

Working Together

The Newsletter of Monroe County United Ministries

May 2011

Did You "Spring Into Action?"

Thank you to everyone who helped make our recent "Spring Into Action!" luncheon and auction a great success. More than 300 individuals came out to support MCUM at the event and this outstanding crowd raised over \$15,000, after expenses, for MCUM's Emergency Services and Childcare Programs. Did you miss out on the fun? Make sure to get a ticket next year! If you would like to help make sure future events are even bigger and better, join the organizing committee by contacting Rebecca Stanze, Development Coordinator, at 339-3429 or development@mcum.org.



Special thanks to Jonathan Plucker, our emcee; Amy Thompson, who spoke about her family's experience in the childcare program; and Colonel Mike Wilcott, who volunteered as our live auctioneer.

Feinstein Challenge Update

MCUM once again participated in the Feinstein Challenge, a matching gift opportunity to fight hunger. Every pound of food or dollar donated to MCUM in the months of March and April helped us to receive a larger portion of a \$1M match from the Feinstein Foundation of Rhode Island.

At press time, we had already collected 13,000 pounds of food and \$38,000 in donations and looked forward to receiving even more in the final week of the challenge.

Thank you for helping MCUM fight hunger in our community!



Iris Sponsors



Tulip Sponsors

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Hilliard Lyons

Crocus Sponsors

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IU Credit Union
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First Capital Group

Childcare Needs

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

- Crayola washable markers
- glue sticks and liquid glue
- construction paper (9x12) any color
- washable tempera paint

Special Request for Summer Camp

Our campers have a busy summer ahead of them. Please see page 3 for a list of common household items that this program can use.

Food Pantry Needs

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

- canned meats such as chili, beef stew, spam, and chicken
- soups, especially tomato and cream
- sugar, flour, and oil
- baking mixes

Cleaning Closet Needs

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

- new women's underwear
- new men's and boy's underwear
- new socks for men
- new hair brushes
- conditioner
- shaving cream

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

Each One, Feed One Prep: Do you want to help make our annual August food drive a success? Join the planning committee or volunteer to help with preparations. Contact Justin at food@mcum.org or 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 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 339-3429 or development@mcum.org.

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

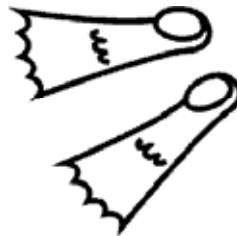
Sponsor a Summer Swimmer

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 a few times a 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."

Supplies for Summer Camp

In addition to swimming, summer campers will face the "Minute to Win It" summer challenge. Enrolled children will participate in challenges that use a variety of skills during the nine-week program. These "games" require a lot of common items, listed below. In most cases, new or gently used items are welcome, if you are interested in making a donation.



- golf balls
- cotton balls (new packages)
- ping-pong balls
- dice
- yoga mats
- pedometers
- marbles
- empty rectangular tissue boxes
- swim flippers (adult or child)
- tennis balls
- exercise balance balls

Bike Safety a Priority

The students from IU's R367 Event Planning class recently organized a Bike Safety Event for the Childcare Program. This event included a visit from a Bloomington Police officer, an art activity, pizza from Mother Bears, and an obstacle course. Information regarding bike and sun safety was provided to each parent and two bikes were raffled off. Generous support from the Bloomington Bicycle Club provided funding for this event.



Pictured: Noah and Hanusia, winners of the bike raffles.

Thank you!

We would like to thank...

- everyone who participated in the very successful Homeward Bound Walk.
- the members of the luncheon organizing committee: Lara Hasler, Rachel James, Jennifer Lloyd, Kathleen Plucker, John Rucker, Diana Smith and Shalisa Smith.
- everyone who shopped at and volunteered for the recent Scholastic Book Fair.
- Bryan Taylor & Shauna Snyder for their assistance with the "Each One, Feed One" Community Food Drive planning.
- Danielle Rankin, SPEA Service Corps Fellow, for her hard work and enthusiasm over the past two years.
- Jessica Merkel of Bunger & Robertson, Attorneys at Law, for advising MCUM.

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!

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.

Family Literacy: Take it Outside!

by Danielle Rankin, SPEA Service Corps Fellow

Reading can be a multi-sensory experience filled with opportunities to use sight, sound, and touch. From listening to visual discrimination, all the early literacy skills can be celebrated and practiced outdoors. Literature can be found for virtually any theme and books about seasons - or something more specific like an animal or flowers - can be used to start exploring literacy and the outdoors.

Keep a Nature Log

Borrow a nature guidebook from the library. Help your child find pictures of the plants and animals seen along the trail, and then write the names in the log, along with a description.

