

Working Together

The Newsletter of Monroe County United Ministries

June 2013

A Sense of Relief

The envelopes with bills in them always weigh the most. They seem to gain mass as you tear open the flap, quietly awaiting the dreaded “amount due” line. Jessica felt that dread growing in the pit of her stomach when she opened the bill from the electric company: the power was going to be disconnected if she could not pay \$309.21. Although she had graduated the previous December with a bachelor’s degree in elementary education, she could only work as a substitute teacher until she received her teaching license. With children to care for, bi-weekly child support payments and \$63-a-day substitute teaching were insufficient for Jessica to meet her monthly obligations. Jessica had a new job lined up for two months down the road, with a significant pay raise, but time wasn’t passing fast enough.

Cliff Edens, MCUM’s Emergency Services Coordinator, sat down with Jessica to discuss how she could avoid utility shut-off, and a massive hit to her credit, before she started her new position. The two discussed her expenses, and Cliff agreed to cover a portion of her electric bill to meet the amount due. The look of relief on her face was moving, and a testament to the importance of the Emergency Services Program. Thank you for relieving the worry in the pit of Jessica’s stomach. You made a real difference in her life when she needed the support the most.

Profiling Generosity: Jef & Pam Davidson

“In our family, philanthropy and community service are family values, talked about and lived, for we believe philanthropy is a learned behavior which parents can teach. We are well aware of how hard many families struggle, one paycheck away from homelessness, so we share because we have enough and want to help our neighbors in any way possible. We look at the sale circulars each week for what we give, and are delighted knowing families can do their laundry or shampoo their hair with what we’ve added to MCUM’s closet. We believe that everyone can make a difference if they only so choose and then act. All members of our family experience the sheer joy of giving, helping, participating and though we are not members of any of MCUM’s member churches, we appreciate how well run it is by a caring staff and how many families it impacts positively, every day.”

Sponsor a Preschool Swimmer

MCUM’s Penguins, Otters, and Dolphins will visit Mills Pool, the city pool located right across the street from our Childcare Program all summer long. These visits to the pool teach water safety, build swimming skills, support motor development, and are lots and lots of fun!

Parents pay an additional fee for this activity and your donation of \$28 will provide a “swimmership” for low-income children who live outside the city limits or city residents who don’t qualify for a swim fee voucher from the city. Send in your donation today (make sure we know it is for a swimmership) and let the summer fun begin!

Each One, Feed One Approaching!

Mark your calendars for Friday, Aug. 23 through Sunday, Aug. 25, the dates for this year’s “Each One, Feed One” Community Food Drive! Consider volunteering to collect non-perishable food items, household cleaning products, and hygiene items for MCUM’s Emergency Food Pantry. Check out the featured volunteer position on page 2 for information on how to donate your time to helping our neighbors in need!

Food Pantry Needs

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

- canned vegetables
 - > potatoes
 - > mixed vegetables
 - > greens
- tomato & vegetable soups
- powdered milk
- dried beans

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:

- dish soap
- household cleaners
- shampoo & conditioner
- toothpaste
- shaving cream
- deodorant

Childcare Needs

With 80 children enrolled, the Childcare Program needs all kinds of supplies, including:

- Scrabble letters
- round or rectangle pizza pans
- magnetic letters and numbers
- storage containers with drawers for storing paper (wishlist at www.mcum.org has more details)
- dry erase markers
- small shallow containers of various sizes for sorting activities

Opp House Needs

Oppportunity 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.

Sign up at mcum.org or contact 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.

Statistical Genius: Do you love linear regressions? Have a knack for dummy variables? Help MCUM's development department analyze some of its fundraising data. Contact Alison at 339-3429 x 16 or fundraising@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.

Oppportunity House Volunteers: Opp House is a resale shop at 907 W. 11th Street and is MCUM's important partner. Volunteers are always needed to sort and price items and serve as cashiers. There is a special need right now for a volunteer comfortable using eBay. Call 336-2443 for more information.

Feinstein Challenge Success

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Feinstein Challenge in March and April. We raised \$125,379 in donations and 6,088 pounds of donated items for the Emergency Food Pantry. This strong community support means that we qualify for a portion of the \$1M matching grant from the Feinstein Foundation, but it also allows us to help our neighbors in need by providing basic needs assistance to people in financial crisis. In the first four months of the year, we distributed enough food to make 18,975 meals, prevented homelessness for 20 households through financial assistance, and distributed 3,407 cleaning and hygiene items.

