

Working Together

The Newsletter of Monroe County United Ministries

June 2011

Feinstein Challenge Update

March and April were busy months as individuals, faith communities, clubs, and others participated in the Feinstein Challenge. Thanks to the community's support, MCUM collected \$40,372.50 and 13,290 pounds of donated food, which will be eligible for a portion of a \$1M match provided by the Feinstein Foundation and its founder, Alan Shawn Feinstein. Thanks to everyone who donated a can, organized a drive, or mailed in a donation. Without your support, we would not be able to provide essential services to our community's most vulnerable citizens.

Looking Forward to Summer Camp

On June 13th, 40 children, ages 6-12, will fill the gym used by our Summer Camp Program. For eight weeks, these children will swim at Mills Pool, play on our playground, learn new physical activity skills such as Zumba and Tae Bo, take field trips to places like the Indianapolis Zoo and the IU Astronomy Department, and make new friends while re-connecting with old ones.



This program is highly valued by the families it serves. Without an affordable summer program provided on a sliding fee scale, many of our parents would have to choose between leaving their young child home alone during the summer or leaving a job in the hopes of regaining employment in the fall. This affordable program provides children with a safe and enriching environment while supporting parents in their efforts to continue their employment.

The 2011 Summer Camp is made possible by the support of our partner resale shop, Opportunity House. We also received a grant from the Payback Foundation that will purchase exercise equipment and bring in instructors to teach a variety of fitness techniques.

Mark Your Calendars for "Each One, Feed One"

MCUM's annual "Each One, Feed One" Community Food Drive will be held Friday, August 26 - Sunday, August 28. Our goal is to collect 15,000 pounds of food, cleaning supplies, and hygiene items during the three-day drive. For more information about the drive or volunteering for the event, visit www.mcum.org.

Thank you to our generous event sponsors:



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Heflin Industries

Farmers Insurance Agent,
Tawni Hill

Snyder Family

Cleaning Closet Needs

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

- new underwear and socks for women
- new underwear for men
- conditioner
- baby wipes
- feminine hygiene products
- toothbrushes

Food Pantry Needs

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

- cornmeal mixes and other baking mixes
- canned meats such as chili, beef stew, spam, and chicken
- saltine crackers

Special Request

The Summer Camp Program would appreciate donations of yoga mats and exercise balls for the campers to use this summer. Questions? Contact Tina Pender at (812)339-3429 or educate@mcum.org.

Childcare Needs

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

- Crayola washable markers
- glue sticks and liquid glue
- construction paper (9x12) all colors

Volunteer Opportunities

For more information about these or other positions, contact Cliff Edens at (812)339-3429 or help@mcum.org unless another name is provided below.

Featured Volunteer Position

Painting Volunteers: A few volunteers are needed to scrape and paint a very small rental house owned by MCUM. Materials provided. For more information or to schedule your work, contact Meri at mcum@mcum.org or (812)339-3429.

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 (812)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.

Newsletter Team: Our team meets one morning during the last week of each month to prepare the newsletter for mailing. If you would like to be notified of the dates, contact Rebecca at (812)339-3429 or development@mcum.org.

Share your hobby! Our preschool children love to learn about new things. Are you willing to spend a few hours sharing your interests with young children? Contact Tina at (812)339-3429 or education@mcum.org

Family Literacy: Prevent Summer Brain Drain

by Danielle Rankin, SPEA Service Corps Fellow

Studies show that children who read during their summer break gain reading skills, while those who do not often lose skills. According to the National Summer Learning Association, all young people experience learning losses when they do not engage in educational activities during the summer and teachers spend an average of one month re-teaching material that students forgot over the summer. While all kids usually have some “summer brain drain,” children from low-income situations tend to suffer more academic slide and cumulative effects of learning loss than their higher-income peers. By the time children reach fourth grade, low-income students have lost nearly 1.5 years of educational time. Here are some helpful hints from Reading is Fundamental to help your child beat the summer slide.



Relax the Rules for Summer: During the school year, children have busy schedules and often have required reading for classes. Summer is a time when children can read what, when, and how they please.

Don't set daily minute requirements or determine the number of pages they should read. You may even want to make bedtime a little bit later if you find that your child can't put down a book!

Take Reading on the Road: When preparing for family road trips, stock up on audio books from your library and let your children choose some stories. Have family members share favorite ghost stories or adventure stories on picnics or around the campfire.

Hit the Stacks: The Monroe County Public Library coordinates a special reading program each summer starting June 1. Children can earn prizes such as paperback books and free workshops through listening to audio books, answering questions about current events, attending library programs, and of course, reading!

