

Working Together

The Newsletter of Monroe County United Ministries

November 2013

Help Make the Season Bright for Local Families

MCUM's Annual Winter Food Drive

For many families in our community, the end of the year is marked by gatherings with family and friends, delicious meals, religious observances, and time for reflection. Still, hundreds of local households will struggle to secure enough food for their families this time of year.

Each year, MCUM relies on its Winter Food Drive to collect food, cleaning, and hygiene products to help families in need throughout the winter season. As of this newsletter's printing, MCUM has collected about 36,000 pounds of such items in 2013. Can you help us exceed last year's grand total of 72,000 pounds by the end of December?

Please contact Justin Smith (food@mcum.org, x24) or Katie Meier (fundraising@mcum.org, x18) to share your intent to participate in the food drive. You can also visit MCUM's website at www.mcum.org for details on how you can make a difference for your neighbors in need.

Other Holiday Activities

Did you know you can provide a holiday food basket for a family in need? Or that you can help Santa give a bag of goodies to each child in the childcare center? You can also volunteer, sponsor a local family for Christmas, and more!

There are so many ways you can help make this time of year special to families in our community. Please call 339-3429 x11 today for more information about how you can make a difference.



Thank you for your help! Your generosity is important to making Monroe County a healthy, thriving community for everyone.

Be a Part of History

Help Commemorate MCUM's 75th Anniversary!

Monroe County United Ministries will celebrate 75 years of service to the community in 2014! To help honor MCUM's impact in Monroe County, we are seeking:

Historical Documents

Do you have any records from MCUM's early days? Perhaps a letter or photo about the Bloomington Day Nursery?

Personal Stories

Did you participate in activities at the Christian Center? Maybe your mother was a volunteer, or your children were lions or cubs (former preschool classroom names)?

Celebrate the difference MCUM (formerly Bloomington Day Nursery and the Christian Center) has made in the lives of Monroe County families by sharing your memories. You can do so by visiting our website (www.mcum.org; click on the anniversary icon), mailing your story to the address on the back of this newsletter, or emailing development@mcum.org.

Food Pantry Needs

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

- baking mixes & pie crust mixes (Jiffy)
- canned fruit (no pineapple, please!)
- canned veggies - especially green peas & potatoes!
- soups – mixed veggie, tomato, “cream of” soups (mushroom, chicken, etc.)
- chili
- dry beans
- peanut butter

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:

- underwear - men's sizes 32-36; boys sizes 2-8; women's sizes 2-7, 11-16, 20
- feminine hygiene products
- diapers size 1, 2, 6
- adult tube socks for winter

Childcare Needs

With more than 60 children enrolled, the childcare program needs all kinds of supplies, including:

- gourds (small, any type)
- dry erase markers (non-toxic)
- dry beans (any kind)
- pipe cleaners (multi-colored)
- pom-poms (any color)
- foam shapes
- 3M Lamination (9x12)

Opp House Needs

Opportunity House can find new homes for your gently used items, with proceeds benefiting MCUM's programs. Please consider donating items such as:

- 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 email 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/or December? The schedule is flexible, but pick ups usually occur between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Contact Meri at mcum@mcum.org or 339-3429 x11 to sign up today!

Video Expert: Help MCUM produce a video celebrating 75 years in service to the community! We're seeking someone who can help produce a short, documentary-style video. Contact Kate at development@mcum.org or 339-3429 x15.

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.

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

Maintenance Volunteers: Volunteers are needed to perform basic maintenance tasks of any skill level, from changing light bulbs to basic carpentry. Work is usually performed between 8 a.m. & 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Contact Meri at mcum@mcum.org or 339-3429 x11.

Save the Date: MCUM's Spring Luncheon

Planning is underway for MCUM's annual "Spring Into Action!" Luncheon and Auction, which will take place Sunday, April 6, 2014. Besides attending the event, there are many other great opportunities to get involved, including:

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

Contact Katie at (812) 339-3429 x18 or fundraising@mcum.org for more information about this year's luncheon and ways you can get involved.

