

Working Together

The Newsletter of Monroe County United Ministries

September 2013

"Each One, Feed One" a Community Success



"He said 'You know what, why don't you fill up a cart all the way to the top, and I will pay for it all.' So [we] filled up a cart, and he paid for it - \$190 dollars!"

- An EOFO volunteer remarks on a generous, anonymous shopper

Celebrating 75 Years

In 2014, Monroe County United Ministries will celebrate 75 years in service to the community.

Calling for Historical Documents

We are seeking documentation from the earliest days of our organization. If you have any notes, photos, or other records from 1939 (or earlier) about the formation of the Bloomington Day Nursery, please contact our office.

Share Your Story

Did you participate in activities at the Christian Center? Was your mother a volunteer? Were your children lions and cubs (classroom names from the early days of MCUM). We are collecting stories from across the community to help us understand and document the impact MCUM (formerly known as the Christian Center and Bloomington Day Nursery) has had on the community.

You can share your story on our website (go to www.mcum.org and click on the anniversary icon), mail your story to the address on the back of this newsletter, or email to development@mcum.org. Photos and documents are also welcome.

In just 48 hours between August 23rd and 25th, Monroe County community members gave more than 12,800 pounds of food to help fill MCUM's Emergency Food Pantry shelves after the summer season, when food donations are traditionally lowest.

The community effort also brought in more than \$1,500 in cash to help sustain the Emergency Services Program. This amazing accomplishment speaks to the generosity of MCUM supporters and residents of the entire community. Over the weekend, more than 200 volunteers and MCUM staff contributed 740 hours of time and energy to help collect, transport, and sort food donations, as well as to interact with community members across the county to spread MCUM's mission.

(Story continues on page 3.)

MCUM appreciates this year's food drive sponsors!



FOX CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

INNOVATIVE FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS

Food Pantry Needs

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

- peanut butter
- canned fruit - peaches, pears, oranges, mixed fruit, apple sauce
- dry pasta - spaghetti & macaroni noodles, etc.
- canned vegetables - potatoes, sweet peas

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:

- shampoo & conditioner
- dish soap
- floor, general, & toilet bowl cleaners
- deodorant - men's & women's
- baby wash & shampoo
- baby powder
- boy's underwear: sizes 2-8, 12
- men's underwear: sizes 32-36
- women's underwear: sizes 2-7, 11, 16-20
- adult tube socks

Childcare Needs

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

- Crayola washable markers
- sequins
- beads
- glitter
- self-adhesive Velcro
- non-toxic dry erase markers
- AAA batteries

Opp House Needs

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

- kitchenware
- sheets & blankets
- towels
- large shopping bags with handles

Volunteer Opportunities

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

Featured Volunteer Position

Scholastic Book Fair Volunteers: We are seeking a few volunteers for MCUM's Fall Scholastic Book Fair, Monday-Friday, September 16th-20th. Shifts can be as short as 15 minutes or as long as you have the time!

Please contact Tina at 339-3429 x19, or education@mcum.org, if you are interested.

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.

Calling all artists! Our preschool children love art. Would you be willing to spend a few hours sharing your talent with young children? A demonstration and/or a hands-on activity would be welcome. Contact Tina at 339-3429 x19 or education@mcum.org.

Special Event Planners: Have an eye for design or decorating? Help plan fundraising events for MCUM! Volunteer as much or as little as you'd like. Contact Kate at 339-3429 x15 or development@mcum.org.

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

"Each One, Feed One" a Community Success

(continued from front page)

"The nearly 13,000 pounds of food collected at the food drive will feed about 216 families of four for three days. Also, in November 2013, the Stimulus SNAP Benefit Program will end. The resulting monthly \$36 cut for a family of four could be significant. This year's 'Each One, Feed One' is very important in maintaining the food pantry, despite fewer donations than in previous years due to separation of MCUM and the USDA Commodities program," said MCUM Caseworker and Emergency Services/Volunteer Coordinator Cliff Edens. The generous donations received over the weekend will help keep MCUM's Pantry shelves stocked through November.

MCUM would like thank everyone who made this event a success, from the enthusiastic volunteers, to the participating grocery stores, to our sponsors who generously invested in our success, including Bunker & Robertson, Attorneys at Law, the American Legion Post 18, RE/MAX Realtor Karen Pitkin, Heflin Industries, Innovative Financial Solutions, Tony Fox Construction, and WFIU. MCUM couldn't have done it without you!



Volunteers sorted more than 12,800 pounds of food, hygiene, and cleaning products.



A donor hands a donation to a MCUM volunteer outside of Kroger.

Scholastic Book Fair

It's that time again... time for the MCUM Fall Scholastic Book Fair! MCUM will host the book fair Monday-Friday, September 16th - 20th. 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. You can browse the selection 7:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. each day of the fair.

