



The Newsletter of Monroe County United Ministries

Working Together

March 2014

Spring Into Action! and Help MCUM Celebrate 75 Years

Kick off the spring season and be part of MCUM's diamond anniversary year by attending the 10th Annual Spring into Action! Luncheon and Auction. This year's event will take place on Sunday, April 6, at the Bloomington/Monroe County Convention Center. Come prepared to bid on an attractive selection of trips, tickets, baskets, and more! See page 3 for a sneak peak at some of this year's items.

Coffee hour and silent auction bidding will begin at 11:30 a.m., followed by lunch and remarks at 12:30 p.m., and a live auction at 1:30 p.m. Advance tickets are on sale now for \$25 per person or \$175 for a table of eight. A limited number of tickets will be sold at the door.

For more information, visit www.mcum.org, or contact Katie at fundraising@mcum.org or (812) 339-3429 ext. 18.

All proceeds will benefit MCUM's childcare and emergency services programs that have provided invaluable service to Monroe County residents since 1939. We look forward to commemorating our 75th anniversary with you at this fun community event!

The 2014 Spring into Action! Luncheon and Auction is made possible by the generous sponsorship of The City of Bloomington Office of the Mayor; Bunger and Robertson, Attorneys at Law; First Insurance Group; German American Bank; Bloomfield State Bank; Indiana University Credit Union; Crane Federal Credit Union; Hilliard-Lyons, and People's State Bank.



Up for a challenge?

For the seventeenth consecutive year, philanthropist Alan Feinstein will provide a unique incentive to help non-profit hunger-fighting agencies raise funds this spring.

Between March 1 and April 30, your food and financial gifts to MCUM qualify for the Feinstein Challenge, which will divide \$1 million proportionately among participating agencies nationwide based on the amount of donations collected.

Many agencies are able to boost their donations by two or three times what they would normally receive during this period in the absence of this incentive. Last year, MCUM supporters generously contributed more than \$125,000 and 6,088 pounds of food during the challenge.

You can be a part of one of the most successful ongoing grassroots efforts to fight hunger by taking advantage of this one-of-a-kind opportunity. By participating in the Feinstein Challenge, your gift will go further in helping MCUM provide high-quality, affordable childcare and emergency services to the Monroe County community.

Food Pantry Needs

The pantry welcomes donations of all nonperishable foods but currently has a special need for:

- Mixed canned fruit
- Assorted canned fruit (no pineapple please)
- Dry beans

Cleaning Closet Needs

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

- Male and female deodorant
- Razors
- Conditioner
- Baby soap and shampoo
- Baby wipes
- Children's toothbrushes and toothpaste

Childcare Needs

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

- AAA batteries
- Storage containers (smaller than 18 gallons)

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:

- large shopping bags with handles (not plastic)
- umbrellas and rainboots
- games and puzzles
- pet supplies

MCUM could use *paper grocery sacks* for the food pantry. Paper bags hold more than plastic and stand up nicely. Please ask for paper when you shop and bring them to MCUM to reuse!

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. The event will take place on Sunday, April 6, with a special training for volunteers before the big day.

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.

Sneak Peak of This Year's Auction Items

MCUM's Spring Into Action! Luncheon and Auction is a great place to splurge on live auction items like big-ticket destinations. Stay tuned to MCUM's website and social media for updates and come prepared to bid big! Talk to your friends and family ahead of time about going in on a big-ticket item together. Here is a highlight of some of the items MCUM will auction off live this year.



Christmas in Williamsburg

Bid on a week's stay in Williamsburg, Virginia, during the holidays! The city is bustling with excitement, from Christmas Town at Busch Gardens to fun activities for every age and interest at Colonial Williamsburg. This vacation can accommodate two to six people.



Disney Park Hopper Passes

Who doesn't love Disney? MCUM will auction off four Park Hopper passes so you and your friends or family can do Disney YOUR way. The tickets are valued at \$516 and MCUM is working to secure accommodations to pair with these tickets.



The Grand Getaway

Bid on a two-night stay at the world-famous Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island (MI), where you can spend hours sitting on the world's longest porch, exploring the unique shops and wooded trails of the quaint island by foot, bicycle, or carriage, or take a dip in the Grand's exquisite swimming pool. The trip

includes two full breakfasts and two five-course dinners, two round-trip ferry tickets, two admission tickets to historic Fort Mackinac, and more!

