

Working Together

The Newsletter of Monroe County United Ministries

October 2013

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Historical Documents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 formation of 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)?

We invite you to help 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.

Give Today. Create a Better Tomorrow. United Way.

Your donation to United Way powers its work with member agencies, including Monroe County United Ministries, to make a difference in people's lives. Your funds stay local to help create and sustain solutions that ensure people in our community can have a good education, build their earnings, and afford the essentials for their families.

When you give today, you help create a better tomorrow. This year, United Way also has special matching grant opportunities. Thanks to your support of United Way, the people we serve have the opportunity to build a better future. Please give generously today. For more information visit www.monroeunitedway.org.



Share the Date!

Never Grow Up!

a FUNdraiser to benefit MCUM

Saturday, October 26, 2013,
7-9 pm, \$12, 827 W. 14th Ct.

Help introduce MCUM to more people in Monroe County! Guests of MCUM's second annual "Never Grow Up!" FUNdraiser will enjoy a night of food, fun, games, and prizes while learning about MCUM's Affordable Childcare and Emergency Services Programs. Complimentary beverages and food provided by The Rail, Upland, Baked! of Bloomington, the Bloomington Bagel Company, and more!

COME IN COSTUME as a favorite childhood character or younger version of yourself for the chance to win a prize!

Share the date and bring a friend! The more people who know about MCUM, the more MCUM can accomplish in the community.

This event is for the young at heart. Guests must be 21 or over.

For tickets and more information:
www.mcum.org.

Food Pantry Needs

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

- canned fruits (except for pineapple)
- baking mix
- canned potatoes
- dry beans
- drinks
- Hamburger Helper

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:

- adult socks
- men's underwear- sizes 30-36
- women's underwear- sizes 2-7, 11, 16-20
- dish soap
- general cleaners
- baby shampoo
- razors and shaving cream
- female hygiene products

MCUM could really use **paper grocery sacks** for the Emergency Food Pantry! Paper bags hold more than plastic bags, and they stand up nicely on our shelves. Please ask for paper when you shop and bring them to MCUM to reuse!

Childcare Needs

With 73 children enrolled, the Childcare Program needs all kinds of supplies, including:

- lots of dry-erase markers
- construction paper
- unpopped popcorn
- various types of dry beans

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

Never Grow Up! FUNdraiser Volunteers: Have an eye for design or decorating? Volunteers are needed for this second-annual event, especially to help with day-of tasks on Saturday, October 26th. Are you a photographer? We are also seeking a fun individual to be our photo booth photographer during the event!

Volunteer as much or as little as you'd like!
Contact Kate at development@mcum.org, or 339-3429 x15 for more information.

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 is a resale shop at 907 W. 11th Street and 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 8-4, Monday-Friday. Contact Meri at mcum@mcum.org or 339-3429 x11.

Spring Luncheon Planning Committee: Do you have a knack for auction item solicitation, logistics, or setting up displays? We seek a few committed volunteers who are interested or have experience in marketing, public relations, fundraising, or event planning to serve on our Spring Luncheon Committee! Responsibilities include: attending 2-3 planning meetings, soliciting auction items, and helping with day-of operations! Contact Katie at fundraising@mcum.org for more information.

Childcare Program: NAEYC Family Survey Results

Earlier this year, MCUM achieved the highest-ever response rate on its annual NAEYC Family Survey, with nearly 80 percent of surveys returned! National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) surveys are distributed to childcare families annually each spring. Results of this year's survey were particularly important, as they supported MCUM's application for reaccreditation with NAEYC. To meet reaccreditation criteria, each question must receive favorable responses from at least 75 percent of parents completing the survey. This year, more than 90 percent of applicable survey questions received favorable responses!

Only two applicable questions fell short of the criteria. MCUM will continue to expand opportunities for families to get to know and support each other (71 percent of respondents felt there were currently enough opportunities) and to have parent-teacher conversations regarding the language used to teach each child (67 percent of parents felt this occurred).

