

Working Together

The Newsletter of Monroe County United Ministries

May 2013

A Place That Makes a Difference

Jennifer Anderson, a former childcare parent and mother of five, shared her story of prescription drug addiction and redemption at our recent luncheon. Her remarks, edited for space are reprinted here.

Jennifer's story at MCUM began 10 years ago, when she was the single mother of two. In college and working, she had just enough money to pay for living expenses. It was then that she started sending her oldest, Noah, to MCUM because of the quality facilities and affordability.

Jennifer knew that MCUM was a great place for her kids-Noah learned a great deal from his teachers, who had lesson plans and engaging activities for the kids. But after a few years things started to grow bleak at home.

My life was out of control at this time because I was addicted to prescription drugs. [My kids] were only coming to school maybe once a week and Traci Mehay, the Childcare Director, had to make a hard decision and asked us to leave United Ministries. At MCUM I was getting to bring my children for a low cost and they would only attend once a week. There were other families that could have used MCUM's services and brought their kids every day.



I found my life falling apart. I no longer was a good mother, a good provider, a good role model. I lost all self-worth. I lived to get high. I ended up losing all my children because of my reckless life and it ended up being the best thing that could possibly happen. In this journey I believe God put some amazing people in my life...my case worker, my family, my minister; I could go on and on. I worked very hard to stay clean and change my life. The state acknowledged all my efforts and awarded my children back home.

I made a phone call to Traci and told her my story and why I never took my kids to MCUM when they were enrolled because I was an addict. I told her that I was now clean and had my kids back and I asked her for a second chance. Traci showed me grace and forgiveness that day and let my family and me come back to MCUM. I thank God daily for second chances.

This is when I found out just what MCUM was about. I was very busy with work, my children, my recovery, and church, and I was doing this all as

Spring Luncheon a Success!

We are delighted to report that the "Spring Into Action!" Luncheon & Auction brought in more than \$26,000 to support quality childcare for working families and basic needs assistance for families in crisis. For event pictures, check out our Facebook page!

Thank you to everyone who donated to the auction, volunteered their time, and attended the event. We couldn't have done it without you!

Special thanks to our sponsors:
Bunger and Robertson,
Attorneys at Law
Ivy Tech Community College

Bloomfield State Bank
CFC, Inc.
Bill C. Brown Associates
Office of the Mayor
First Insurance Group
United Commerce Bank

Crane Federal Credit Union
Hilliard Lyons
IU Credit Union
First Capital Group
Peoples State Bank
Bloomington-Monroe County Convention Center
Midwest Color Printing

Food Pantry Needs

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

- canned vegetables
 - > beets
 - > potatoes
 - > mixed vegetables
 - > greens
- 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:

- dish soap
- shampoo & conditioner
- diapers, especially size 4 & 5
- underwear & socks for men & women
- feminine hygiene products
- deodorant
- large trash bags

Childcare Needs

Spring has sprung and the Childcare Program needs all kinds of outdoor supplies, including:

- pinwheels
- kites
- rain gauges and outdoor thermometers
- wind socks
- bug catchers

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

Maintenance Volunteer: 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.

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

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

Pantry Assistants: Volunteers will be needed this summer to sort food donations and bag groceries in the Emergency Food Pantry. Set your own schedule during office hours (8am-4pm, Monday-Friday), once you are trained. Light lifting required.

Classroom Assistants: Do you want to work with preschool-age children? Do you love to read? Love to do crafts? Do you enjoy being outside? We will find a task that suits you best.

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?

The Feinstein Challenge Helps Others Face Challenges

We are still crunching the final numbers from the Feinstein Challenge, the opportunity that matches food and funds collected in March and April, but we can say that the 2013 challenge was a success! Generous support from the community will allow us to continue our Emergency Services Program, which provides basic needs assistance (food, clothing, rent assistance, hygiene products, etc.) to those in crisis. What brings someone to MCUM to seek assistance?

