

Working Together

The Newsletter of Monroe County United Ministries

November 2011

Matching Money for MCUM

Goal: \$7,500

Donated So Far: \$4,886.88

Balance Needed: \$2,613.12

We appreciate the support we've received in this year's Matchstick Endowment Matching Initiative through the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County. If we meet our goal of \$7,500 for the year, the foundation will add \$1 for every \$3 donated. This is a great opportunity to maximize the impact of your donation and 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 Ave., 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 x15 if you have any questions about the Matchstick Program.

Why an Endowment?

Monroe County United Ministries has two endowment funds, one managed by our partners at the Community Foundation of Monroe County and one managed by our Board of Directors. These endowments are essential to MCUM's long-term financial health. The interest from these endowments supports our annual operating budget and will continue to do so for as long as MCUM's programs are needed. By donating to our endowment, you are supporting MCUM's future but we ask that endowment gifts be made in addition to operating support, which continues to be essential in challenging economic times.

Transform Lives with Your Donation to United Way

When you donate to United Way, you create opportunity for people in Monroe County. Your support enables United Way to work with Monroe County United Ministries and other partner agencies to bring lasting change and improve people's lives. By focusing on the building blocks for a better life – Education, Earnings, and Essentials – United Way creates sustainable solutions to the most pressing issues in our community. When we give, we will help build a better life – for our community, our neighbors, and ourselves.

United Way agencies address the underlying challenges facing our families, friends, and neighborhoods. Your generous gift to United Way is invested in 25 local partner agencies, including MCUM, and collaborative initiatives that create long-lasting change.

**Transform Lives.
Create Opportunity.
Live United.**

Food Pantry Needs

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

- canned vegetables, especially potatoes and carrots
- vegetable soups
- baking mixes (pancake, corn bread)
- canned fruits, especially oranges

Cleaning Closet Needs

Demand for these items, which can't be purchased with food stamps, is very high.

Help restock our shelves with:

- socks for adults, male and female
- feminine hygiene products
- underwear, small adult sizes
- diapers, especially sizes newborn, 1, 5, 6
- household cleaners (floor, spray, bleach)
- razors
- cloth shopping bags for clients who walk

Childcare Needs

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

- preschool-appropriate balls for soccer, basketball, and football
- sidewalk chalk
- pine cones
- gourds (any shape, size, texture)
- wind chimes
- construction paper
- Crayola markers
- liquid glue and glue sticks

Special Request for Microwave: A new or like-new microwave is needed for the Childcare Kitchen. A one cubic foot, 1,100 watt carousel microwave oven preferred.

Volunteer Opportunities

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

Featured Volunteer Position

Food Drive Assistants: Drivers are needed to collect food donations at collection sites around the community and deliver them to MCUM during the Winter Food Drive. Are you willing to be on-call for the occasional pickup during November and December? The schedule is very flexible but pick ups usually need to happen 8-4, Monday-Friday.

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.

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.

Opp House Painters: Opportunity House seeks a group or family to paint the inside of the store, preferably between Christmas and New Year's Day. Interested in helping out? Contact Janet Donham, 336-2443.

Calling all musicians! Our preschool children love music. Would you be willing to spend a few hours sharing your instrument with young children? Contact Tina at 339-3429 x19 or education@mcum.org.

Opportunities to Help for the Holidays

There are many special opportunities for you, your organization, or your family to get involved with MCUM during November and December. Here are just a few suggestions:

- “Adopt” a childcare family for Christmas, providing gifts for all members of the household.
- Donate holiday food baskets.
- Make a holiday meal even more special by providing a ham or a turkey.
- Host a drive to collect needed items for MCUM. Items might include arts and crafts supplies, socks and underwear, non-perishable foods, or hygiene products.
- Volunteer in the Emergency Food Pantry during the Winter Food Drive.

Everything you need to know about these opportunities - and many more - is available on our website. Visit www.mcum.org and click on the snowflakes to find all the lists and instructions you might need.

Saturday Volunteer Opportunities:

MCUM’s food pantry is typically open 8am-4pm, Monday - Friday but during the busy holiday season the pantry will be open for volunteers and donation deliveries on some Saturdays. Hours are 8am-noon, or by arrangement, on November 12 and 19 and December 3, 10, and 17. This is a great volunteer opportunity for groups and individuals who are usually just available during the week. Contact Cliff Edens for more information at 339-3429 or help@mcum.org.

