



Working Together

February 2014

Volunteers Celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day with MCUM

On Monday, January 20, volunteers from across the community participated in a day of service in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. At MCUM, volunteers from First Presbyterian Church assisted with food pantry sorting, while groups from First United Methodist Church and Briscoe Residence Hall at Indiana University donated their time to clean the childcare facility.

“These volunteers participated in tasks that included deep cleaning chairs, tables, shelves, walls, windows, and doors,” explained Tina Burress, MCUM’s Education Coordinator. “This level of volunteerism helps the teachers keep their classrooms maintained throughout the year.” It was also important to take advantage of the empty building, which was closed for the holiday, since the rooms cannot be cleaned with children present.

Greg Claretto, a regular volunteer who coordinated the MLK Day volunteers in MCUM’s Emergency Food Pantry, added, “What it would take a well-trained volunteer several days to complete, these volunteers enthusiastically knocked out in just two short hours.”

In total, twenty-five individuals volunteered their time at MCUM to help mark Martin Luther King, Jr. Day as “a day ON, not a day off.”



Volunteers from Indiana University cleaned MCUM’s childcare center on MLK, Jr. Day. The center will have the capacity to serve 97 preschoolers once the Puffin Classroom reopens later this spring.

By the numbers...

Here’s a glimpse of how MCUM served Monroe County residents and how community members like you gave back last year:

- The Emergency Services program assisted 1,032 local families in financial crisis.
- This assistance included 35,217 meals; 8,360 hygiene items and cleaning supplies; and rent and utility assistance so 68 families could remain in their homes.
- Individuals, congregations, and other local organizations donated 63,866 pounds of food, hygiene items and cleaning supplies.
- 262 volunteers gave 4,930 hours of their time to MCUM’s childcare program, food pantry, food drives, maintenance, mailings, events, and other special projects.
- 150 individuals and organizations made their first financial gifts to MCUM, and 30 individuals and organizations made their first contributions to the Food Pantry.

THANK YOU to all who supported MCUM’s vision of improved quality of life for individuals, children, and families through education and empowerment in 2013!

Food Pantry Needs

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

- Canned meats - Spam, Vienna sausages
- Instant cocoa
- Peanut butter
- Dry beans
- Cooking oil

Cleaning Closet Needs

Cleaning and hygiene supplies can't be purchased with food stamps. The following items are in high demand:

- Adult socks
- Deodorant: male and female
- Underwear: women's sizes 16+, men's size small
- Floor cleaner
- Bleach

Childcare Needs

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

- Dry erase markers (non-toxic)
- Crayola washable markers
- Construction paper
- Barbie dolls and clothes
- Baby dolls and clothes

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 and blankets
- Towels
- Coats (especially children's)

Volunteer Opportunities

For more information about these or other volunteer opportunities, visit www.mcum.org, call (812) 339-3429, or email help@mcum.org.

Featured Volunteer Position

10th Annual Spring Luncheon Volunteers:

Are you interested in helping out with MCUM's most well-known event? The Spring Luncheon Committee is currently recruiting the following: set-up and clean-up gurus, check-out masters, bingo connoisseurs, auction fanatics, and general event experts!

Please contact Katie at fundraising@mcum.org or (812) 339-3429 x 18. There will be a training session for volunteers prior to the event, which will take place Sunday, April 6.

Fresh Foods Coordinator:

MCUM seeks an energetic individual to coordinate fresh foods for emergency services clients. This individual will organize and clean the refrigerator, and coordinate pick-ups from the food bank. Contact Cliff at help@mcum.org.

Pantry Assistants:

Volunteers are always needed to sort food donations and bag groceries in the Food Pantry. Set your own schedule during office hours once you are trained. Moderate lifting required.

Opportunity House Volunteers:

Opportunity 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 (812) 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. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Contact Meri at mcum@mcum.org or (812) 339-3429 x11.

Mark Your Calendars...

And stay tuned for more details about these upcoming events and activities in MCUM's 75th anniversary year!

- **10th Annual Spring Luncheon and Auction**
11:30 a.m., Sunday, April 6, 2014
Bloomington/Monroe County Convention Center

You're invited to MCUM's signature event, which will include all the usual fun with a 75th (*diamond*) anniversary theme!
- Visit MCUM's special exhibit in the **Community Voices Gallery** at the Monroe County History Center from April through June.
- Look for MCUM's table at the **Bloomington Community Farmer's Market** on Saturdays in June!
- Check out MCUM's **display case in the Showers Building** (City Hall) in July!
- Take part in a special **community gathering** in early fall. MCUM will host an open house to celebrate supporters, reaffirm its mission, and introduce more community members to the agency. Date to be announced.