Your Garden Can Make a Difference

Are you an avid gardener who may have excess yields of fruits and vegetables this spring and summer? Consider donating produce to the MCUM Childcare Kitchen! Our flexible kitchen staff can work your fresh produce into menus the same week. Even if you don't think you have enough for 80 children, we'll accept the donation and creatively put it to use!

As MCUM has been awarded "Gold Standard" status by the Child and Adult Food Care Program (CACFP) for its work in creating a



healthy food and exercise environment, your contributions can help us introduce more fresh, locally-sourced food to our kitchen. We'd like to thank Childcare Director Traci Mehay for her dedication to this project to ensure we are offering the best conditions possible for the children enrolled in our Childcare Program.

Thank You, Volunteers

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

Jason Allen	Mars Kim	Allan Paton
Marti Black	Jennifer Lloyd	Ted Polley
Margaret Chittum	Derrick Martin	Amanda Richardson
Greg Claretto	Judy McDougal	Betty Schoonmaker
Su Cowling	Leon McDougal	Paul Schoonmaker
Phil Davis	Valerie Merriam	Whitney Smith
Lauren Garrod	Chris Meyer	Michelle Stockey
Duane Hornick	Donna Michael	Cordaryl Taylor
Pat Hornick	North-American	Susie Trisler
Larry Jacobs	Interfraternity	Jessica Walker
Emily Kehoe	Conference	Hannah Winne

Thank you!

We would like to thank...

- Ruth Rives for her assistance managing pantry volunteers.
- Hoosier Cleaning Service for making our floors sparkle!
- our Childcare Program staff for their work in achieving the CACFP "Gold Standard."
- the Unitarian Universalist Church for collecting 1,010 pounds of donated food for our Emergency Food Pantry so far this year.
- Su Cowling for her able assistance in our offices.
- Tami Giles, Belaynesh Beyene, and Carol Kirk for helping us prepare for our recent graduation ceremony.
- Tiffany Carmichael for her work with MCUM as a SPEA Service Corps Fellow.
- the various chapters of Kappa Kappa Kappa for their financial support.
- Trinity Episcopal Church for their financial, food, and volunteer support!

Make an Impact with an Estate Plan

When was the last time you updated your estate plan? Do you have a will? Have you discussed your wishes with your loved ones?

When you make these important decisions, pause to think about how you can make a meaningful impact on your community by making a gift to MCUM 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.

Good Luck, Graduates!



On May 21, 13 children graduated from MCUM's Kindergarten. An additional 24 preschoolers prepared to enter Kindergarten in the fall. In addition to their diplomas, all the graduates received goodie bags containing school supplies, fun treats, and books provided by First Book Monroe County.

Some of our preschool graduates will continue in

MCUM's Kindergarten, others will enter the public school system but we know that all have a better chance of success because of their participation in a high quality early childhood education program.



These children are more likely to graduate from high school, attend college, avoid the need for welfare programs as adults, and more. This program would not be possible without strong community support so after we give a round of applause to our graduates, we also want to thank the funders, donors, and volunteers who made this graduation ceremony possible.



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 #4 Investigate the feasibility of offering infant and toddler care.

There is a great need in the community for affordable care for infants and toddlers but there are many issues to consider before deciding to implement such a program. 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:

Arlington United Methodist Church
Cub Scout Troop 123
Jef & Pam Davidson
Evening Glories Extension Club of Ellettsville
First Christian Church
First Presbyterian Church
First United Church
Indiana University Health Center
Indiana University, Briscoe Residence Center
Rita James
Nine Patches Extension Homemakers Club
Ted Polley
Simpson Chapel United Methodist Church
St. Mark's United Methodist Church
St. Thomas Lutheran Evangelical Church
Trinity Episcopal Church
Unitarian Universalist 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

June 5 - 7 Insects

This week the Seahorses will learn about insects. We will read a lot of books by Eric Carle such as *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, *The Grouchy Ladybug*, and *The Very Busy Spider*. We will make spider webs by using yarn and painting them on black paper, eat ants on a log, and sort insects to graph them by size.

June 10 - 14 Water Play

What is your favorite water activity? The Seahorses will learn about water safety outside on our playground and in the pool. We will wash our dolls and measure water from one cup to another. We will also get to water paint and even help scrub the toys down in our room!