Congregation Connections

by Tessa Skidmore

Since joining MCUM in early September, Development Associate Katie Meier has been connecting with congregations and their outreach committees, service clubs, and youth groups. Many of them have long-standing relationships with MCUM that formed when it was one of the few social services providers in Monroe County. However, members from younger generations may not be aware of this history or familiar with MCUM's distinct mission among the multitude of charitable organizations in Bloomington today.

"It is important to raise awareness among all congregation members, but especially among the younger generations to whom MCUM will look to help meet community needs in the future," Katie said.

Though the number varies from year to year, MCUM currently has 16 member congregations that are eligible to nominate a representative to MCUM's Board of Directors. MCUM also has numerous supporting congregations, whose assistance can take the form of items collected for the food pantry, or gifts specifically designated for the childcare or emergency assistance programs.

A large portion of MCUM's support comes from member and supporting congregations. These institutions also serve as an important connection for recruiting volunteers and spreading the word about MCUM's services. While the majority of its religious support comes from Christian churches, MCUM also works to reach out to other faith groups, primarily through the Monroe County Religious Leaders, to which it provides monthly meeting space.

In light of MCUM's 75th anniversary next year, Katie said, "Not only does MCUM exist because of the faith community, it has laid the foundation for so much of what MCUM has been able to provide Monroe County residents for such a long time. We are excited to continue expanding these partnerships to serve the community in MCUM's next 75 years."

Thank you!

We would like to extend special thanks to...

- Attendees, volunteers, and sponsors of this year's Never Grow Up! FUNdraiser!

- The individuals, families, and businesses already signed up to participate in MCUM's holiday activities.

- IU Briscoe residence hall staff and students for hosting a fun fall festival for preschoolers in MCUM's childcare program!

- Storage Express for generously donating five computers.

- The many people who have already donated items for MCUM's Spring Luncheon and Auction, and the luncheon committee members generously giving their time to organize this fun event!

Make an Impact with Your Estate Plan

Generous gifts and goodwill from community supporters have allowed MCUM to provide essential community services since 1939. If you would like to ensure the continuation of our programs for as long as they are needed, consider making a gift to MCUM through your estate plan. Numerous giving options, and tax benefits, allow you to create a lasting legacy in the community in a manner that suits you.

All gifts, large and small, make a lasting difference for MCUM's ability to serve our community's most vulnerable citizens.

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.

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 #9 is "Expand ongoing public relations campaign to improve Monroe County's awareness of our community's needs and MCUM's program impacts."

As MCUM's 75th anniversary year approaches, we are especially excited to find new ways to talk about community needs and share MCUM's story. A complete list of strategic plan initiatives is also available at www.mcum.org.

Want to receive MCUM newsletters by email?

Too much mail? You can reduce clutter and save trees by signing up to receive this newsletter online! To make the switch, email development@mcum.org, or call 339-3429, x15.

Thank You, Pantry Donors

We depend on donations to make a difference for local households in crisis. Listed here are some of the groups and individuals who have recently contributed food, cleaning supplies, and/or hygiene products:

Jef & Pam Davidson
First Christian Church
First Presbyterian Church
First United Church
Good Neighbors Home Extension Club
McDoel Baptist Church
Opportunity House
Maureen Pickering
Basilla Jean Rogers
Mary Jo & John Sgro
Simpson Chapel United Methodist Church
Michelle Stockey
Trinity Episcopal Church
Woodhaven Christian Church

Healthy Success

MCUM's childcare program will soon implement new measures to reinforce its already strong nutrition and physical education programming. The changes come as part of MCUM's participation in a National Early Care and Education Learning Collaborative called "Taking Steps to Healthy Success," or simply "Healthy Success," as the program will be called at MCUM.

The program is sponsored by Nemours, a nonprofit children's health organization, with funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Over the course of a year, the program will provide five trainings to agency leaders in Indiana and five other states, with the expectation that newly trained individuals will return to their agencies and train other staff. Each session has a different focus.

MCUM Education Coordinator Tina Pender attended the first two training sessions in August and October, which challenged participants to identify strengths and weaknesses in their agencies' programs and to develop action plans around two powerful changes that can be made.