- loss of a job
- divorce
- injury
- car repair
- reduction in work hours
- illness
- necessary home repair
- delays in receiving food stamp or disability benefits

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Feinstein Challenge, supporting MCUM's efforts to help people in crisis meet their personal challenges.

Are You a Marsh or O'Malia's Shopper?

You can earn points for the purchase of classroom supplies every time you use your Marsh or O'Malia's card. Just sign up to benefit MCUM when you shop. Just e-mail the number from the back of your shopper card to Rebecca Stanze at development@mcum.org.

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
Martin Anguiano
Breana Bannister
Susan Barker
Dillon Baugh
Marcia Bishop
Tiffany Carmichael
Margaret Chittum
Greg Claretto
Brittany Coren
Tyler Cotman
Su Cowling
Katie Dalton
Megan Day
Phyllis Eads
Fortune Feresu

First Presbyterian Church
Megan Fisher
Janeth Gonzalez
Evan Hall
Irene Hawkins
Katherine Henick
Larry Jacobs
Jennifer Lloyd
Derrick Martin
Valerie Merriam
Chris Meyer
Donna Michael
Samantha Morgan
Allan Paton
Angela Receveur

Joseph Reed
Byron Reinhold
Rachel Roby
John Rucker
Betty Schoonmaker
Danielle Schroeder
John Sgro
Whitney Smith
Michelle Stockey
Jomi Stona
Alexis Swain
Cordaryl Taylor
Susie Trisler
Ollie Waldon
Jessica Walker
Emily Wichern

Thank you!

We would like to thank...

- Jennifer Lloyd for her creative and enthusiastic support of MCUM!
- Rice's Quality Farm Meats, Inc. for providing us with frozen ground beef at a discounted price.
- Liberty Family Dentistry for donating toothbrushes to the Childcare Program.
- the Haldeman family for donating old cell phones to support MCUM's programs.
- the IU service learning students who provided 10 great weeks of Spanish lessons for the Otters and Dolphins.
- First Presbyterian Church for their strong financial support of MCUM's programs.
- all the volunteers who helped to make our recent "Spring Into Action!" luncheon and auction a great success.
- University Baptist Church for donating 792 pounds to MCUM's Emergency Food Pantry.

Make an Impact with an Estate Plan

How long have you been a MCUM supporter? Do you volunteer? Donate food? Organize a mitten drive within your club? Make a financial donation?

No matter how you support MCUM, you can ensure a meaningful impact on this important community organization by making a gift through your estate plan. A simple bequest (a dollar figure, percentage, or remainder) can go a long way to making sure our programs are available for as long as they are needed.

Sample Language for Your Will or Trust

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

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

Ensure MCUM's Future with Matching Money

MCUM's endowment fund with the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County will help to ensure that MCUM can provide assistance to Monroe County residents in poverty for as long as those services are needed.

The Matchstick Endowment Matching Program can help to make your endowment go even further. For every two dollars donated by the community, the foundation will add an additional dollar to MCUM's endowment. When we raise \$30,000 in 2013, the foundation will add an additional \$15,000. 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 (812)339-3429 x15 or development@mcum.org. To check on our current campaign balance, contact the foundation at (812) 333-9016.



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 #3: Reopen the Puffin Room to serve 2 to 2.5 year old children.

The Puffin Classroom closed in 2011 due to funding challenges. We have an empty classroom and more than 60 children on a waiting list for this affordable, high-quality program. Ready to take action on behalf of the Puffins? 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.

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a single parent. There are two teachers that went above and beyond what was asked of them, Marycarole and Miss Kim. I formed such a bond with them that they were even willing to babysit for my children from time to time. These women became a part of my family, and will remain, in my heart forever.

There were days I thought God had given me my own cheerleaders, these women would encourage me and tell me how proud they were of me and they were ears when I needed someone to listen to me, they always gave such good advice too. They helped mold me into the responsible, loving, patient parent I am today just by modeling love and compassion to me every day we walked through those doors.