Practice Map-Reading and Orienteering

Teach your child exploration skills by creating or using a map of a familiar area. Provide and explain a simple legend and the compass directions to show them how to use it. When hiking, find a trail guide and plan your trip with it. While vacationing, trace the route you will take from one place to the next. If someone will be visiting, find the place on a map they will be coming from.

Grow a Garden

Read a book like *Grow It Again* with your child, a gardening book for 7 to 12 year olds, which contains recipes, facts, and crafts in addition to information on growing plants from plants and seeds. When you are finished, give your green thumb a try!

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. Donations can also be made online at www.cfbmc.org. Contact the foundation at (812) 333-9016 or our office at (812) 339-3429 if you have any questions about the Matchstick Program.

Emergency Services Update

In the first quarter of 2011, the Emergency Services Program received 553 requests for assistance from Monroe County households. MCUM's two caseworkers distributed enough food to make 7,992 meals and provided more than 2,000 items from our closet of cleaning and hygiene supplies. They also worked with Opportunity House, our partner resale shop, to provide necessary household items (towels, plates, utensils, etc.) and clothing to those in need. This program was also able to prevent homelessness for 10 families by providing rent, mortgage, and utility assistance.

Scholastic Book Fair

Thank you to everyone who participated in the recent Scholastic Book Fair in the Childcare Program. Sales were so strong that we earned \$511 in books for our five classrooms serving preschool-age children.



Words of Thanks

We often receive notes of thanks from appreciative childcare parents, volunteers who were touched by their experience, or donors who appreciate the work we do in the community. Occasionally we receive written notes from clients who have been served by our Emergency Services Program. Here are a few words of appreciation from those who have benefited from this program:

“A note of warmest thanks... for the \$148.90 given towards my electric bill.”

“I would like to thank Monroe County United Ministries for helping me get my apt. to start a new life.”

“You were there for me in a time of need and your act of kindness will not be forgotten.”

Update Your Address Book!

Just a reminder that our address is 827 W. 14th Court (not Street).

Our website is now www.mcum.org.

We also have new staff email addresses! Visit our website for the complete list or contact mcum@mcum.org.

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

Floater: Emily Walden

Announcements For Parents

2011 Preschool and Kindergarten Graduation

Mark your calendars for June 2, MCUM's Childcare graduation. The program begins at 6:30 pm at the Tri-North Middle School auditorium and includes a slide show, student performance, diploma presentation and refreshments.

Please contact Tina Pender, Education Coordinator, if you would like to volunteer to help at this fun-filled event!

Puffins

May 2-6 - May Flowers

April showers bring May flowers! This week the Puffins will compare and contrast several types of flowers. We will talk about how flowers grow and what flowers are used for. We will use construction paper, tissue paper, muffin liners, and paint with the bottom of pop bottles to make flowers.

May 9-13 - Gardens

What is a garden? What grows in gardens? What and who helps them grow? These are just a few of the questions the Puffins will talk about this week. We will look at and make different types of flowers. We will also look at the food you can grow in gardens. The Puffins will end the week by tasting several of the vegetables we have discussed.

May 16-20 - Insects

This week the Puffins will talk about creepy, crawly insects. We will discuss our favorite bugs, where we can find them, and what they are good for. We will make insect collages out of stickers, construction paper, and an inkpad with stamps. Watch for your child to bring home their handprint butterflies!

May 23-27 - Caterpillars

The Puffins will talk about what caterpillars are and where we can find them. We will also discuss how caterpillars transform into butterflies. At the end of the week, we will make beautiful butterflies!

May 30- June 3 - Birds

This week the Puffins will discuss how birds use the wind and their wings to fly. We will talk about the differences between nighttime and daytime birds. We will also talk about where different birds live and what they eat.

Seahorses

May 2-6 - May Flowers

The Seahorses will see what April showers have been doing to our May flowers. We will do more planting with some sprouts in a bag. What do plants need to grow? What would happen if they did not get these things? The Seahorses will also talk about families because of a very special day coming up this month, Mother's Day.

May 9-13 - Clifford

This week the Seahorses will talk about their favorite red dog, Clifford! We will read about how Clifford helps his friends and write stories about how we can help our friends. At the end of the week we will make one of our favorite snacks-puppy chow! Then we will create our own Clifford books!

May 16-20 - Curious George

Of course our Seahorses are curious, but are we as curious as our friend Curious George? We will read about Curious George and his friend in the yellow hat. Of course, we will perform finger plays about the five little monkeys jumping on the bed and teasing the alligators.

May 23-27 - Self Awareness

This week the Seahorses will talk about...themselves! Come in and read our "all about me" pages that have been posted in the hallway. We will also talk about why it is important that we get enough sleep and not watch too much television.