Make MCUM Part of Your Legacy

For 75 years, generous community members like you have rallied with MCUM to provide essential services like high-quality, affordable childcare and emergency assistance to Monroe County residents who need a helping hand. Your support has helped thousands of individuals get back on track to self-sufficiency.

You can ensure that MCUM's programs have an impact for the next 75 years and beyond by making a gift to MCUM through your estate plan. Numerous giving options and tax incentives allow you to create a lasting legacy in a manner that suits you *and* benefits the community. Gifts of all sizes boost MCUM's capacity to serve local residents in need of support.

Making a bequest to MCUM is a simple, meaningful way to demonstrate your commitment to helping your neighbors in need. Below is sample language for your will or trust to guarantee MCUM's ability to put your gift to its best possible use.

I hereby leave [specific dollar amount/specific property/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 a manner as the board of directors may elect.

If you would like to find out more about the impact you can have, contact us at development@mcum.org of (812) 339-3429 x 15.

Thank You!

We would like to extend special thanks to...

- The Community Foundation for a grant of \$22,000 in support of MCUM's Puffin Classroom. With this support, the Puffins will be back in late spring!
- Volunteers from First Presbyterian Church, First United Methodist Church, and Briscoe Residence Center at IU for their efforts on MLK, Jr. Day.
- Jennifer Lloyd, Wendy VanderZee, Hillary Person, and Tessa Skidmore for their help planning the Spring Luncheon.
- Recent Spring Luncheon sponsors: Bill C. Brown & Associates, Bunger & Robinson, Bloomfield State Bank, Crane Federal Credit Union, and People's State Bank.
- Staff and volunteers at Opportunity House for their support of MCUM.

MCUM's 5-Star Status Renewed

MCUM recently received word that its 5-star status through the Indiana 5-Star Environmental Recognition Program had been renewed for 2014-2017.

Childcare centers honored with this recognition promote environmentally healthy childcare and take steps to eliminate environmental hazards, like pesticides and lead, that could pose a hazard to child development.

To learn more about the steps MCUM has taken to achieve 5-star status, visit www.in.gov/idem/health/2336.htm.

MCUM's Strategic Plan: Innovation, Leadership & Endurance

Last year, MCUM's Board of Directors 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 one example from our plan:

Initiative #12 is to "Implement a succession plan for the smooth transition between executive directors."

As you may know, MCUM's executive director, Meri Reinhold, will retire at the end of 2014. MCUM's board has been hard at work to develop succession plans for both planned departures, such as this one, and unexpected departures that may occur in the future. A complete list of strategic plan initiatives is 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 individuals who have recently contributed food, cleaning supplies, and/or hygiene products:

- Bloomington Monthly Meeting of Friends
- Country View Apartments
- Jef & Pam Davidson
- Delta Zeta Alumnae
- Fairview United Methodist Church
- First Christian Church
- First Presbyterian Church
- Dorothy & Jim Ham
- Indiana Institute of Disability & Community
- Indiana University Health Center
- Indiana University, Human Biology Program
- Indiana University, Office of the Vice President of Research
- Les Bonnes Amies Extension Club
- McDoel Baptist Church
- Nine Patches Extension Homemakers Club
- Basilla Jean Rogers
- Ann & Gary Schepper
- John & Mary Jo Sgro
- St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church
- Stoneybrook Community Church of God
- TIS College Bookstore, Accounting Dept.
- Tri-North Middle School
- Trinity Episcopal Church
- Unitarian Universalist Church
- University Baptist Church
- Joanne Weddle
- Woodhaven Christian Church
- Yarns Unlimited

MCUM would like to provide *magazines* in the emergency services waiting room. If you are finished reading your monthly subscription and it's still in good condition, drop it off at our office. Our clients will appreciate your generosity!

Be a Part of History

Help Commemorate MCUM's 75th Anniversary!

We are celebrating 75 years of service to Monroe County in 2014! Help honor MCUM's impact by sharing your...

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? Was your mother a volunteer, or were your children lions or cubs (former preschool classrooms)?

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.

Did You Know?

MCUM gladly accepts **Ensure or other nutritional drinks** for our food pantry. Many of our clients face health problems that make it difficult to maintain weight or eat solid food. If you or someone you know has and no longer uses these products, please consider donating them to MCUM!