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:

Berea Antaki	Brian Kanowsky
Kathryn Boots	Jennifer Lloyd
Phil Davis	Rebecca Mandell
Kaitlyn Gorman	Chris Meyer
Brittany Howard	Ellen Richter
Sarah Huguenard	John Sgro
Larry Jacobs	

Childcare Lead Screenings

Thanks to IU Health Bloomington, 16 enrolled children were recently screened for lead poisoning. Results were mailed directly to parents and any child with an elevated lead level will receive follow-up testing and counseling from the hospital.

Thank you!

We would like to thank...

- everyone who participated in the recent CROP walk to raise funds for local and international hunger relief agencies.
- Brian Kanowsky for sharing his technical expertise.
- Bruce Houghtelin for thinking of our Childcare Program.
- Congregation Beth Shalom for collecting and donating 784 pounds to our Emergency Food Pantry.
- Larry Jacobs for sharing his time with the Childcare Program’s kitchen.
- the IU students who participated in the Nearly Naked Mile race to raise fund for the United Way of Monroe County’s campaign and to collect clothes for local agencies serving those in need.
- Biolife Plasma Services for organizing a school supply drive for MCUM’s Childcare Program.

Make an Impact with your Estate Plan

When Phineas T. Barnum passed away, the founder of Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus was worth millions. He left his only daughter a piece of property that he thought was worthless. In reality, the property was rich in mineral resources and the wealth of his daughter's estate soon exceeded that of her late father's.

A gift made through your will or trust can have a significant impact, regardless of its size. Remember MCUM and those we serve when making your estate plan.

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.

Healthy Homes: Staying Active During Winter

by Patrick Coad, SPEA Service Corps Fellow

As fall fades away, colder weather creeps in, and most families retreat to the warmth and coziness of their homes. As a result, families often do not get the necessary amount of weekly physical activity to maintain their health during the winter. Here is a list of activities families can do in the area to stay active during the chilly months.

- enjoy local museums, including WonderLab, Mathers Museum, Kirkwood Observatory, SOFA Gallery, Ivy Tech John Waldron Arts Center, or the Pioneer Museum
- play in the snow or help a neighbor shovel their driveway
- go ice or roller skating
- volunteer as a family at a local non-profit
- take a dance class
- if you watch TV, make a "no sitting" rule during commercials
- buy a family membership to a fitness center with activities for children

Thank You, Pantry Donors

We depend on donations from individuals, clubs, congregations, and families throughout the year. Listed here are some of the groups and households who have contributed in the last month:

Pam and Jef Davidson	First Presbyterian Church
Lynn Ohrt	First United Church
Jean Rogers	Simpson Chapel
Bloomington Central Lions Club	St. Thomas Lutheran Church
Church Women United	Trinity Episcopal Church
Daughters of Isabella	Unitarian Universalist Church
Fairview United Methodist Church	University Baptist Church
First Christian Church	Woodhaven Christian Church

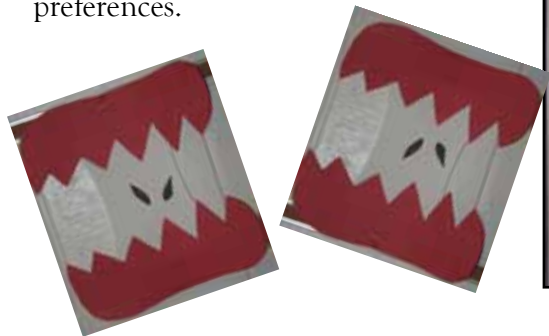
Looking Ahead to Spring

Mark your calendars for the "Spring Into Action!" Luncheon and Auction, which will be held on Sunday, April 29, 2012. Contact Rebecca Stanze at (812) 339-3429 x15 for more information about:

- serving on the organizing committee
- donating to the auction - services and consumable items (food, tickets, etc.) tend to be our most popular items
- selling tickets and promoting the event at your place of worship, workplace, or club
- sponsoring the event - sponsors are recognized in a variety of ways and receive tickets
- volunteering to help with set-up and clean-up the day of the event

Do Otters Like Apples?

