

Working Together

The Newsletter of Monroe County United Ministries

July 2013

Health Challenges Threaten Stability

Laura has overcome a lot in her life. She divorced from her husband recently, complicating her finances. She applied for food stamps, but her status as a full-time student rendered her ineligible. On top of her financial struggles, Laura's doctors discovered lesions on her brain and suspect muscular dystrophy, but have yet to confirm the diagnosis. Laura's illness has required her to decline job offers she would normally accept. Behind on her rent and facing eviction, Laura anxiously awaits an amended tax refund. She'll be able to get her life back on track after starting a manageable job in the coming month, but the rent is due now. And hunger is immediate.

Emergency Services Coordinator Cliff Edens met with Laura to discuss what resources were available to help her get back on her feet and to provide her with emergency food. MCUM worked with her township trustee to pay the outstanding rent, preventing eviction and homelessness for our struggling neighbor. After already overcoming so much, we have high hopes that Laura will regain control of her life by utilizing other community resources, such as Volunteers in Medicine, and finishing her education.

"Each One, Feed One" Community Food Drive

Are you ready to make a BIG impact in one weekend? MCUM needs volunteers for the ninth annual "Each One, Feed One" Community Food Drive, Friday, August 23 through Sunday, August 25. Volunteer by yourself or as part of a group! Your efforts will help us meet our goal of raising 16,000 pounds of donations in only three days. Volunteer positions include:

- Store Volunteer - pass out shopping lists to entering customers and collect food, hygiene products, and cleaning items
- Drivers and Riders - follow designated routes to pick up donations from stores and deliver them to MCUM for sorting
- Troubleshooters - our favorite volunteers! Fill in wherever needed!

So how do you sign up? Visit www.mcum.org or contact Meri Reinhold at (812) 339-3429 x 11 or mcum@mcum.org. Thank you for taking the time to feed those who need our support.

Happy Anniversary!

In 2014, Monroe County United Ministries will celebrate 75 years in service to the community.

Share Your Story

As part of our celebration, we are collecting stories from across the community to help us understand and document the impact MCUM (formerly known as the Christian Center and Bloomington Day Nursery) has had on the community. Do you have a memory to share or a story to tell on behalf of your congregation, club or other group? You can share your story on our website (go to www.mcum.org and click on the anniversary icon), mail your story to the address on the back of this newsletter, or contact Development Coordinator Rebecca Stanze at development@mcum.org or 812-339-3429. Photos and other historical documents are also welcome.

Help Us Celebrate

Do you have an idea about how we should celebrate our anniversary? Do you belong to a group that would like to get involved in the celebration? Just let us know! Financial sponsors for anniversary events are especially welcome.

Food Pantry Needs

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

- baking mix
- canned vegetables - potatoes, mixed vegetables
- tomato & vegetable soups
- canned fruit - pears, oranges
- peanut butter

Meat for our freezer is also welcome, including:

- 1-2 pound packages of meat (can be re-wrapped at deli counter into small packages)
- whole chickens

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:

- deodorant
- dish soap
- household cleaners
- shampoo & conditioner
- toothpaste
- tampons

Childcare Needs

With 84 children enrolled, the Childcare Program needs all kinds of supplies, including:

- Scrabble letter tiles
- plastic golf club set
- clipboards (9"x12")
- Crayola crayons & washable markers
- school supply boxes (not bags/pouches)
- tulle netting in any color
- hula hoops
- small shallow containers of various sizes for sorting activities

Opp House Needs

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

- kitchenware
- sheets & blankets
- towels
- large shopping bags with handles

Volunteer Opportunities

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

Featured Volunteer Position

Food Drive Volunteers: Volunteers are needed to fill 250 slots during the "Each One, Feed One" Community Food Drive, August 23-25. Help us collect 16,000 pounds of food in one weekend! Volunteers are especially needed to collect donations at area grocery stores during these three days.

Learn more about shifts and volunteer needs at mcum.org or by contacting Meri at mcum@mcum.org or 339-3429 x11.

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 x11.

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 x19 or education@mcum.org.

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.

Client Survey Volunteers: Volunteers are needed in July to administer surveys to clients seeking basic needs assistance. Volunteers will read questions and record responses. Training provided. Shifts are 9:30-11:30 am and 1-3 pm, Monday-Friday. Contact Meri Reinhold at mcum@mcum.org or 339-3429 x11.