Student Spotlight

As the school year begins, we welcome a number of students to the MCUM family. In addition to our treasured volunteers (including service-learners), we are pleased to welcome three longer-term fellows and interns:

Sidney Harris, a first-year student at Indiana University, will provide critical connections between MCUM volunteer opportunities and students at IU as our Advocate for Community Engagement (ACE). Sidney says, "I enjoy working at MCUM because they help to solve some of the major issues in the Bloomington community. I am very passionate about issues of social justice and I believe that everyone should have the opportunity to rise above the trappings of poverty. So working at MCUM affords me the chance to interact with members of the Bloomington community and work with them on an individual level hopefully making a positive impact."

Tessa Skidmore, graduate student at the School of Public and Environmental Affairs at IU, is a Service Corps Fellow supporting MCUM's development efforts. Tessa says of her involvement, "I'm so grateful for the opportunity to enhance my classroom education by working with a local non-profit. Being placed with MCUM is exciting because, with its childcare facility and food pantry on site, I am able to see the direct impact on community members in need. I'm eager to help the development team in promoting MCUM's mission and further develop the resources necessary to achieve it."

Kiana (Ki) Werner, a senior at IU, has been working closely with MCUM's Emergency Services caseworkers. Ki says, "I'm interning at MCUM for my social work senior practicum this year, and I couldn't be more thankful for the opportunity. I've already learned so much here that will help me in my future career, and every day brings new experiences."

We are thrilled to have each of these individuals placed with us, and we look forward to seeing all they accomplish, both at MCUM and at IU!

With Gratitude

We would like to extend special thanks to...

- Old National Bank for its generous sponsorship of MCUM's 75th Anniversary festivities to be held in 2014.
- Bicycle Garage for financial sponsorship of Never Grow Up! , a FUNdraiser for MCUM to be held October 26th.
- The many new student volunteers who have signed up to dedicate time to MCUM this academic year.
- Service-learner Kuangda Shan, for donating special items to a client in need.
- Maureen Pickering and all the other caring community members who simply read about MCUM's "Each One Feed One" food drive in the newspaper and called to find out how they could help.

Your Produce Needed!

If your tomatoes are turning red (and yellow and purple) and your squash keeps growing and growing, we'd love to hear from you! 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 7:00 am -5:30 pm, Monday-Friday), and your donation could be nourishing young bodies the very next day.

Did you know you can receive MCUM newsletters by email?

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

Stop By for a Tour!

Did you know that in 2012, MCUM's Emergency Food Pantry distributed enough food to make more than 37,500 meals? Learn more about MCUM by touring our facilities! Drop in any Thursday at noon, or call to schedule an appointment. Come see the impact your support has on the Childcare and Emergency Services Programs!

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 #8 is "Double the annual number of agency volunteers to 500."

Volunteers have always played an important role at MCUM and are essential to the success of our programs. All aspects of our operation ~ from the childcare kitchen to our monthly newsletter ~ benefit from the time, expertise, and enthusiasm that volunteers contribute.

Interested in being a volunteer? Contact help@mcum.org or call (812) 339-3429 for more information, or check out page 2 of this newsletter or the MCUM website for specific volunteer opportunities! A complete list of strategic plan initiatives is also available at www.mcum.org.

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 households who have recently contributed food, cleaning supplies, and/or hygiene products:

Church Women United
Su Cowling
Jef & Pam Davidson
Fairview United Methodist Church
Fairview United Methodist Church, Royal Neighbors
First Christian Church
First Presbyterian Church
First United Church
Good Neighbors Home Extension Club
Sherry Jeffers
Basila Jean Rogers
Mary Jo & John Sgro
St. Thomas Lutheran Evangelical Church
Stoneybrook Community Church of God
Trinity Episcopal Church
Unitarian Universalist Church
United Presbyterian Church
University Baptist Church
Heather Winne
Woodhaven Christian Church

Thank You, Volunteers

Volunteers make our programs possible. Thank you to all those who shared their valuable time and talent with us recently, including our “Each One, Feed One” volunteers:

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Loretta Alonso | Wayne Henderson | Phyllis Perkins |
| Carolyn Anderson | Sheila Henry | Bill Perkins |
| Emily Andrews- | Benny Holt | Carol Peterman |
| Carrico | Chere Howard | Dawna Petersen |
| Velma Apple | Steve Ingle | Douglas Petersen |
| Jo Banks | Cindy Jackson | Alison Pitt |
| Pat Barber | Larry Jacobs | Jane Pitt |
| Marti Black | Dianna Johnson | Ted Polley |
| Mary Blizzard | Elizabeth Johnson | Jeff Ramey |
| Darrell Boggess | Brandon Jones | Ann Schepper |
| Kathleen Boggess | LaDawn Joyner | Betty Schoonmaker |
| Mary Ellen Brown | Nancy Kalina | Paul Schoonmaker |
| Marci Bryan | Addy Kao | John Sgro |
| Doris Burch | Laura Kao | Mary Jo Sgro |
| Barbara Bush | Reni Kao | Martha Smily |
| John Bush | Emily Kehoe | Diana Smith |
| Judy Bush | Stephanie Kelty | Jude Smith |
| Mike Case | Dan Kirwan | Liny Smits |
| Margaret Chittum | Margaret Kirwan | Clark Sorensen |
| Greg Claretto | Alexandria Klutzke | Vicky Sorensen |
| Barb Clark | Christina Lambton | Jean Summerville |
| Edna Clark | Evelyn Lentz | Kim Sutton |
| Jean Cook | Jennifer Lloyd | Bryan Taylor |
| Su Cowling | Rebecca Mandell | Cara Thompson |
| Mary Lou Craig | Pat Martin | Elizabeth Traugott |
| John Davenport | Judy McDougal | Susie Trisler |
| Kim Davis | Leon McDougal | Rev. John VanderZee |
| Posey Doherty | Britney McNeely | Rev. Wendy |
| Hope Drahos | Doug McNeely | VanderZee |
| Rebecca Drahos | Kathleen McNeely | Emily Walden |
| Cherri DuPree | Mike McQueen | Frances Walden |
| Debbie Eads | Bryant Mehay | Rhonda Warthan |
| Phyllis Eads | Steve Mehay | Cassie Webster |
| Maggie Edens | Katie Meier | Micaela Webster |
| Steve Gable | Suzanne Merriman | Zac Webster |
| Mike Galimore | Chris Meyer | Joanne Weddle |
| Jennifer Halloran | Joe Miller | Kiana Werner |
| Hilary Hamilton | Ruth Miller | Marlene Wilmes |
| Sidney Harris | Kay Molstad | Hannah Winne |
| Kyle Hayes | Cheryl Munson | Heather Winne |
| Holly Hays | Pat Munson | Mariah Winne |
| Rebecca Hays | Rebecca Nunley | Danna Wylie |
| Linda Heath | Pamela Olivas | Kathy Zeller |
| Eddie Henderson | Mike Paidle | John Zilvinskis |
| Wade Henderson | Evelyn Pender | |

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!

Shop Marsh for MCUM

When you shop at Marsh or O'Malia's and use your Fresh Idea Card, a percentage of your purchase can benefit MCUM's Childcare Program. The points that MCUM earns when you shop allow us to order art and crafts materials and classroom supplies.

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. Thank you for your support. 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: Marycarole Matlock

Aide: 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, which served 2 - 2.5 year olds, remains closed after shutting its doors in August 2011 as a cost-saving measure due to funding challenges. Thank you to all who have pledged your support to reopen the room! We will keep you updated on our progress in securing funds, and we remain hopeful that we will be able to reopen the room in early 2014.



Seahorses

The Seahorses will learn about fall fest as well as the different aspects of the autumn season. The children will read books, such as *Going on a Leaf Hunt* and *Fall is for Friends*, and will be doing many different activities that relate to fall and October.

Going on a Leaf Hunt is a “big” book about searching for and studying leaves from all types of trees. It is a fun and interactive way to engage the children and show them fall leaf colors. *Fall is for Friends* is about two friends who want to play in piles of leaves, but the leaves won’t fall. They try to think of ways to make them fall, but mom tells them they must fall on their own. It’s neat to watch the children come up with their own versions of how leaves fall.

The Seahorses will also color leaves, make their own fall leaves book, and do leaf rubbings with stencils. The children like to color their own pictures, but they will be challenged to line up the stencil with the paper. The children will also paint with red, orange, yellow, green, and brown to create their own fall scenes.

After we read our books and do various activities, we will learn new fall songs, including *Ten Little Apples* and *5 Little Pumpkins Sitting on a Gate* for Halloween. The children love to sing but may not be familiar with these songs, so it will be fun to watch!