Recently, the Otter Classroom held a taste test of four types of apples. Each Otter picked their favorite or opted to choose “all of them” and the Pink Lady apple was the clear winner. The class then created a graph of their preferences.



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.

Follow Us on Facebook



Do you follow MCUM and Opportunity House on Facebook? If not, you aren't hearing about the latest Opp House sales, getting a sneak peek at interesting items for sale, winning prizes in the Tuesday MCUM Quiz, or learning more about MCUM's services.

You're also missing an opportunity to tell your Facebook friends about this important community organization. Log in and “share” a post, link to our page, or post a recommendation.

Special Request for Phone Cards: Do you have a phone card with just a few minutes left? A new phone card that you'll never use? We can put those cards to use in our office! Contact Shannon at 339-3429 x20 or office@mcum.org with any questions.

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.

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: Cynthia Powers
Assistant Cook: Derrick Mackie

Puffins: room closed

Seahorses: 2 - 3 year olds

Teacher: Marycarole Matlock
Aide: Amanda Pursell
Aide: Lisa Minor

Penguins: 3 year olds

Teacher: Susan Williams
Aide: Laura Baker

Otters: 4 year olds

Teacher: Jessica Smith
Aide: LaDawn Joyner

Dolphins: 5-6 year olds

Teacher: Kim Clay
Aide: Brock Singleton

Puffins

The Puffin Room previously served 2 - 2.5 year olds. This room has been closed as a cost-saving measure due to continuing funding challenges. At this time, the Seahorse Room is serving children ages 2-3. We plan to re-open this classroom when we can ensure its continuation for at least six months, to ensure continuous care for new Puffins who can "age" into the next classroom.

Seahorses

Oct. 31- Nov. 4 - Nutrition

This week the Seahorses will discuss what makes their bodies healthy. They will make collages of nutritious foods. We will read books like *Bottom and Tops*. We will pretend to go on picnics, play restaurant, and sort pretend foods. At the end of the week we will taste different foods.

November 7-11 - Community Helpers
Who do we see in our community?

The Seahorses will dress up and read about their neighborhood. We will read *All About Things People Can Do*, *Mega Rescuers*, *iDi "ahh"!* (*Say ahhh!*), and *Dora Va al Medico*. The Seahorses will create their own community. Who would like to be the grocer? The firefighters...?

November 14-18 - Puppets

The Seahorses will have fun with different kinds of puppets. We will look at sock puppets and bag puppets. We will make puppets. We will read books about Sesame Street and the Muppets. We will put on puppet shows and show our friends what it is like to be a great audience.

November 21-25 - Buildings and Blocks

The Seahorses will build with all kinds of materials from blocks to bowls. How high will your tower go? How can we make it steadier? We will build throughout the week and save some each day. Maybe we can even get some big boxes and build our own town.

Nov. 28 - Dec. 2 - Preparing For Winter

Brrr... we need to figure out what to wear in the winter. We will match mittens, learn how to put our own coats on, and build snowmen out of marshmallows. We will play in the snow, fake snow that is! We will design snow scenes and skate on "snow" in our classroom.

Announcements For Parents

Mark your calendars:

The annual MCUM Holiday Program will be held on Monday, December 12, 6:30 - 8:00 PM at Tri-North Middle School. All friends and family are invited to enjoy the show and a light meal together.

PEP CLUB Success!

October was a great month for parent involvement in the Childcare Program. Parents joined their children for lunch on special days, met for a Saturday play date at the park, chaperoned field trips, and helped out with trick or treating. We are excited to announce the parent involvement opportunities for November:

November 2: Sign up for lunch with your Seahorse!

November 9: Sign up for lunch with your Penguin!

November 16: Sign up for lunch with your Otter!

November 22: Thanksgiving Luncheon for families

November 30: Sign up for lunch with your Dolphin!

We will soon plan another Saturday play date as well as working on gift wrapping for a visit from Santa. Watch the bulletin board in the childcare lobby for all our fun and exciting activities.

Penguins

Oct. 31- Nov. 4 - Hispanic Awareness
This week, the Penguins will discuss many Hispanic traditions including the Day of the Dead. We will talk about Hispanic food and games and sing each morning in Spanish.