I want to end this by thanking all the supporting people in my journey, and by giving special thanks to Monroe County United Ministries for everything you have given to my family. I don't know where we would be without you. I also want to thank all the donors for giving their time and money in order to make this possible. When people give to United Ministries they are truly changing lives. My family and I will be forever grateful.

We want to thank Jennifer for sharing her very personal story with our supporters. Please note that her comments are her own and are not necessarily reflective of this organization's principles.

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
Church Women United
Fairview United Methodist Church
First Christian Church
First Presbyterian Church
First United Church
Brad & Susanne Galin
Good Neighbors Home Extension Club
Kappa Kappa Kappa
McDowell Baptist Church
Megan Moore
Opportunity House
Basilla Jean Rogers
Gary & Ann Schepper
Simpson Chapel United Methodist Church
St. Charles Borromeo Church, Daughters of Isabella
St. Paul United Methodist Church
St. Thomas Lutheran Evangelical Church
Michelle Stockey
Jill Tietz
Trinity Episcopal Church
Unitarian Universalist 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: Sarah Norzinskay

Penguins: 3 year olds

Teacher: Kim Clay
 Aide: Emily Walden

Otters: 4 year olds

Teacher: Jessica Mackie
 Aide: Serenity Guthrie

Dolphins: 5-6 year olds

Teacher: Brock Singleton
 Aide: LaDawn Joyner



Announcements For Parents

Mark Your Calendars for May!

1 - Lunch with Your Child
 6-24 - Parent Teacher Conferences
 8 - Lunch with Your Child
 15 - Lunch with Your Child
 21 - MCUM Preschool/
 Kindergarten Graduation
 22 - Lunch with Your Child
 27 - Closed for Memorial Day

Scholastic Book Fair:

Thank you to everyone who participated in the recent Scholastic Book Fair in the Childcare Program. This "Buy One Get One

Free" sale sold more than \$600 worth of books and we received 50 book donations!

Mark your calendars for May 21, 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 at this fun-filled event.

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

Seahorses

April 29 - May 3 ~ Nursery Rhymes

This week the Seahorses are going to learn about nursery rhymes. We will look at familiar old ones as well as some not so familiar rhymes. We may put ourselves into the rhyme to have more fun. Instead of "Humpty Dumpty sat on the wall," try "Marycarole sat on the wall, Marycarole had a great fall."

May 6 - 10 ~ Shapes

The Seahorses will see shapes all around them, including street signs, sidewalks, houses, and other objects. The Seahorses will paint shapes, shape them in shaving cream, and even see if we can find them in foods we eat. In the end we will make a shape collage together. What shape is your favorite?

May 13 - 17 ~ Beaches

Let's go to the beach! We will build sand castles and play beach ball. We will talk about the oceans, and see what different kinds of seashells come from the beach. On Friday we will have a beach party with music from whom else but the Beach Boys!

May 20 - 24 ~ Plants and Flowers

It is that time of year when we see such beautiful colors popping out of the ground. The Seahorses will talk about flowers and plants this week. We will plant flowers for someone special: our mothers.

May 27 - 31 ~ Nature

What is nature and how do we protect it from damage? We will talk about our surroundings and what we find in it, but we will also talk about keeping it clean and recycling. What are your favorite things about nature? Do you like the plants or the animals? Who has been camping? Who has been hiking? We will be taking a walk around the school and seeing what we can find involving nature.

Penguins

April 29 - May 3 ~ Mexico

Viva La Mexico! This week we will celebrate Mexico. Mexico celebrates Cinco de Mayo in a festive way similar to American Independence Day. During the week, we will talk about culture, food, music, and beverages unique to Mexico.

May 6 - 10 ~ Mothers and Muffins

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. On Friday, we will invite our mothers in to join us for some muffins and juice.