Shopping at the book fair gets you good books at an affordable price AND benefits MCUM. The more books we sell, the more free books the Childcare Program is eligible to receive!

Thank you!

We would like to thank...

- CFC Properties, Inc., for generous sponsorship of MCUM's 75th Anniversary festivities in 2014.
- Olson & Company, P.C., for financial sponsorship of Never Grow Up! , a FUNdraiser, to be held October 26th.
- Joy True for her donation of art supplies.
- the staff and volunteers who worked tirelessly to make this year's "Each One, Feed One" food drive a success.

Welcome to New Staff!

MCUM welcomes a new development team! Katie Meier begins her tenure this month, while Kate Zilvinskis has been with MCUM since the end of July. Both Development Associates are excited to be working at MCUM and eager to get to know you! You can reach Katie at fundraising@mcum.org, and Kate at development@mcum.org.

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 #7: Create a part-time paid Volunteer Coordinator position, allowing for the restructuring of staff responsibilities to better serve clients and expanding our volunteer management capacity.

A volunteer coordinator will help us use volunteers more effectively and allow our Emergency Services Coordinator to focus on serving clients and managing our Emergency Food Pantry. Interested in helping MCUM expand its capacity? Contact Meri Reinhold at mcum@mcum.org or (812) 339-3429 x11. A complete list of plan initiatives is available at www.mcum.org.

Thank You, Volunteers

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

Loretta Alonso	Emily Kehoe	Paul Schoonmaker
Bryant Balasa	Jennifer Lloyd	John Sgro
Marti Black	Samantha Mehay	Jean Summerville
Whitney Buccicone	Scott Meneou	Murl Summerville
Margaret Chittum	Valerie Merriam	Susie Trisler
Greg Claretto	Chris Meyer	Emily Walden
Su Cowling	Donna Michael	
Melanie Hicks	North-American	
Duane Hornick	Interfraternity	
Pat Hornick	Conference	
Larry Jacobs	Betty Schoonmaker	

Additionally, we would like to extend a huge thank you to the 200+ incredible volunteers who gave their time to the "Each One, Feed One" Community Food Drive at the end of August. The event would not have been a success without your efforts!

Update on Plan Puffin

As most of you know from previous mailings, the Puffin Classroom (serving 2-2.5 year olds) has been dark and empty for more than one year. Many of you have been contacted by phone or mail to make a pledge to help reopen the classroom in early 2014 and keep it open through 2016. After 2016, we hope to be able to continue the program without special pledges.



We estimate our funding gap to be \$52,000 each year. As of this newsletter we have secured 47% of the funds needed to make reopening the Puffin room a reality for the next three years. Thanks to a few cash gifts given in 2013 that we can apply to the first year, we have 54% of funding needed for 2014.

While we have not yet secured enough funding to open the room and keep it open, we remain hopeful that we will be able to reopen the room in January 2014. Thank you to all who have pledged to this cause! We will continue to inform you of our progress in securing these needed funds.

Thank You, Pantry Donors

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

America's Best Value Inn
Jef & Pam Davidson
First Christian Church
First Presbyterian Church
McDoel Baptist Church
Opportunity House
Basilla Jean Rogers
St. Thomas Lutheran Evangelical Church
Stoneybrook Community Church of God
Trinity Episcopal Church
Unitarian Universalist Church
University Baptist Church
Woodhaven Christian Church

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!

Cell Phone Recycling

When you upgrade your cell phone, stop to consider how to dispose of your old one responsibly. Some "recycling" programs ship phones to developing countries where they put human lives and natural resources in danger. MCUM is paid per phone (\$0.50 - \$35) by a recycling/refurbishing company with zero landfill and no-export policies. In addition, your phone will raise money to fund our programs.

Phones can be donated at Opportunity House, MCUM's offices, and anywhere MCUM items are collected.

Childcare Classroom Calendar - September

Staff

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

Puffins: room closed

Seahorses: 2-3 year olds

Teacher: Marycarole Matlock
 Aide: Sarah Norzinskay

Penguins: 3 year olds

Teacher: Kim Clay
 Aide: Emily Walden

Otters: 4 year olds

Teacher: Jessica Smith
 Aide: LaDawn Joyner

Dolphins: 5-6 year olds

Teacher: Brock Singleton
 Aide: Serenity Guthrie

Puffins

The Puffin Room, which served 2 - 2.5 year old's, remains closed after shutting its doors in August 2011 as a cost-saving measure due to funding challenges. We remain hopeful that we will be able to reopen the room in early 2014. Please see page 5 for an update.

Seahorses

This month, the Seahorses will be learning about Community Helpers. We will do activities related to fire fighters, police officers, restaurant workers, postal carriers, as well as many other community members. We will make fire fighter hats, mail letters, set up our own restaurant, and many other community related activities.