MCUM Rolls Out New Logo



Did you feel like something was different when you opened last month's newsletter? Well, you were correct - MCUM has a new logo! The design features dots forming an outline of Monroe County with a heart in the center. It represents the various elements of our caring community - volunteers, donors, staff, board members, and community members - working together with MCUM to provide high-quality childcare and emergency services to neighbors in need.

MCUM's other print materials and online presence will be similarly updated in the coming months.

Back on Track to Self-Sufficiency: An Emergency Services Client Story

Theresa takes pride in being able to provide for herself and her two children through her employment at a local manufacturing company. However, she was recently forced to reduce her work hours due to her son's chronic respiratory condition. Although she has been able to keep her job through the Family and Medical Leave Act, her monthly expenses now exceed her monthly income.

Despite this hardship, Theresa obtained a money order for her rent and stashed it in the usual spot until she was able to drop it off at the rental office. However, when she went to retrieve it the following day, the money order was gone. She sought assistance from her township trustee but was denied since she lives in subsidized housing.

Unable to recover from the loss, Theresa reached out to MCUM, which agreed to cover the cost of one month's rent. After receiving valuable advice from a caseworker, she feels better prepared to handle her financial situation going forward. Having avoided costly late fees and possible eviction, Theresa is back on the path toward self-sufficiency.

Thank You, Volunteers

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

- Loretta Alonso
- Marti Black
- Margaret Chittum
- Greg Claretto
- Su Cowling
- Kaitlyn Gorman
- Diane Gregory
- Sidney Harris
- Duane Hornick
- Pat Hornick
- Larry Jacobs
- Jennifer Lloyd
- Morgan Loudermilk
- Judy McDougal
- Leon McDougal
- Valerie Merriam
- Chris Meyer
- Hannah Pimley
- Alison Pitt
- Ted Polley
- Betty Schoonmaker
- Paul Schoonmaker
- John Sgro
- Aaron Sullivan
- Susie Trisler
- Ollie Waldon

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 can be 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!

Announcements for Parents

WonderLab Accepts Access Pass

Bloomington's own WonderLab Science Museum is now part of Indiana's Access Pass Program. Indiana residents who participate in Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), or Hoosier Healthwise can visit the museum for just \$1 per family member per visit!

Other participating institutions include Conner Prairie Interactive History Park, the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art, the Indiana Historical Society, the NCAA Hall of Champions, the Terre Haute Children's Museum, and The Children's Museum of Indianapolis.

Interested families must obtain a copy of their Healthwise or Hoosier Works Enrollment Recertification Letter by visiting www.in.gov/fssa/dfr/2999.htm. The primary adult must also present a photo ID issued by the state of Indiana.

The Access Pass Program application form is available online at <http://www.childrensmuseum.org/sites/default/files/files/Access%20Pass%20Application%20Form.pdf>, as well as in print at the WonderLab welcome desk. Upon approval of their application, qualifying families will receive an Access Pass card that is good for one year. Eligible families are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity to participate in fun, interactive science learning at an affordable price!

Childcare Classroom Information

Puffins

2–2.5 year olds

Staff TBA

Have you heard the news? *The Puffins are coming back!*

This classroom, which serves two to 2.5 year olds, has been closed since August 2011 due to funding challenges. We are pleased to report that the Puffin Room will reopen in April 2014!

You can help MCUM keep the classroom open! We are collecting three-year pledges from community members who are committed to high-quality, affordable early childhood education for the youngest children we serve!

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

Childcare Staff

Childcare Director: Traci Mehay
Education Coordinator: Tina Burress
Cook: Denise Garrett
Assistant Cook: Derrick Mackie

Seahorses

2.5–3 year olds

Teacher: Sarah Norzinskay
Aide: Emily Walden

Happy February, everyone! We will be very busy this month with new lessons and fun activities for Valentine's Day and Health and Nutrition month.

The seahorses will try cauliflower and tangelos (similar to oranges). The children will then discuss whether or not they liked them. They will learn to use expressive words, such as "sour" and "sweet," to explain how these foods taste. The seahorses will also sort foods based on color and whether they are fruits or vegetables. They will play with pretend food and learn to "make" food in the pretend stove and kitchen areas.

The Seahorses will also participate in Valentine's Day activities, such as bean bag toss games and using heart shapes to play with Play Dough and paint. The children will work with red paint and learn about how the heart is red, and how people represent love with red flowers.

The seahorses will continue working on their ABCs and 123s through song and dance, as well as books they like, including "Chicka Chicka Boom Boom" and "Dr. Seuss' ABCs." They will also see letters and numbers, as well as basic print, in other books around the classroom.