May 13 - 17 ~ Farm

What is a farm? What happens there? What animals can you find on a farm? This week, the Penguins will talk about these questions. We will share which farm animals we like the most and why. We will talk about the many different foods grown on farms and will even try to grow some of our own.



May 20 - 24 ~ Water Fun

With the beginning of summer just around the corner, this seems like a good time to play in the water! We will talk about all the different water activities that people enjoy and find out which ones the children have actually tried.

May 27 - 31 ~ Earth

This week the Penguins will try their hands at making three-dimensional art. We will play with clay, play dough, toilet paper tubes, and whatever else we can get our hands on to make our art. Stop by the Penguin Room to see our amazing creations!

Otters

April 29 - May 3 ~ Pets

This week will be devoted to all of the different types of pets families have. The Otters will share stories about our own pets, telling each other about the pets we wish we could have, and making some pet related creations in the art area. Housekeeping will be become a pet center where the children will take care of pets in various ways.

May 6 - 10 ~ Moms

This week in the Otter Room will be spent sharing some of our favorite qualities of our mother figures, whether it be a mom, a grandma, an aunt, or a friend. The art area will turn into our top-secret mother's day area as we work on some very special projects for our favorite ladies!

May 13 - 17 ~ Transportation

This week the Otters will be exploring the wonderful world of transportation! We will discuss our favorite forms of travel and places to go. We will talk about the importance of being safe in/around vehicles, and even building our own ramps to determine what makes cars travel faster.

May 20 - 24 ~ Restaurants

This week we will be learning some of the things that make restaurants run. We will talk about the various positions that people work, make our own menus, transform Housekeeping into our own Otter Cafe, and graph results about our own favorite restaurants.

May 27 - 31 ~ Money

Pennies, dimes, nickels, quarters...this week the Otters will be learning money values, identifying those faces that are on money, and finding out how money is made. We will talk about the various ways of spending money, as well as share our favorite things to buy.

Dolphins

April 29 - May 3 ~ Mexican Heritage

This week we will talk about Mexican Heritage. We will read books about Mexican Heritage, and we will talk about and eat some popular Mexican foods. We will also go over some common Spanish words that we learned from our IU Spanish teachers. At the end of the week we will have a little fiesta with food, drinks, and a piñata.

May 6 - 10 ~ Trees

This week we will talk and read all about trees. We will talk about the many uses of trees. We will talk about the many different types of trees from the huge sequoias to the littlest tree. Most importantly we will talk about the importance of trees and how they are a huge part of our lives.

May 13 - 17 ~ Rain Forest

This week we will learn all about the rain forest. We will learn about the climate in a rain forest, and will also talk about the animals that live there. We will also talk about the different things we can find in the rain forest and why they are so important.

May 20 - 24 ~ Safari

This week we will go on a safari. We will learn about all the animals that we are going to see. We will do many fun safari crafts dealing with our favorite animals. We will talk about how many of these animals need to be protected or they might become extinct.

May 27 - 31 ~ Plants

This week we will study many different types of plants. We will discuss the plants that we need to stay away from and are poisonous, and the plants that are good for us and from which we can make food or medicine. We will also talk about the other important uses of plants.

Monroe County United Ministries

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Non-Profit Organization

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Bloomington, IN 47404

Permit #186

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Return Service
Requested

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

Opportunity House Update

Opportunity House, located at 907 W. 11th Street, is a volunteer-run resale shop that raises funds to support MCUM's programs. 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.

by Jill Argenbright, Opportunity House Co-Chair

The Opportunity House is fully stocked for Spring - now if Mother Nature would make up her mind if it will be warm or cool! We have lots of shoes, shorts, and capris on sale, so come in and get ready for warm weather.

Be sure to check out our "Super Saturday" sale each Saturday ~ lots of great bargains.

We wish a speedy recovery to those volunteers who are still recovering from injuries. We miss you!