

# Working Together

The Newsletter of Monroe County United Ministries

September 2011

## “Each One, Feed One” Food Drive Fills the Shelves

MCUM’s sixth annual “Each One, Feed One” food drive was held August 25-28 and came within 109 pounds of setting a collection record. Shoppers at stores across Bloomington and Ellettsville donated 16,305 pounds of food, hygiene items, and cleaning supplies. This was the largest amount collected since the first year of the event, which resulted in donations of 16,414 pounds.



Food drive volunteers, who included retirees, Indiana University students, groups representing congregations, and families, made this event possible. Two hundred and

nine individuals donated 750 hours of their time over the course of the weekend. Some volunteered for the first time, others signed up for their sixth year. Some spent hours in the sun talking to shoppers, others unloaded bag after bag of food at MCUM. One IU freshman spent her first Friday night in town collecting donations at Bloomingfoods. Others didn’t let their dependence on wheelchairs and walkers interfere with their commitment. Without these dedicated individuals, such an event would not be possible.



We appreciate the support of Bloomingfoods, Ellettsville Hometown IGA, Kroger, Marsh, O’Malia’s, and Walmart. Thanks also to Marsh and Aver’s Pizza for keeping our volunteers supplied with food and water. We also appreciate the support of our generous event sponsors:



Heflin Industries – Farmers Insurance Agent, Tawni Hill – The Snyder Family

### Special Requests for Childcare Classrooms

*Light Table Supplies:* Light tables are a fun way for preschool children to explore and we always need additional items to view on the tables. Do you have any transparent or opaque items to donate? Use your imagination! Dig into the back of your closet and keep your eyes open at thrift stores.

*Blueprints:* “Home” is a common topic of discussion in our classrooms and we would love to have blueprints or similar drawings of homes to use as illustrations.

*Weather Station:* Our playground needs some weather-related tools, including a mercury-free thermometer, rain gauge, wind sock, and pinwheels.

The Childcare Program is open 6:30 AM - 5:30 PM. Donations can be dropped off during those hours. Call Tina at 339-3429 with questions.

## Childcare Needs

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

- Crayola washable markers
- Crayola crayons
- glitter
- glue sticks and liquid glue
- non-toxic dry erase markers

## Cleaning Closet Needs

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

Help restock our shelves with:

- shampoo and conditioner
- new socks for men and women
- feminine hygiene supplies
- general household cleaners
- dish soap
- diapers (especially size 5)

## Food Pantry Needs

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

- baking mixes (pancake, corn bread)
- soup (especially vegetable)
- canned vegetables (mixed, greens, yams)
- canned meats (chili, stew, chicken, tuna)
- cereal

## Volunteer Opportunities

For more information about these or other positions, contact Cliff Edens at (812)339-3429 or [help@mcum.org](mailto:help@mcum.org) unless another name is provided below.

### Featured Volunteer Position

**Book Fair Volunteers:** Help us with the Scholastic Book Fair September 19-23. Volunteers will keep displays tidy, handle sales, and help with sale and donation tracking. Helpers are especially needed in the afternoons, 3:30-5:30. Contact Tina at 339-3429 or [education@mcum.org](mailto:education@mcum.org) to sign up.

**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.

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

### We "CAN" Do It, Thanks to Your Support

We appreciate the donations of coffee cans we've received for our food drive and childcare classrooms. We are now fully stocked so we hope you'll be able to find another home for your cans. The Monroe County Solid Waste Management District Reuse Center would be a great place to take them.

# Matching Money for MCUM



MCUM is again participating in the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County's Matchstick Endowment Matching Initiative. When community members donate \$7,500 for MCUM's endowment fund, an additional \$2,500 will be added by the foundation. This is a great opportunity to maximize the impact of your donation, thanks to a 3:1 match, and to strengthen the endowment that will support our programs for as long as they are needed. Donations should be sent directly to the foundation:

*Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County  
101 W. Kirkwood 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 if you have any questions about the Matchstick Program.