Sponsor a Summer Swimmer

Everyone is looking forward to summer and a favorite warm-weather activity is swimming! MCUM's summer campers visit Bloomington's Mills Pool, conveniently located across the street, every day of the program, weather permitting. The Penguin, Otter and Dolphin Classrooms (ages 3-6) visit the pool several times each week.

While this is a great opportunity for children to learn water safety rules, learn new skills, and enjoy a new physical activity, there is an additional fee that some parents struggle to pay. A donation of \$52.50 would sponsor a low-income summer camper and \$24 would sponsor a younger child, but donations of any size can help reduce the cost of swimming for our families. If you would like to sponsor a swimmer, just make sure we know your donation is for a “swimmership.”

Thank you!

We would like to thank...

- the Bloomington Volunteer Network for connecting our organization with wonderful volunteers.
- everyone who donated supplies for Summer Camp. We have everything we need for our “Minute to Win It” Boot Camp.
- Christina and Grace Lambton for their donation of construction paper and glue.
- Bloomington's Dollar General on Third Street for holding a month-long food drive in May.
- the Payback Foundation and Opportunity House for their support of MCUM's Summer Camp.
- Pack 170 for collecting food for MCUM's Emergency Food Pantry as part of their Scouting for Food project.
- the Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning's Service-Learning Program for all their support.

Travel-Sized Toiletries Needed

Will you do a lot of traveling this year? Do you stockpile those little bottles of shampoo and mini bars of soap? When people in crisis need food assistance, we also include a roll of bathroom tissue and a few travel size toiletries with their groceries. Your donations of travel (and regular) size toiletries can be dropped off at our office or anywhere MCUM food is collected.

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.

Light the Way for MCUM

For the sixth year, MCUM is participating in the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County's Matchstick Endowment Matching Initiative. When community members donate \$7,500 for MCUM's endowment fund, an additional \$2,500 will be added by the foundation. This is a great opportunity to maximize the impact of your donation, thanks to a 3:1 match, and to strengthen the endowment that will support our programs for as long as they are needed. Donations should be sent directly to the foundation:

*Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County
101 W. Kirkwood, Suite 321
Bloomington, Indiana 47404-6129*

Please note "MCUM/Matchstick" on the memo line. Contact the foundation at (812) 333-9016 or our office at (812)339-3429 if you have any questions about the Matchstick Program.

Looking for Quality Childcare?

Check out www.in.gov/fssa/carefinder. 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.

Thank You, Pantry Donors

MCUM's Emergency Food Pantry has received 19,099 pounds of donations so far this year. Listed here are some of the groups and households who have contributed to this total in the last month:

<i>Marcela Aca-Jimenez</i>	<i>Opportunity House</i>
<i>Pam & Jef Davidson</i>	<i>Phi Sigma Kappa</i>
<i>Arlington United Methodist Church</i>	<i>Purdue University Extension</i>
<i>Bloomington Central Lions Club</i>	<i>Jean Rogers</i>
<i>Daughters of Isabella</i>	<i>Simpson Chapel</i>
<i>Dollar General, Third Street Store</i>	<i>St. Paul United Methodist Church</i>
<i>First Christian Church</i>	<i>St. Thomas Lutheran Church</i>
<i>First Presbyterian Church</i>	<i>Trinity Episcopal Church</i>
<i>Good Neighbors Home Extension Club</i>	<i>Unitarian Universalist Church</i>
<i>IU Health Center Employees</i>	<i>Unity of Bloomington</i>
<i>IU Honors College</i>	<i>University Baptist Church</i>
<i>Lambda Chi Omega</i>	<i>Walker Chapel</i>
<i>David and Natalie Lebeau</i>	<i>Woodhaven Christian Church</i>
<i>McDoel Baptist Church</i>	

Thank You, MCUM Shoppers!

If MCUM is the benefiting agency on your Marsh Fresh Idea Card, you recently helped us to receive a large order of construction paper, craft glitter, and media equipment for use in our preschool classrooms. Thank you! If you would like to choose MCUM as your benefiting school, just send the number from the back of your card to development@mcum.org.



If you clip General Mills Box Tops for Education, which appear on everything from office supplies to plastic baggies, you helped us earn \$160 for the first quarter of 2011. These funds will be used to continue serving low-income families in our NAEYC-accredited childcare center. Thank you!



Need Assistance or Information? 2-1-1 hotline can help!

2-1-1 is a free 24-hour hotline provided to residents of Monroe and Owen counties as a source for information and referrals. Dial 2-1-1 from any phone to get free and confidential help with employment, healthcare, counseling, shelter, legal aid, and much more (per minute cell phone charges still apply). Trained operators with the most current information will connect callers to the appropriate health and human service organizations. The 2-1-1 hotline is part of a national initiative and is provided locally through collaborative efforts of the Area 10 Agency on Aging, United Way of Monroe County, and the Indiana 211 Partnership.