Making Progress With CLIMBS

It has been a year since MCUM was selected to serve as Monroe County pilot site for a new initiative called the Caregivers Learning Indiana's Model for Building Social Skills (CLIMBS), which focuses on improving



emotional and social competence in young children as well as decreasing challenging behaviors that can impede learning for an entire classroom.

Over the past year, we have implemented school-wide expectations, which help classroom staff consistently

use positive behavior support to encourage social emotional competence. It has been fun to watch children, teachers, AND parents embrace the expectations and catch each other following them! Additionally, our staff has participated in 14 hours of CLIMBS training and parents were provided an opportunity to participate in a six-week training called "Parenting Solutions for Families." This program helped parents understand why children act the way they do, why parents react the way they do, and how to teach appropriate behavior skills. Parents were also provided with a few resources to help them on their journey.

An additional CLIMBS goal is to create a "Book Nook" for each classroom to further encourage social emotional skill-building. The "Book Nook" provides activities designed around children's book topics. Examples of suggested activities include using rhymes to talk about being friends, making emotion masks to help children identify and talk about different feelings, playing games around what to do with hands instead of hitting, and fun music and movement activities to express emotions. To achieve this goal, we need your help! Below is a list of needed book titles. We can use multiple copies (gently used or new) of each title. Questions about book donations? Contact Education Coordinator Tina Pender at 339-3429 x19 or education@mcum.org.

- *Abiyoyoby*, Pete Seeger
- *Baby Cakes*, Karma Wilson
- *Big Al*, Andrew Clements
- *Glad Monster Sad Monster*, Ed Emberley & Anne Miranda
- *Guess How Much I Love You*, Sam McBratney
- *Hands Are Not for Hitting*, Martine Agassi
- *I Can Share*, Karen Katz
- *"I Have A Problem," Said the Bear*, Heinz Janischney
- *Llama Llama Misses Mama*, Anna Dewdney
- *My Many Colored Days*, Dr. Seuss
- *Mouse was Mad*, Linda Urban
- *No Biting*, Karen Katz
- *No Matter What*, Debi Gliori
- *On Monday When It Rained*, Cherryl Kachenmeister
- *Pat Them Gently*, Melanie O'Brien
- *Quiet LOUD*, Leslie Patricelli
- *Rainbow Fish*, Marcus Pfister
- *Sometimes I'm Bombaloo*, Rachel Vail
- *Taking a Bath with the Dog and Other Things That Make Me Happy*, Scott Menchin
- *The Kissing Hand*, Audrey Penn
- *Too Loud Lilly*, Sophia Laguna
- *When I Am*, Gladys Rosa-Mendoza

Thank you!

We would like to thank...

- Alison Pitt for her work as MCUM's development associate. Good luck on your next adventure, Alison!
- CMC Construction for sharing their carpentry skills with MCUM.
- Pam Davidson for her ongoing support of our programs.
- The Winne family, and especially Ben Winne, for donating scooters to the Childcare Program.
- Whitney Buccicone for her work preserving our historical materials.
- Ron Schoknecht and Phil Davis for their work on our buildings and grounds.
- Dezaray Christenberry for donating a DVD player to be used for staff training.
- Frieda Hoffman for her dedication to MCUM. Thanks for the kites!
- The Dollar General Store on West 3rd St. for food donations.
- Everyone who donated to our swimmership fund!

Make an Impact with Your Estate Plan

Generous gifts and goodwill from community supporters have allowed MCUM to provide essential community services since 1939. If you would like to ensure the continuation of our programs for as long as they are needed, consider making a gift to MCUM through your estate plan. Numerous giving options, and tax benefits, allow you to create a lasting legacy in the community in a manner that suits you.

All gifts, large and small, make a lasting difference for MCUM's ability to serve our community's most vulnerable citizens.

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:

Loretta Alonso	Derrick Martin	Allan Paton
Joyce Bryer	Judy McDougal	Sarah Paulsen
Whitney Buccicone	Leon McDougal	Audrey Rairdon
Greg Claretto	Samantha Mehay	Betty Schoonmaker
Su Cowling	Steve Mehay	Paul Schoonmaker
Phil Davis	Luetta Mercier	John Sgro
Molly Green	Valerie Merriam	Jessica Thomas
Larry Jacobs	Chris Meyer	Jessica Walker
Miriam Katz	Donna Michael	Stephanie Wanger
Kathryn Keating	North-American	
Emily Kehoe	Interfraternity	
Avery Keiser	Conference	

Stop By for a Thursday Tour!