Of course, we will continue learning our shapes, colors, and the alphabet through songs and activities that help develop social, language, and math skills.

Announcements For Parents

NAEYC Family Survey Results

In 2013, MCUM had the highest-ever response rate to our NAEYC Family Survey! Thank you to everyone who responded. Your participation supports MCUM’s status as an accredited, high-quality childcare provider, and it means we can serve you better! Please refer to page 3 of this newsletter for more information about survey results.

Mark Your Calendars - October!

October 2

• Lunch with your child day!

October 9

• Lunch with your child day!

October 14

• Childcare closed for training

October 16

• Lunch with your child day!

October 23

• Lunch with your child day!

October 31

• Halloween parade/parties

Penguins

The Penguins will talk about the fall harvest this month. We will read *Welcome Fall* and *Let It Fall*, then talk about what we think fall is. We will also read *Apple Picking Time* and talk about different kinds of apples. The Penguins will taste a lot of apples and talk about their favorite kinds. They will paint with, count and sort apples, too. Which apples are the biggest? Which ones are green, yellow, red or even pink?

The next book we will read is *Pooh's Harvest*. We will talk about what the pictures look like and if we think the text matches them. The Penguins will also discuss who the author and illustrator are.

Then we will read *Let's Go On a Leaf Hunt* and *The Leaves Fall All Around*. The Penguins love to go on a bear hunt – will they love to go on a leaf hunt as well? We will collect leaves and make leaf collages and rubbings. While reading these books, we will also pick out the letters we are learning from the text. We will continue practicing our letters and make our own leaf books.

Last but not least – pumpkins! What is on the inside of a pumpkin? The Penguins will carve one and taste the seeds. We will talk about all the things you can do with a pumpkin and even try pumpkin roll. We will read *Sixteen Runaway Pumpkins* and *Five Little Pumpkins*. The Penguins will also learn the five little pumpkins song and see how their bodies can roll.

Then, of course, what is fall without our imaginations? At the end of the month, the Penguins will have a costume party and a parade.

Otters

This month, the Otters will talk about the fall harvest. We will read fall-related books, listen to fall stories, and discuss changes that take place during this season. To go along with our theme, the Otters will also learn about pumpkins and apples. At the end of October, we will dress up in costumes and have a Halloween parade through the preschool and main building!

As we discuss the changes that occur during the fall, we will take a nature walk around the block to observe the leaves, trees, and any other differences we notice. We will also collect items from our walk to bring back to the classroom and study in the science area. In the art area, we will make leaf rubbings, paint with reds, oranges, and yellows, and do other fall-related projects.

The Otters will talk about how, where and when apples grow. We will learn the names for various apples, discuss the different colors of apples, paint with apples, and even have our very own apple tasting party! During the tasting party, the Otters will have the opportunity to sample different types of apples, as well as both apple juice and cider, and then share which was their favorite. Then we'll graph our results to find out which was most popular!

Throughout the month, we will continue working on our sight words, learning the letters of the alphabet, recognizing numbers, and writing our names. As October comes to a close, we will have a huge Halloween party!

Dolphins

October is a month in which many changes occur. The weather begins to get colder and the sun sets at an earlier time.

We will talk about our health and how the cold weather makes it easier for viruses to thrive. We will practice good hygiene by washing our hands to decrease the chances of getting sick.

This month, we will cover various topics related to safety. The Dolphins will learn how to prevent fires, what to do if our home catches on fire, as well as the stop, drop, and roll technique.

We will talk about Halloween and the safety concerns involved with playing outside. We will also learn why rules are essential, and who our community's safety providers are. The Dolphins are looking forward to a visit from a police officer and firefighter.



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 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 Emergency Services: Monday - Friday
8:00am - noon
1:00pm - 4:00pm
Childcare: Monday - Friday
7:00am - 5:30pm

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.

Opportunity House Update

by Jill Argenbright, Opportunity House Co-Chair

Opportunity House has started putting winter clothes in the store, so come in to see what we have for cooler weather! Also, we have some awesome Halloween decorations as well as costumes for adults and children ~ give us a try!

Thanks to all who generously bring us your items to resell. Without your donations, we wouldn't be able to support MCUM'S very important programs.

Please recycle this newsletter or share it with a friend.