Changes to MCUM's childcare curriculum include more intentional discussion with preschoolers about nutrition at meal times, as well as incorporating "vigorous activity" into the children's regularly scheduled playtime. The program is expected to be a strong complement to other nutrition education elements, such as the food trial experiences MCUM's childcare program is already implementing through a separate grant.

Thank You, Volunteers

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

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Loretta Alonso | Sean MacLennan | Murl Summerville |
| Lauren Arnold | Judy McDougal | Cara Thompson |
| Lisha Beitvashahi | Leon McDougal | Susie Trisler |
| Maddy Brown | Valerie Merriam | Emily Walden |
| Margaret Chittum | Chris Meyer | Christina Walters |
| Greg Claretto | Donna Michael | Kiana Werner |
| Su Cowling | Lavanya Narayaner | |
| Madison Crawford | Julia Nash | |
| Erika Dorff | Kate O'Shea | |
| Nick Farid | Beth Patton | |
| Diane Gregory | Hannah Pimley | |
| Sidney Harris | Jeff Ramey | |
| Olivia Hopf | Betty Schoonmaker | |
| Seda Jackson | John Sgro | |
| Larry Jacobs | Kuangda Shan | |
| Brandon Jones | Melissa Spas | |
| Stephanie Kelty | Jean Summerville | |

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 items you already buy and send them our way. These logos may be in unexpected places so keep your eyes open!

Your routine trip to the grocery store can benefit MCUM!

When you shop at Marsh, O'Malia's, or Kroger, your purchase can earn points for MCUM's childcare program! Those points are redeemed for great supplies for our classrooms. Here's what to do:

For Marsh or O'Malia's: Sign up by e-mailing the 12-digit number on the back of your card to development@mcum.org, calling our office at (812) 339-3429 x15, or visiting Marsh's website to register your card number under MCUM's school code 38244.

For Kroger: Register at www.labelsforeducation.com

Thank you! Happy shopping!

Childcare Classroom Calendar -

Staff

Childcare Director: Traci Mehay
Educ. Coordinator: Tina Pender
Cook: Denise Garrett
Assistant Cook: Derrick Mackie

Puffins: Room closed

Seahorses: 2.5-3 year olds

Teacher: Sarah Norzinskay

Penguins: 3 year olds

Teacher: LaDawn Joyner

Otters: 4 year olds

Teacher: Jessica Mackie

Aide: Brittney Denton

Dolphins: 5-6 year olds

Teacher: Kim Clay

Aide: Position open

Puffins

The Puffin Room served 2 - 2.5 year olds until closing in August 2011 as a cost-saving measure due to funding challenges. Ready to help us re-open the Puffin Room? We are collecting three-year pledges from community members who are committed to high-quality, affordable early childhood education for the youngest children we can serve! We hope to reopen the Puffin Room in 2014.



Please contact us today to learn more about how you can support this important goal.

Seahorses

Happy Thanksgiving everyone! This month the Seahorses will talk about fall and what Thanksgiving is all about. Some of the books we will read are *Ten Fat Turkeys*, which is a counting book, "I Spy" Thanksgiving edition, *Oh My, Pumpkin Pie!* and *Fall Harvest*. Some books and activities will explore what Thanksgiving is, and what kind of food people eat on that day.

One activity the children like is making turkey headbands. The teacher cuts out the parts of the turkey and the children glue them together like a hat. They also like to make hand turkeys: a teacher paints the child's hands and presses them down on a piece of paper to make the turkey shape. The children will also attempt to make corn on the cob paintings. These are art projects in which children roll the corn to make prints, which helps them think about what corn is and how people eat and grow it.

The Seahorse class will also talk about transportation and the ways people get from here to there. We will work on letters d,e, and f, as well as the triangle, the color green, and the numbers 1,2, and 3. They will be busy bodies with all of this fun content!

There are so many other activities the children will be doing in November! We hope the children enjoy them and will share them with their parents/guardians!

Announcements For Parents

Mark Your Calendars - November!

November 6

- Lunch with your child day!

November 13

- Lunch with your child day!

November 20

- Lunch with your child day!