## Family Literacy: Start a Book Club

**by Danielle Rankin, SPEA Service Corps Fellow**

Studies show that sharing literacy activities with other children significantly increases motivation and comprehension in reading. If your child needs a little extra encouragement, try starting or joining a book club! Clubs can focus on specific topics, target various reading levels, and include different forms of participation.

Try these helpful hints from PBS to make your club a success:

- Meet at a set time and place every other week or once a month. Keep in mind that kids will need more time to digest the reading material than adults. They might need to read the book two or more times to fully understand the story. The length of the meeting should be based on the age and attention span of members.
- Recruit eight to twelve members so that if a few kids can't make it, the discussion can still go on. Any more than twelve can be overwhelming!
- Decide whether the book will be co-ed, include parents and children, focus on mothers and daughters or fathers and sons. These initial decisions will set the tone for the group.
- Consider joining a site that sells books specifically for children's books clubs. You can often get a great rate on purchasing multiple copies of popular titles for the whole group.
- Provide snacks and supplemental activities. Relevant games and coloring can go a long way in not only increasing fun but improving story comprehension!

## Thank you!

We would like to thank...

- the volunteers at St. Mark's United Methodist Church for donating shoe boxes of treats for the children of families in financial crisis.
- Delta Theta Tau Sorority for donating ice cream and cones to be enjoyed by the summer campers and preschoolers.
- Joy True for her donation of art supplies.
- the volunteers who made the "Each One, Feed One" Community Food Drive possible.
- Marsh Supermarkets for donating bottled water for our food drive volunteers.
- Rebecca Mandell for serving as our Nonprofit Leadership Alliance intern this summer.
- the St. Thomas Evangelical Lutheran Church youth for their work in MCUM's food pantry this summer.
- everyone who has donated to the 2011 Matchstick campaign.

## 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!

## Remember MCUM When Writing Your Will or Trust

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

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

## Playhouse Fun

When the Unitarian Universalist Church no longer had space for its playground playhouse, which was originally raffled to benefit Monroe County CASA, they wanted to make sure it was still used and enjoyed. At its new home at MCUM, it will certainly receive plenty of love.



When transporting the house presented a problem, the Bloomington's Parks and Recreation Department provided assistance. Thank you to the UU Church and JD Boruff's crew for this fun addition to MCUM's playground.

## Good Books, Great Prices at the Book Fair

It's time again for MCUM's Scholastic Book Fair. We will be hosting the book fair Monday, September 19- Friday, September 23. The fair is open to the public and provides quality books at an affordable price. Books will be available for infants through approximately the third grade reading level and you can browse the selection 6:30am - 5:30pm each day. Shopping at the book fair gives you good books at an affordable price and benefits MCUM. The more books we sell, the more free books the Childcare Program earns. Volunteers can help make the fair a success. See page 2 for more information.



## Thank You, Pantry Donors

MCUM's Emergency Food Pantry has received 24,243 pounds of donations so far this year. Listed here are some of the groups and households who have contributed to this total in the last month:

Ruth Berit  
Pamela & Jef Davidson  
Ellie Macfarlane  
Lynn Ohrt  
Mary Jo & John Sgro  
Arlington United Methodist Church  
Congregation Beth Shalom  
Daughters of Isabella  
Delta Theta Tau  
Delta Zeta Alumnae Society

Fairview United Methodist Church  
First Christian Church  
First Presbyterian Church  
Good Neighbors Home Extension  
McDoel Baptist Church  
St. Mark's United Methodist Church  
St. Thomas Lutheran Church  
Unitarian Universalist Church  
United Presbyterian Church  
Woodhaven Christian Church

# Looking for Quality Childcare?

Check out [www.in.gov/fssa/carefinder](http://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](http://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.

# Who Assesses MCUM's Quality?

Lots of different factors influence a program's quality, from teacher qualification to food safety. Here are just a few recent examples of assessments by outside entities who tell us that MCUM is providing a quality Childcare Program.

