Monroe County United Ministries

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If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter or you want to switch to e-mail delivery, please contact our office at 812-339-3429 x15 or development@mcum.org.

Staff:

Executive Director: Meri Reinhold
Development Coordinator: Rebecca Stanze
Development Associate: Alison Pitt
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 Update

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.

by Jill Argenbright, Opportunity House Co-Chair

The Opportunity House ended 2012 in a very positive way; with changes in the look of the store, lower prices, more sale items, as well as the profits we made because of those changes. Many thanks to the co-chairs from last year - Julie Farris and Jeanne Overly - for their tireless efforts to enhance the store for shoppers and volunteers. They gave many volunteer hours to make 2012 the success that it was. Jeanne has decided to step down from co-chair to once again be a valuable store volunteer, and I will replace her as co-chair with Julie for 2013.

Start 2013 off right by shopping with us and visiting with our friendly cashiers and volunteers. If you have some extra time for volunteer work, give us a try.