May 30-31 - Mercer Meyer

Mercer Meyer writes about Little Critter and the little sister that he has. We will see how Little Critter helps with his little sister and how he wants to have time to himself. We will read books like *All By Myself* and *When I Get Bigger*.

Penguins

May 2-6 – Mothers

This week the Penguins will focus their attention on some of the most important people in the world—mothers! We will discuss just how amazing mothers are in their ability to take care of us, go to work, and run errands. We will also be reminded that a special day is coming up very soon. Mothers, look for a special surprise at the end of the week!

May 9-13 - Fun and Games

This week the Penguins will spend a lot of time in the sunshine as we enjoy a fun-filled week of games. We will dust off the bats and balls, soccer nets, kick balls, jump ropes and all of the other outdoor-equipment as we prepare for summer fun.

May 16-20 - Water Fun

This week we will talk about all of the different types of water activities that people enjoy and find out which ones the children have actually tried. We will also spend a great deal of time outside splashing about!

May 23-27 - Racing

It is nearly impossible to make it through the month of May in Indiana without thinking about racing. The Penguins will focus on the big race coming up next week as we do some racing of our own. You might also watch out for Penguins speeding around the playground as we hold our very own Little 500 bike race!

May 30-June 3 - Building & Construction

This week the Penguins will have a blast as they immerse themselves in the world of construction. We will learn about all the different types of construction vehicles and discover what they do. We hope to find some construction going on in the neighborhood!

Otters

May 2-6 - Farms

Old MacDonald had a...FARM! The Otters will become farmers this week as we dive into the world of farming. We will discuss the animals that live on farms and learn how farmers provide us with lots of yummy things to eat! The Otters will also take an exciting field trip to Peden Farm on Thursday to get a closer look at what happens there!

May 9-13 - Fairy Tales

This week the Otters will spend time revisiting favorite fairy tales as well as reading and learning some new ones! Costumes and props will overflow in our housekeeping area as we pretend to be our favorite fairy tale characters. Come join us and read us your favorite fairy tale!

May 16-20 - Moms

As we celebrate moms for Mother's Day, the Otters will spend the week sharing why our own moms, nanas, mamaws, and other mother figures are so special. Please check our hallway to see our thank you to all moms!

May 23-27 - Circus

Step right up! Come join the Otters in the ring as we learn about the circus this week! We will walk the tightrope and talk about the exciting things one might see at a circus. We will even turn our classroom and playground into our very own big top!

May 30-June 3 - Great Outdoors

If there is one thing that all Otters love, it's being outside! This week the Otters will discuss the great outdoors. We will share stories of things we have done outdoors, as well as make lists of the things we would love to do in the future! On Friday we will even have a camping-style pajama party and go camping in our classroom!

Dolphins

May 2-6 - Mothers

Mother's Day, the second Sunday in May, is when we honor all mothers. This week we will make Mother's Day cards and special gifts to show our mothers how special they are to us. We will share stories about what makes our mothers special and read books about a Mother's love.

May 9-13 - Farm

The Dolphins will learn about many different farm animals this week. We will learn farm songs, make display charts about farm animals and read books showcasing the types of animals that typically live on a farm. At the week's end, the Dolphins will be able to identify and describe common farm animals. Be sure to ask which farm animal is your child's favorite.

May 16-20 - Transportation

The Dolphins will explore various forms of transportation this week. We will try to name as many different types of transportation and how they work. We will see what kind of transportation pictures we can make in our art center. At the end of the week, we will put all our projects on display.

May 23-27 - Community Helpers

The Dolphins didn't get to learn about community helpers in the month of April. We will now spend time learning about our community and the individuals that come together to make it fun and unique.

May 30-June 3 - Memorial Day

In honor of Memorial Day, we will spend time learning about the holiday and why we celebrate it. We will discuss wars, soldiers, and see what our views are on this topic. We will bring in pictures of veterans to post and show our appreciation.

Monroe County United Ministries

827 West 14th Court
Bloomington, Indiana 47404
Phone (812) 339-3429
Fax (812) 339-2912
mcum@mcum.org
www.mcum.org

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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

On April 9th, we modeled some Opp House outfits for Zeta Chapter's Delta Theta Tau Style Show and on May 9th, some of our volunteers will model clothes, shoes, purses, and hats at the Senior Expo, sponsored by Bloomington's Parks and Recreation Department. The theme is Las Vegas Nights so we should have a lot of fun. Come out and see us. The show starts at 1:00pm on that Friday.

Our Easter items hopped right out the door thanks to the support of our customers. Soon Mother's Day will be upon us so think of Opp House if your mother would like jewelry, purses, clothing or spring silk flower arrangements. We have wonderful prices on all these items.