June 17 - 21 Ooey Goey

This week the Seahorses will be making lots of messes! Please remember to wear old clothes. We will continue to make our normal ooey goey messes, but also enjoy some new messy activities such as making mud pies, creating works of art with chocolate finger paint, and learning how to paint with our feet.

June 24 - 28 Ice Cream

Mmmm... one of our favorite themes: Ice Cream! We will graph this week and then of course taste a lot of ice cream! We will also learn how ice cream is made and how astronauts eat ice cream. The Seahorses will end the week by having an ice cream social in our classroom on Friday. Please feel free to join us.



Announcements For Parents

Mark Your Calendars for June!

3 - Swimming and Water Play starts this week!
5 - Lunch with Your Child
12 - Lunch with Your Child
19 - Lunch with Your Child
26 - 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.

The Seahorse Classroom will soon begin outdoor water play and the Penguins, Otters, and Dolphins will be going to the pool. Please bring in a swimsuit and towel before June 3rd. If you have any questions, please see your child's teacher.



Penguins

June 3 - 7 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 also discover what types of creatures live in the woods and what they do to survive. At the end of the week, the Penguins will bring in their sleeping bags and have an indoor camp out.

June 10 - 14 Dads

This week we will honor the male figures in our life. The Penguins will share stories about their dads, grandpas, uncles, papaws, or other important male figures 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.



June 17 - 21 The Sky

This week we are going to look closely at the sky 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 also discuss all the things that travel in the sky, from hot air balloons to birds.

June 24 - 28 Space

This week the Penguins will travel to outer space. While in space, we will learn about the stars, moon and the planets. We will learn the names of the planets in our solar system and talk about what it would be like to be an astronaut.

Otters



June 3 - 7 Superher

Our week will be dedicated to celebrating both real and pretend superheroes! We all have our favorite superheroes, and this week we'll share them with one another! We will have masks and capes to wear while saving lives as we write and illustrate our very own superhero stories!

June 10 - 14 Dads

As we celebrate dads for Father's Day, the Otters will spend the week sharing why our own dads, grandpas, papaws, and other father figures are so special. We will be reading books about the special bond between a father and his child and creating our own top secret Father's Day surprises in the art area. Please check our hallway to see our thank you to all dads!

June 17 - 21 Manners

Please, Thank You, You're Welcome, Excuse Me...these are all things you can count on hearing around the Otter room! These are phrases we already know how to say, but need a little reminder on occasion. We will be reminded of when and how to use these phrases, as well as why it is important for us to have good manners.

June 24 - 28 Body Parts

Head, shoulders, knees, and toes...The Otters will be talking about all that makes up our bodies. We will spend time learning the names of various body parts, examining our eye and hair color, learning new games, dances, and songs to keep our bodies moving, and also sharing some of the many ways to keep our bodies healthy.

Dolphins

June 3 - 7 Beach

It's really starting to warm up and summer is right around the corner!! This week we will be talking all about the beach. We will study ocean animals, we will have beach sensory items such as shells, and we will be reading books about going to the beach. We will also be talking about who has been to the beach and where they went.



June 10 - 14 Water/Swimming

We are going to be talking about water and swimming. This week is our second week of swimming at Mills pool and we will be reviewing pool safety and the importance of wearing sunscreen. We will also have our sensory table filled with water and water toys all week.

June 17 - 21 Summer

Summer is finally here and this week we will be talking all about it. We will discuss the weather we deal with in the summer and our favorite things to do when the weather warms up. We will also be talking about how to stay safe when the temperature gets really hot.

June 24 - 28 Sun/Moon

We learned about the planets earlier in the year, now we are going to talk about the sun and the moon this week. We will read books and learn many fun facts about the sun and moon. We will also do some art activities dealing with the sun and moon, and have many pictures posted around the room of the sun and moon.

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. Opp House cannot accept stained clothing, large appliance, large furniture, or non-functioning items.

Opportunity House Update

by Jill Argenbright, Opportunity House Co-Chair

The Opportunity House is fully stocked for summer, with plenty of bathing suits, summer dresses, and shorts. We have been receiving many very nice and unique donations, so be sure to come in and check us out.

We are open Monday through Saturday from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Our friendly and helpful cashiers will let you know what is on sale-we have sales every day!