- a perfect score on our inspection by the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)
- a perfect report from the fire marshall's recent visit
- a perfect score on the risk management assessment performed by our insurance company
- anticipated renewal of our inclusion in the 5-Star Environmental Recognition Program for Child Care Facilities by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management

## Labels for Education in New Places

You can now find Labels for Education on new products, including Glad storage containers, Emerald Nuts, Dannon yogurt, and some magazines, including People and Real Simple. When you collect labels for MCUM, we earn points that can be used to purchase equipment and supplies for our childcare classrooms. Purchases might include art supplies, playground equipment, musical instruments, or books on CD. Labels can be donated at our offices or anywhere food is collected for the pantry.

# 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:

- |                 |                        |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| Phil Davis      | Samantha Mehay         |
| Larry Jacobs    | Chris Meyer            |
| Brian Kanowsky  | John Sgro              |
| Emily Knapczyk  | Mary Jo Sgro           |
| Rebecca Mandell | Grace Shockley         |
| Bryant Mehay    | St. Thomas Youth Group |

# Your Produce Needed!

Overwhelmed by tomatoes?  
Maxed out on cucumbers?  
One fun and easy way to support MCUM's Childcare Program is to donate fresh fruits and vegetables from your garden.

Drop off your extra produce at MCUM's Childcare Building (open 6:30am -5:30pm, Monday-Friday), and your donation could be nourishing young bodies the very next day.

## 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.

# 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: Mary Ellen Pierce  
Aide: Laura Baker

**Otters: 4 year olds**

Teacher: Jessica Smith  
Aide: LaDawn Joyner

**Dolphins: 5-6 year olds**

Teacher: Kim Clay  
Aide: Brock Singleton

Floating Staff: Susan Williams

## Puffins

The Puffin 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 the classroom when we can ensure its continuation for at least six months.

## Seahorses

*September 5-9 - Shapes*

This week the Seahorses will look at the shapes in our world. We will match shapes and make shape collages and 3D shape art. We will read books from Skippy Jones, Frank Ashe and Disney, and then make a graph of our favorite shapes. What shape has three sides and which shapes have four? Throughout the week we will work on cutting with scissors.

*September 12-16 - Watermelon*

Mmmm... Who loves watermelon? What can we learn from it? We will count paper watermelon seeds. We will learn how to take care of watermelons once we plant the seeds and how they grow. The Seahorses will talk about the biggest and smallest watermelons and the colors on the inside and outside. At the end of the week we will taste different kinds of watermelons and see which we like best.

*September 19-23 - Farms*

What do we find on farms? What is your favorite kind of animal? The Seahorses will talk about plants and sing "The Farmer in The Dell," "Bingo," and other songs. We will read books such as *Biscuits Day at the Farm* and *A Farm Book*. This book will also refresh our memories on shapes.

*September 26-30 - Painting*

This week the Seahorses will be doing lots of different painting. We will do finger painting, easel painting, sponge painting, and water painting, and paint with some unconventional objects such as toothbrushes, cars, and socks filled with sand. We will experiment with mixing colors. One example will be green, which is made by mixing blue and yellow. At the end of the week, we will also paint a pet rock.

## Announcements For Parents

### Mark Your Calendars:

September 5 - The Childcare Program will be closed for Labor Day.

September 19-23 - The Scholastic Book Fair will be held in the Health Room.

September 20 - The Childcare Program hosts the annual Open House, 5:30-7:30.

Family members are always welcome to join their child in the classroom. Please let the staff know in advance if you would like to join us for a meal so we can notify the kitchen staff.

If you miss the Scholastic Book Fair, you can also order books through Scholastic. The Seahorse and Otter Classrooms will be handing out book order forms throughout the year. This is a fun and inexpensive way for your child to get books.

---

# Penguins

## *September 5-9 - Self Awareness*

This week we are going to spend time learning all about ourselves. We will discover how we are alike and how we differ. We will find out what makes each of us very special and will make “Me” books, create self portraits, and engage in other activities which encourage self awareness. We will celebrate with an “I’m Special” party at the end of the week.