November 7-11 - Our Senses
The Penguins will explore with their senses. We will have a sweet and sour tasting and create graphs about the tastes we like. We will count what we see and play hide and seek. We will look at objects using flashlight and color paddles. Outside, we will experiment with sandpaper. At the end of the week, we will make a texture collage.

November 14-18 - Music and Dance
The Penguins will express themselves through music and dance. We will discuss the many varieties of music and dance and we will talk about how different cultures use music and dance to communicate. We will listen to music with varying tempos and make musical instruments.

November 21-25 - Thanksgiving
The Penguins will talk about Thanksgiving and people less fortunate than ourselves. We will read the story *Stone Soup* and learn how people can share. We will discuss different ways people celebrate the holidays.

Nov. 28 - Dec. 2 - Fairy Tales
This week, the Penguins will share their favorite fairy tales. We will make these tales come to life by dressing up in costumes and acting them out. We will listen to tales during quiet times and at the listening center. We will make castles out of paint and cardboard boxes. Throughout the week, we will try to write our own fairy tale.

Otters

Oct. 31- Nov. 4 - Fall Celebrations
This week the Otters Room will share ways we celebrate fall. On Monday, we will celebrate Halloween with a parade around the school and a classroom party. Throughout the rest of the week we will talk about candy apples, hayrides, pumpkin patches, and other ways to celebrate fall.

November 7-11 - Harvest
The Otters will take a closer look into harvest this week. We will learn what it means to harvest, the people involved with harvest, as well as its benefits. Our Otters will paint with straw, make paint from berries, and examine seeds in the science area.

November 14-18 - Trees & Leaves
The Otters have noticed changes on the playground...the trees and leaves are different! We will discuss why leaves change colors. We will collect leaves to play with in our sensory table and to use to make leaf rubbings.

November 21-25 - Giving Thanks
This week the Otters will discuss the special things that make us thankful. We will spend time learning about the first Thanksgiving, reading stories on how Thanksgiving is honored, as well as share ways we celebrate Thanksgiving at home. On Tuesday, we will have our school-wide Thanksgiving lunch with family members.

Nov. 28 - Dec. 2 - Preparing for Winter
The Otters will spend this week learning about the transition from fall to winter. We will read books and discuss ways people get ready for winter and look at how the world around us gets prepared.

Dolphins

Oct. 31- Nov. 4 - Healthy Food
Why does an apple a day keep the doctor away? At the end of the week, ask any Dolphin and they will have the answer for you. This week we will explore our food options and which will keep us healthy. We will check to see if our lunch has all the food groups. Don't forget to check out our growth chart.

November 7-11 - Peanut Butter
What's not to love about peanut butter? It's nutritious and delicious and yummy on a spoon by itself. This week Dolphins will learn about peanut butter in honor of National Peanut Butter Day. We will learn about its history and how to make it. At the end of the week the Dolphins will enjoy homemade peanut butter cookies.

November 14-18 - Family
This week the Dolphins will talk about what makes a family. We will discuss who is in our family and their roles. They will learn about different kinds of families and their importance. We will make a chart graphing how many siblings are in our family. Look for pictures of families drawn by the Dolphins.

November 21-25 - Thanksgiving
What are you thankful for? This week the Dolphins will discover and discuss what we are thankful for. We will discuss the first Thanksgiving and create turkey art projects to take home and share with our families.

Nov. 28 - Dec. 2 - Pets
What makes your pet special? The Dolphins will be answering that question this week as we talk about the loyal, playful, companion in our lives. We will learn why they are important and we will make a banner in their honor.

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 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
SPEA Service Corps Fellows: Colton Hubbard
Patrick Coad

Hours of Operation:

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

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

Our Volunteer Luncheon was attended by 62 men and women, including two of our founders, Betty Applegate and Sally Cook. We were overwhelmed by their presence along with the current volunteers who donate so many hours for Opp House.

It is time to pack away any remaining Halloween items and very soon we will be putting out the Christmas decorations.

May you all have a blessed Thanksgiving with family. Please note that we will be closed Thanksgiving Day.

Please recycle this newsletter or share it with a friend.