Did you know that the interesting layout of MCUM's Emergency Food Pantry is due to the fact that it used to be an eye clinic? Learn more facts about MCUM during a complimentary tour of our facilities, offered at noon each Thursday. Drop in and see the impact your support has in the Childcare and Emergency Services Programs!

MCUM's Strategic Plan: Innovation, Leadership & Endurance

Our Board of Directors recently approved a five-year strategic plan that outlines our organizational goals and program directions for 2013-2017. With continued support from the community, MCUM has many exciting initiatives underway to improve program quality and meet changing community needs. Here is just one example from our plan:

Initiative #5: Increase food distribution from the Emergency Food Pantry from a 3-day supply for food to a 5-day supply of food for each family size by increasing annual food donations to the pantry by 27,000 pounds.

To accomplish this goal, we will need many volunteers acting on our behalf in the community, seeking food drive opportunities and helping collected items reach our pantry. For more information about this and other strategic plan initiatives, contact Meri Reinhold, executive director, at mcum@mcum.org or (812) 339-3429 x11. A complete list of plan initiatives is available at www.mcum.org.



Matchstick Match Money

MCUM's endowment at the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County will help to ensure MCUM's essential programs are available as long as we have neighbors in need. The Matchstick Endowment Matching Initiative will help your support of the endowment make an even greater impact. For every two dollars donated by the community, the foundation will add an additional dollar to MCUM's endowment. When we meet our goal of \$30,000, the foundation will add an

additional \$10,000. Donations should be made directly to:

Community Foundation of Bloomington & Monroe County
101 W. Kirkwood, Suite 321
Bloomington, Indiana 47404.

Don't forget to note that the donation is for MCUM's endowment. For more information about this opportunity, contact Rebecca Stanze at 339-3429 x15 or development@mcum.org. To check on our current campaign balance, contact the foundation at 333-9016.

Thank You, Pantry Donors

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

Bloomington Monthly Meeting of Friends
Bonnie Branham
Jef & Pam Davidson
Fairview United Methodist Church
First Christian Church
First Presbyterian Church
First United Church
Girls Scouts in Monroe County
Allison Lake
Opportunity House
Kara Reagan & Mark Stoops
Basilla Jean Rogers
Mary Jo & John Sgro
St. Charles Borromeo Church, Daughters of Isabella
St. Mark's United Methodist Church
St. Thomas Lutheran Evangelical Church
Stoneybrook Community Church of God
Trinity Episcopal Church
Unitarian Universalist Church
University Baptist Church
Woodhaven Christian Church

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: Denise Garrett
Assistant Cook: Derrick Mackie

Puffins: room closed

Seahorses: 2 - 3 year olds

Teacher: Marycarole Matlock
Aide: Brittney Denton

Penguins: 3 year olds

Teacher: Kim Clay
Aide: Sarah Norzinsky

Otters: 4 year olds

Teacher: Jessica Mackie
Aide: Anne Wyatt

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 2014.

If you would like to get involved in re-opening the Puffin Room, contact Executive Director Meri Reinhold at mcum@mcum.org or 812-339-3429 x11.

Seahorses

July 1 - 5 Experimenting

This week the Seahorses will be doing a lot of experimenting. What happens when we mix vinegar and baking soda? How do we make snow? We will also add food coloring so that we can see ice melt. What will happen when we mix different colors together? What happens when we freeze water and then put salt on it?

July 8 - 12 Ponds

The Seahorses will talk about ponds this week. What do you find in ponds? We will sing songs about the five little freckled frogs and the five little ducks. We will also read "Little Ducks New Friend." Can you hop like a frog or waddle like a duck?

July 15 - 19 Science

What is the difference between science and experimenting? The Seahorses will find out! We will talk about skeletons and what our bodies are made of. Also, we will see what air does and how we can move air. We will read "Where Do Balloons Go?". We will also look at items that sink and float.

July 22 - 26 Space

Let's take our room out of this world for this week. The Seahorses will talk about space this week. How do they relax and what do they eat? We will read "Roaring Rockets." What do you think it feels like to walk on the moon?

July 29 - August 2 Oceans

Bringing it back to earth, the Seahorses will take move from farthest space to deep down in the ocean. How many Oceans do we have? We will read "I Live Near the Ocean." Now that we are in the ocean, this week we will talk about and count a lot of seahorses.



Announcements For Parents

Mark Your Calendars for July!

July 3 Lunch with your child

July 4 Agency Closed

July 10 Lunch with your child

July 17 Mobile Dentist
Lunch with your child

July 24 Lunch with your child

Parents, please bring in a change of summer clothes, sunscreen, and an empty bottle for water. Please label these items and give them to your child's teacher.