Childcare Classroom Information (continued)

Penguins

3 year olds

Teacher: LaDawn Joyner
Aide: Sarah Landrum

During the month of February, the penguin class will learn about health and nutrition. They will talk about ways to keep their bodies, eyes, and teeth healthy. These include hand washing, covering their coughs and sneezes, and visiting the doctor regularly.

They will read books like “Pooh Plays Doctor,” “Berenstain Bears Visit the Dentist,” and “Arthur’s Eyes.” During these readings, the penguins will talk about what kind of doctors they have visited. They will also paint with toothbrushes and do a dental health project.

The remainder of the month will focus on foods to eat to stay healthy. The Penguins will talk about their favorite foods and discuss whether or not these foods are good for their bodies. They will read books like “Gregory the Terrible Eater,” “Green Eggs and Ham,” “Berenstain Bears and Too Much Junk Food,” and “Eating the Alphabet.” They will make collages of both good food and bad food. They will also taste different healthy foods, as well as use them to make prints.

We will taste a couple of new foods school wide this month as we talk about health and nutrition. The new vegetable we will try is cauliflower. While most adults know what it is and whether or not they like it, the children may not. We will also try tangelos as our new fruit.

Otters

4 year olds

Teacher: Jessica Mackie
Aide: Brittney Denton

This month, the otters will learn about the five food groups, nutrition, exercise, and other ways to stay healthy. They will also talk about baths, brushing their teeth and hair, going to doctor’s appointments, and visiting the dentist. The otters will explore the food pyramid, discuss their favorite things to eat with their families, and learn why food is important for their bodies.

The children will also sort various foods by size, shape, color, and whether or not they are healthy. The Otters will compare certain foods, weigh them on scales, and even try painting with them! They will also create their own healthy snacks.

Other nutrition-related activities will include reading “The Very Hungry Caterpillar” and “Today is Monday,” creating props to retell these stories, playing an ABC/food matching game, and making a pizza craft.

With Valentine’s Day in February, the Otters will talk about the people, things, and places they love, and decorate bags to hold all the cards and goodies they receive at their Valentine’s Day party.

Like every month, the Otters will continue to work on their weekly homework folders, writing their names, learning the letters of the alphabet, learning the numbers zero through 20, using words to express their emotions, and following school-wide expectations.

Dolphins

5–6 year olds

Teacher: Kim Clay
Aide: Krystal Weavers

During the month of February, the dolphins will learn about nutrition, which is the process of breaking down food to use for energy in the body. They will then learn about food groups, the food pyramid, daily recommended allowances, physical activity, and healthy food choices. They will make food pyramids to use at home to ensure they get their daily recommended allowances. The dolphins will also check in with the kitchen crew to see if their lunches include all the food groups.

February is Dental Health Month, which makes it a good time to discuss our teeth and how important it is to care for them properly. The dolphins will learn the right way to brush their teeth, how often they should brush, and why flossing is so important. We will try to have a local dentist visit so they can see that going to the dentist is not scary and can even be a fun experience.

We can’t end the month without talking about Valentine’s Day. Every February, candy, flowers, and gifts are exchanged between loved ones in the name of St. Valentine. During the second week of February, the dolphins will make valentine cards and crafts for their loved ones. We will end the week with our Valentine’s Day party in a box that will be filled with healthy snacks!



Monroe County United Ministries

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

827 West 14th Court
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Member Agency

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Save a tree! Sign up to receive this newsletter online. Email development@mcum.org, or call (812) 339-3429 x15 to make the switch.

Staff:

Executive Director: Meri Reinhold
 Development Associate: Katie Broadfoot
 Development Associate: Kate Zilvinskis
 Emergency Services Coordinator: Cliff Edens
 Emergency Services Caseworker: Justin Smith
 Office Manager: Shannon Hampton
 Childcare Director: Traci Mehay
 Education Coordinator: Tina Burress

Hours of Operation:

Office and Emergency Services

Monday - Friday: 8 a.m. - noon and 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Childcare

Monday - Friday: 7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

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 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Saturday, with donations accepted 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call (812) 336-2443 or follow Opportunity House on Facebook!

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

An update from Jill Argenbright, Opportunity House Co-Chair:

The Opportunity House is fully stocked with great quality winter clothing, including large sections of children's clothing and athletic wear. We also have many great looking coats to keep you warm during the cold weather we are experiencing this winter. Come in and check out all of our low prices and great quality items! We have the best cashiers and volunteers just waiting to greet you. Come shop with us or join us as a volunteer!

 Please recycle this newsletter
or share it with a friend