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.

Colleen Brady
Phil Davis
Phyllis Eads
Gloria Hasler
Lara Hasler
Larry Jacobs
Rachel James
Meagan Jordan
Brian Laakso
Jennifer Lloyd

Chris Meyer
Zachery Mezger
Brandon Nelson
Carol Peterman
Anthony Pizzo
Jonathan Plucker
Kathleen Plucker
Marjie Risen
John Rucker
Collin Rush

Diana D. Smith
Shalisa Smith
Amy Thompson
Mike Walcott
Ben Winne
Hannah Winne
Heather Winne
Mariah Winne

Remember MCUM When Writing Your Will or Trust

Making a bequest to MCUM is a simple way to show your long-term commitment to helping our neighbors in need.

Sample Bequest Language:
I hereby leave [specific dollar amount/specific property/specific percentage/rest and remainder, etc.] of my estate to Monroe County United Ministries, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation in Bloomington, Indiana, to be used for the benefit of the organization in such manner as the board of directors may elect.

Your Produce Needed!

Planting time has just arrived but soon our gardens will be overflowing. One fun and easy way to support MCUM's Childcare Program is to donate fresh fruits and vegetables from your garden.

Drop off your extra produce at MCUM's Childcare Building (open 6:30am -5:30pm, Monday-Friday), and your donation could be nourishing young bodies the very next day.

Childcare Classroom Calendars

Staff

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

Puffins: 2 - 2.5 year olds

Teacher: Susan Williams

Seahorses: 2.6 - 3 year olds

Teacher: Marycarole Matlock
Aide: Amanda Pursell

Penguins: 3 year olds

Teacher: Mary Ellen Pierce
Aide: Laura Baker

Otters: 4 year olds

Teacher: Jessica Smith
Aide: LaDawn Joyner

Dolphins: 5-6 year olds

Teacher: Kim Clay
Aide: Brock Singleton

Summer Camp:

Maddie Ryan
Josie Goldsberry
Scott Lohmar

Announcements For Parents

Graduation will be held June 2 at 6:30pm in the Tri-North Middle School auditorium.

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. Additionally, the children will begin doing water play (Puffins and Seahorses) and going to the pool (Penguins, Otters, and Dolphins). Please bring in a swimsuit and towel before June 13th. If you have any questions, please see your child's teacher.

Puffins

June 6-10 - Water Play

Now that it is summertime, the Puffins will be experimenting with water. We will use our water table to see what sinks, floats, and dissolves in water. We will discuss what we do with water and how it helps our bodies. We will paint with colored ice cubes. The Puffins will also paint with salt water on black paper to see how the paper changes as it dries.

June 13-17 - Sea Life

Fish, dolphins, octopus, and whales... The Puffins will learn about these sea creatures and more! We will decide if we would like to live under the water too. The Puffins 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.

June 20-24 - Let's Go to the Beach

This week, the Puffins will travel to the beach for lots of fun in the sun! We will play with beach balls and talk about other fun beach activities. We will play with our sensory table and even make our own sand castles! We will discuss how to stay safe and healthy at the beach.



June 27- July 1 - Summer Fun

This week, the Puffins will discuss their favorite summer activities, including playing ball and swimming. We will talk about keeping cool and what we like to do indoors when it is too hot to play outside. We will also talk about how sunscreen helps us stay healthy. We will discuss what various plants look like during the summer.

Seahorses

June 6-10 - Water Play

The Seahorses will be getting ready to start their summer off with water play. We will be washing our baby doll dishes and toys in our room. What color does red and blue make? We will mix colored water to find out. There will be ice cubes and salt in our water tables. What sinks and what floats? We will build some boats and see who can blow their sails the farthest.

June 13-17 - Fathers/Physical Fitness

This week the Seahorses will be celebrating all of the important men in their lives and will have lots of surprises for them. We will also have fun with lots of physical fitness this week. We will exercise with Mickey Mouse, Barney, and the exercise music in our class. What is your favorite type of exercise? We will also talk about what makes us physically fit, including our dental hygiene.

June 20-24 - Senses

Whew, what is that smell? What is that sound? What can we do without the senses of touch or sight? Join the Seahorses as we study what it is like to get around without one of our senses. We will play games with blindfolds, listen to our headphones to see if we can tell what the sounds are, and see if we can identify smells in our smelling jars. The Seahorses will make feeling collages and go outside to do crayon rubbings from our playground.

June 27- July 1 - Outdoor Activities

What can we do outside? This week the Seahorses will look for bugs under trees, by rocks, and in the grass. Who is the fastest Seahorse? We will have lots of relay races to find out! And come look at our budding artists on our big outdoor easel in the middle of our yard.