## *September 12-16 - Family*

This week we will learn about the role of family life and its importance in society. What makes up a family, who’s in our family, what role do we play in our family and how are families alike and different?? All of these questions will be explored as we engage in many family oriented activities. At the end of the week we will celebrate that, while families may be very different, all are full of love and are important parts of our lives.

## *September 19-23 - Community*

This week we will learn how we can work together to form a community. We will talk about what our parents do for a living and why their jobs are important to the community. We will look at the wonderful things that Bloomington has to offer and explore what we can offer our wonderful community. We will set up our own community and each Penguin will have a specific job.

## *September 26- 30 - Transportation*

This week the Penguins will explore different types of transportation and discover the best way to get from here to there. This will be an excellent opportunity for the children to share stories of traveling that they have done. We will also learn which type of travel is each child’s favorite.

# Otters

## *September 5-9 - Families*

This week we will be learning about something very familiar to each of us: families. Our week will be spent talking about the dynamic people who make up our own families and the things we love to do most with our families. Each Otter family will be encouraged to create a unique family board with pictures and facts that make their family special.

## *September 12-16 - Children Around the World*

When we look around our classroom we see lots of different faces, hair and eye colors, and skin tones. This week we will explore the world and learn about the children who inhabit it. We will discuss the many places children live, the conditions in which they live, foods eaten and sports and games played.

## *September 19-23 - Homes*

House, log cabin, apartment, trailer... what type of home do you live in? We will spend time this week reading about, looking at pictures of, and even building all sorts of homes in our classroom. We will even spend time in the Art area decorating our very own dream homes! Feel free to join us and decorate your own!

## *September 26-30 - Homes Around the World*

After talking about the types of homes we live in, the Otters will learn about the many different types of homes that other families around the world live in: teepees, igloos, grass huts, adobe, and others. Our learning will not be limited to human homes; we will also discuss animal homes! Our water table will house sea creatures and our sensory table will transform into an arctic area complete with snow and ice!

# Dolphins

## *September 5-9 - Library*

Going to the library can be a wonderful, exciting adventure for children. This week the Dolphins will learn that there is more to a library than lots of books for children to read. They will learn that it is a place for digital resources, research, and services. We will discover the history behind libraries and how to take care of books. We also hope to take our first field trip as we take a journey through the public library.

## *September 12-16 - Handwashing*

“Wash your hands!” is commonly heard in the Dolphin Room. Now we are going to learn why it is important to wash your hands. We will learn the proper way to wash them and when we should wash them. Be on the look out for our handy cue cards showing us the right way to wash our hands.

## *September 19-23 - Autumn*

What is your favorite thing about fall? Is it the weather, the crisp air, the leaves changing colors, the World Series, football, or maybe even Halloween? As summer comes to a close and the weather begins to change, we will spend this week talking about the upcoming fall season. We will detect the changes that are occurring outside and discuss what animals do in autumn to prepare for the winter.

## *September 26- 30 - Birthdays*

Happy Birthday! What is the most exciting thing about celebrating your birthday? That will be the question this week as the Dolphins discuss birthdays. We will learn why this day is important and how it is celebrated in numerous cultures. We will also learn how to say “happy birthday” in different languages.

# 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:

### Food Drive Success

Page 1

### Current Needs

Page 2

### Matchstick Campaign

Page 3

### Playhouse Donation

Page 4

### Thank You, Volunteers

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 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  
NLA Intern: Rebecca Mandell

## 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*

We can't thank the community enough for supporting us with donations this summer. We are now bringing out fall and winter clothing, which is hard to imagine considering the recent heat.

Mothers and children have been selecting clothes for school and we have seen lots of IU students shopping for the new school year. We are happy to have a great selection, which is only possible with support and donations from the community.

*Please recycle this newsletter or share it with a friend.*