We will be learning about the shape "square," as well as about the letters "A," "B," and "C." We will also introduce the numbers "1" and "2." This month we will celebrate Teddy Bear Day on September 9th by having a picnic and Pirate Day on September 19th by dressing and talking like pirates!

Throughout the month, we will read books such as:

- Fireman Small
- Froggy Goes to the Doctor
- Officer Buckle and Gloria
- Fairy Numbers
- Pirates go to School
- Teddy Bears Picnic

Announcements For Parents

Mark Your Calendars - September!

September 2

- Labor Day - Childcare Closed

September 4

- Lunch with your child day!

September 9

- Teddy Bear Day

September 11

- Lunch with your child day!

September 16

- Book Fair begins

September 18

- Lunch with your child day!

September 19

- Pirate Day

September 20

- Childcare open house
- Book Fair ends

September 25

- Lunch with your child day!

Please Note:

Recently, a screening was conducted to determine whether any lead paint hazards exist in the childcare facility. Phillip Waters, Environmental Scientist from Indiana State Department of Health's Lead/Healthy Homes Program, used an XRF device to evaluate the walls in the childcare. Of special interest were the older walls which were part of the original building constructed in 1975. He also examined the furnishings in the classrooms. Lead paint levels were detected in only two pieces of furniture, and they were below any actionable standards.

Penguins

This month the Penguins will be talking about Community Helpers. We will talk about the post office and learn how to mail letters. We also will talk about dentists, fire fighters, police, and garbage collectors. The Penguins will build bridges and construct houses to see how a carpenter works.

What did you want to be when you grew up? The Penguins will be charting what they want to do and then telling us what they think that helper does in the community. During September, we will also work on three new letters and review the letters we learned in August. We have changed our room around and are excited for you to come and join us in fun and games!

This month the Penguins will continue learning what they want to become while also continuing to learn what it is to be a good friend. We will also be celebrating Teddy Bear Day on September 9th. The students may bring in their special teddy bear and we will have a teddy bear picnic. We will count and graph our bears from the biggest to the smallest.

On September 19th it is talk like a Pirate Day, mates! Ye come in and join the fun or else walk the plank! The Penguins may dress up as pirates on this day and will learn how to talk like a pirate!

Parents, if you have any old costumes, uniforms or even menus that you are willing to share, please let us know.

Otters

September will be busy for the Otters! Beginning this month, the Otters will begin our new curriculum! Until now, we have focused on getting the children used to the teachers, schedules, and expectations of the Otter class. Now that they are familiar with Otter life, we are excited to start this new journey!

The children will have time each day for learning the alphabet, counting, developing reading skills, writing, math, science, social studies, and so much more! In addition to learning on their own, the children will also work with partners and sometimes even in teams. Our theme for September is Community Helpers. The Otters will spend time learning about the special men and women who help out around our community. We will talk about who these people are, what their special jobs are, as well as learn how what they do affects us. Hopefully, we will even have some special people from the community come in to our classrooms and share with us about what they do and why. Activities this month will include:

- Writing our names
- Number Tracers
- Alphabet Tracers
- Graphing
- Counting
- Talk about 9-1-1
- Learning our phone numbers
- Naming body parts
- List various community helpers

We will also celebrate Teddy Bear Day on September 9th and Pirate Day on September 19th. Watch for more information soon!

Dolphins

I hope your children are excited about the new school year. One of the things we like to do at MCUM is prepare children to become productive members of society. We support this initiative by providing play activities that offer various experiences about people that help us. This month we will learn about the important helpers in our community: teachers, librarians, postal workers, bus drivers and many more. We will talk about what our parents do for a living and why their jobs are important to the community. We will also look at the wonderful things that Bloomington has to offer and explore what we can offer our wonderful community.

In addition to learning about community helpers your child will:

- begin mini-lessons, focusing on the common core which is a “voluntary state-led effort to establish a shared set of clear, educational standards for English Language Arts, Mathematics Science and Soc. Studies. It communicates what is expected of student at each grade level.
- begin the letter of the week
- be given their first set of popcorn words and Bob reading books

Additionally, we will be celebrating Teddy Bear Day on September 9th and Pirate Day on September 19th. More information about these two days will be sent home soon!

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 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

Please recycle this newsletter or share it with a friend.

Opportunity House, located at 907 W. 11th Street, is a volunteer-run resale shop that raises funds to support MCUM's programs. Store hours are 9:00-2:00, Monday-Saturday, with donations accepted 8:30-3:00. Call 336-2443 or follow Opp House on Facebook.

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

The Opportunity House is the place to go for summer clothes of all kinds. We are having great sales with very low prices ~ some one dollar, others fifty cents, etc.! We have lots of summer clothes for all ages. Check us out!

We also are on the lookout for new volunteers - pricers, cashiers, or working in specific departments that you would enjoy. Give us a call or come in and talk with us if you have a few hours of free time and are looking for a fun and rewarding way to spend it. Our volunteers are a great group of people!