Penguins

July 1 - 5 The United States

As we prepare for our Independence Day celebration, the Penguins will discuss our country and what makes it great. We will look at a map of the USA and talk about the different places we have visited. Where have you been in the United States?

July 8 - 12 Ocean

This week the Penguins will explore the deep blue sea as we learn about the ocean. We will also discover what types of plants and animals thrive in this salty environment. The children will be busy digging for seashells and using the magnifying glasses in the science area to examine them. The Penguins will also spend time in the art area creating beautiful underwater scenes using crayon and watercolors.

July 15 - 19 Circus

The Penguins are off to the circus as we learn about the Big Top. We will learn about the exciting lives of traveling circus performers, what animals we might find at the circus, and what tricks those animals might do. What is your favorite thing to see at the circus?

July 22 - 26 County Fair

This week the Penguins are going to take a look at life at the county fair. We will talk about the animal we might see, the foods we might taste, and the rides we might enjoy if we were to spend time at the fair.

July 29 - August 2 Zoo

Lions and tigers and bears, oh my! This week the Penguins will learn about the animals that can be found at the zoo. We will discuss the types of habitats in which these animals live and the foods they eat. The Penguins will also graph pictures of our favorite zoo animals. What is your favorite zoo animal?

Otters

July 1 - 5 Celebrating America

This week the Otters will learn why we celebrate the 4th of July, what independence means, and where fireworks come from. We will also make our own fireworks pictures in the art area. The Otters share stories of our own celebrations with each other!

July 8 - 12 Ice Cream

This week the Otters will learn about ice cream. We will discuss what ingredients create ice cream, learn some crazy flavors, and where our favorite places to go for ice cream are. The Otters will even attempt to make our very own batch of homemade ice cream!!

July 15 - 19 Animal Habitats

We've talked about animal homes before, but this week the Otters will dive deeper to study habitats. Through books, magazines, games, and other fun activities we will explore what makes a habitat a habitat and an assortment of types of animal homes

July 22 - 26 Fine Motor Fun

Fine motor skills are immensely important, therefore we will have many activities to improve our fine motor skills! The Otters' little fingers will be put to some serious work this week, as we explore the vast world of fine motor with puzzles, beads, small Legos, lacing cards, Flubber, and much more!

July 29 - August 2 Bubbles

We LOVE bubbles and this will be one FUN week! The Otters will learn how to make bubbles and think of different items to use as wands. Our water table will be filled with bubbles, and we will try out different bubble solutions. Be sure to ask us which solution was our favorite!

Dolphins

July 1 - 5 4th of July

This week the Dolphins will celebrate our country's independence. We will read books about the 4th of July and why it is a holiday we celebrate. We will also do glitter art that will look like fireworks, and get messy with red, white, and blue shaving cream.

July 8 - 12 Weather

This week we will be talking about different types of weather. Since it is summer time we will talk about the importance of drinking lots of water and not staying out for too long when it's hot. We will also discuss tornados, hurricanes, and other weather related topics.

July 15 - 19 Music

This week we will listen to all different types of music. We will pick CDs from the library to listen and enjoy. Our instrument area will also be open for the Dolphins to make our own music. We will also craft our own instruments at our art center for our enjoyment.

July 22 - 26 Deserts

This week we will talk and learn about the desert. The Dolphins will look on our map and learn where the deserts are in the United States. We will also study the types of animals that live in the desert and how things survive with so little water and food. What is your favorite animal that lives in the desert?

July 29 - August 2 Olympics

This week we will have our own little Olympics. The Dolphins will read books that will teach us about the spirit of the Olympics and why they are so fun. The Dolphins will also make our own medals at the art table to wear around to show our achievements.

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, located at 907 W. 11th Street, is a volunteer-run resale shop that raises funds to support MCUM's programs. Store hours are 9:00-2:00, Monday-Saturday, with donations accepted 8:30-3:00. Call 336-2443 or follow Opp House on Facebook.

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

Opportunity House Update

by Jill Argenbright, Opportunity House Co-Chair

We at the Opportunity House have been hard at work to stay well-stocked with summer clothes as well as other "must have" items we think you might like. Some new volunteers are doing a superb job with pricing and as cashiers. If you have some free time, come join us as a volunteer!

Your donations always mean so much to us. However, we are full to the brim right now and need to get caught up. Sorry to say, we are not accepting donations until July 8. At that time our doors will once again be open to your generous donations.