November 26

- MCUM Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon

November 28

- Thanksgiving Day (school closed)

November 29

- Thanksgiving Holiday (school closed)

Lead screening:

In early October, Sheila Evans of IU Health Bloomington performed lead screenings on eight MCUM preschoolers. These screenings are offered annually at MCUM and are an important opportunity to ensure your child is not coming into contact with lead in his or her environment. Keep an eye out for additional lead screening opportunities to come next fall!

Penguins

During the month of November, the penguins will learn about forms of transportation. We will build roads both indoors and outdoors. We will pretend to be airplanes and play with boats in the water table. We will chart our favorite form of transportation as well as draw pictures about them. We will also work on our letters, numbers, and shapes by tracing roads that have been turned into the letters, numbers and shapes.

We will read several books about transportation, such as *The Little Engine that Could*, *Duck on a Bike*, *Go, Dog. Go!*, and *I'm Your Bus*. We will also sing songs about transportation, including "The Wheels on the Bus."

Even though this month's theme is transportation, we will take time to share what we are thankful for. We will talk about what Thanksgiving is and how it became a holiday. We will read books such as *A Feast for Ten*, *This is the Turkey*, *Thanks for Thanksgiving*, and *This First Thanksgiving Day!*

We will continue working on the following goals throughout the school year:

- using our words and not our hands and feet
- using nice words, not curse words or other hurtful phrases
- cleaning up our messes
- treating our toys and books nicely
- following school-wide expectations

Otters

Tractors, cars, and trains, oh my! Every day we use different means of transportation! This month the Otters will discuss the ways we travel from place to place. We will read books such as *Maisy Drives the Bus*, *Sheep on a Ship*, *Go, Dog Go!*, *Airport*, and many more. Our transportation fun won't end there! The Otters will sing songs about transportation and play red light green light on the playground! We will look at maps and bus routes, paint with cars, talk about ways to take care of vehicles, and share our favorite means of transportation. The Otters will also talk about being safe in and around vehicles, practice looking both ways before crossing the street, and learn about street signs and stop lights.

The Otters will talk about Thanksgiving, too! As we read stories about Thanksgiving, we will share with one another the people and things we are most thankful for. We will also celebrate Thanksgiving by: making friendship wreaths and handprint turkeys, and enjoying MCUM's annual Thanksgiving Lunch Feast with our families!

The Otters will continue to:

- learn the letters in our names (and how to spell them!), letters of the alphabet, and numbers 0-20
- practice writing our letters, numbers, and our names
- follow school-wide expectations
- work on using our words to express our feelings to others
- practice putting on and zipping our own jackets
- practice buttoning our jeans

Dolphins

This month the Dolphins are going to discover the best way to get from here to there. We will explore many types of transportation and learn which ones are best to use depending on where we are going. We will take a trip back into history to discover when the first form of transportation was invented and by whom. This month will provide excellent opportunities for the children to share stories of their travels and which types of travel they prefer. The Dolphins will make a graph to determine how most of the class comes to school.

During the month of November, we will also celebrate Thanksgiving. We will think about people less fortunate than ourselves and discuss ways in which we can help them. We will read the story "Stone Soup" and learn how people can share what they have to make a feast for everyone. We will then make turkeys and write down what we are thankful for.



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

Non-Profit Organization
US Postage Paid
Bloomington, IN 47404
Permit #186

Inside this issue:



Holiday Activities

Page 1

Current Needs

Page 2

Luncheon & Congregations

Page 3

Strategic Plan

Page 4

Healthy Success

Page 5

Childcare Calendar

Pages 6-7

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 Associate: Kate Zilvinskis
Development Associate: Katie Meier
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 | Monday - Friday |
| Emergency | 8:00am - noon |
| Services: | 1:00pm - 4:00pm |
| Childcare: | Monday - Friday |
| | 7:00am - 5:30pm |

Opportunity House

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 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Monday-Saturday, with donations accepted 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Call 336-2443 or follow Opportunity House on Facebook.

Donations of gently used items are always welcome, including: books, clothing, household items, collectibles, toys, pictures, antiques, and linen.

Please recycle this newsletter or share it with a friend.