Penguins

June 6-10 - The Great Outdoors

It's time for the Penguins to really get into the groove of summer and enjoy the great outdoors! We will discuss different outdoor activities that we like and do with our families. We will discover what types of creatures live in the woods and what they do to survive. We will enjoy walks around the neighborhood and to the park. At the end of the week, the Penguins will bring in their sleeping bags and have an indoor campout!

June 13-17 - Dads

This week we will honor the male figures in our life. The Penguins will share stories about their dads (or other male role models) and tell us what makes these men so special. We will think of ways that we can help our dads and show them how much they mean to us. Dads, look for a little surprise at the end of the week!

June 20-24 - The Sky

On warm summer days it is so fun to lay on the grass and gaze at the sky, watching the clouds roll by. This week we are going to look at the sky more closely as we discover the many things happening up there. We will discuss different types of clouds and what kind of weather each might bring. We will discuss all the things that travel in the sky, from hot air balloons to birds. Homework this week will take us outside to report on the interesting things the dark night sky has to offer.

June 27- July 1 - 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 states as we find where we live and the different places we have visited.

Otters

June 6-10 - Aqua Fun

The Otters will begin their adventures at the Mills Pool this week. That is why we have chosen to dedicate our week to having fun in the water! We will talk about all of the various places one can swim and splash, and share stories of our own experiences with water. Feel free to splash along with us at the pool or on the playground!



June 13-17 - Insects

Magnifying glasses, bug catchers, butterfly nets, and tweezers...these are all things that we will be familiarizing ourselves with this week as we discuss the wild world of insects! We will learn the differences between various bugs, the sounds they make, and hopefully find some bugs of our own to keep in our bug boxes. Come explore with us!

June 20-24 - Ice Cream

This week the Otters will learn about ice cream. We will be discussing what ingredients create ice cream, crazy flavors, will turn our housekeeping area into an ice cream parlor, and even attempt to make our very own batch of homemade ice cream!

June 27- July 1 - Zoo

Lions, tigers, and bears, oh my! This week we will surround ourselves with all things zoo! We will talk about the many animals you might see at a zoo, share some of our own zoo stories, and even create our own MCUM Zoo in our classroom!

Dolphins

June 6-10 - Camping

Outside is the place to be! This week we will celebrate the return of warm weather with picnics, walks, and camping. We will review the safety rules for being around fire and build a "campfire" in our classroom with Lincoln Logs. We are going to make s'mores and tell stories, so bring your sleeping bag and come join the fun!

June 13-17 - Fathers

This week the Dolphins will talk about the special father figures in their lives. They will share stories and talk about what makes them special. Dolphins will bring in a picture of their father and we will make a posterboard with them. We will also read a book talking about the special bond between a father and child.

June 20-24 - Summer

Summer is finally here! This week the Dolphins will celebrate fun in the sun by making sun catchers, sunshine fingerprinting, popsicles, and more! We will spend time at the pool and enjoy some extra water fun this week with spray bottles and water relays. Dolphins will also try their hand at splatter fence painting.

June 27- July 1 - Zoo

"We're going to the zoo, zoo, zoo. How about you, you, you!?" We will listen to this Raffi song and others as we explore animal life at the zoo this week. We will learn the names of less common zoo animals, how to identify them, and where they live. We will also graph pictures of our favorite zoo animals.



Monroe County United Ministries

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

Staff:

Executive Director: Meri Reinhold
Development Coordinator: Rebecca Stanze
Emergency Services Coordinator: Cliff Edens
Emerg. Services Caseworker: Justin Smith
Office Manager: Shannon Hampton
Childcare Director: Traci Mehay
Education Coordinator: Tina Pender
Administrative Assistant: Jill Edie

Hours of Operation:

Office and Emergency Services:	Monday - Friday 8:00am - noon 1:00pm - 4:00pm
Childcare:	Monday - Friday 6:30am - 5:30pm

Please recycle this newsletter or share it with a friend.

Opportunity House, located at 907 W. 11th Street, is a 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 Board President

The Senior Expo was held on May 6th and Opp House ladies helped by presenting and modeling Opp House clothes. Thanks to Dee Fritch, Aileen Krebbs, Alma Taubensee, and Janet Donham for serving as our models. The event was a big success; we even sold some of the clothes, hats, and purses we had on display.

Summer is exploding at the store with great clothes, shorts, capris, including infant and children's sizes. We always have sales during the week, so check us out, Mon. -Sat., 9am-2pm.

We are still running low on household items. If you have cut back on cooking or just find your cabinets overflowing, we would appreciate your pots, pans, baking dishes, silverware, and small appliances. Thank you!