Not interested in traveling or already made your plans? That's okay- MCUM's Spring Into Action! Luncheon and Auction is a great place to buy gift certificates, services and experiences you can use throughout the year.

Come prepared to buy things like:

- A Cincinnati getaway including Kings Island and Reds tickets
- An Indianapolis Zoo family membership
- Tickets to local performances, sporting events, and attractions
- Artwork and unique household items...and so much more!

For questions about auction items, or to donate an item to this year's auction, please contact Katie at fundraising@mcum.org or 812-339-3429 x 18. Items must be donated by March 15 to be printed in event materials.

Thank You!

We would like to extend special thanks to...

- Bloomfield State Bank for donating magazines for clients to read in MCUM's waiting room.
- The Herald Times for featuring MCUM in a front-page story at the end of February.
- ServeIT at the IU School of Informatics for continued work on a new website for MCUM.
- Hillary Person for her awesome work with the Spring Luncheon.
- Lee Busick, MCUM's graphic design consultant, for his work on MCUM's rebranding initiative.
- Sandy Bate of the IU Foundation for donating her time to discuss marketing and communications with MCUM.
- Mailing team volunteers who each month ensure the newsletter successfully reaches your mailbox!

Sponsor a Swimmer

MCUM preschoolers will visit Mills Pool, the city pool located just across the street from the childcare center, again this summer. Swimming is a fun way for the children to cool off, and it supports motor skill development. It also teaches them valuable lessons about water safety.

Parents pay an additional fee for this activity. Your donation of \$28 can provide a "swimmership" for a child who lives outside city limits or city residents who don't qualify for a swim fee voucher. Combat those late winter blues by sending in your donation today!

MCUM's Strategic Plan: Innovation, Leadership & Endurance

Last year, MCUM's Board of Directors approved a five-year strategic plan that outlines MCUM's organizational goals and program directions for 2013-2017. With continued support from the community, MCUM has many exciting initiatives under way to improve program quality and meet changing community needs. Here is one example from the plan:

Initiative #13 is to "Optimize fiscal results while meeting our mission."

MCUM strives to be a good steward of financial resources and to maximize the impact of every dollar spent on both programs and other day-to-day operations. MCUM will continue to seek cost-effective ways to fulfill the agency's mission and grow its programs to meet community needs sustainably for years into the future. A complete list of strategic plan initiatives is available at www.mcum.org.

Thank You, Pantry Donors

MCUM depends 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:

- Alpha Epsilon Phi
- Church Women United
- Daughters of Isabella
- Jef & Pam Davidson
- First Christian Church
- First Presbyterian Church
- First United Church
- Gloria Hasler
- Indiana University, Teter Residence Center
- Opportunity House
- Basilla Jean Rogers
- St. Mark's United Methodist Church
- St. Thomas Lutheran Evangelical Church
- Trinity Episcopal Church
- Unitarian Universalist Church
- United Presbyterian Church
- University Baptist Church
- Woodhaven Christian Church

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. Visit MCUM's website (www.mcum.org); click on the anniversary icon), mail your story to the address on the back of this newsletter, or email development@mcum.org.

Did You Know?

MCUM gladly accepts **Ensure or other nutritional drinks** for its food pantry. Many 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!

Community Voices Gallery Exhibit

In honor of its 75th Anniversary, MCUM will be featured in the Community Voices Gallery at the Monroe County History Center beginning on April 1. The Community Voices Gallery is a designated space for community organizations to express their history, mission, and activities. MCUM's exhibit will include a timeline highlighting important events in the organization's history, as well as creative representations of how it continues to impact the community today.

The Monroe County History Center is located in the heart of downtown Bloomington on the corner of 6th St. and Washington St. The museum is open from 10 a.m. through 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, and admission is free for members. For non-members, admission is \$2 for adults, \$1 for children ages six through 18, and free for children five and under.

Look for more information in forthcoming newsletters about a reception to celebrate the exhibit at the History Center on June 6!

Calling on You to Support MCUM!

Have you or has someone you know recently upgraded to a new cell or smart phone? Wondering what to do with your old one? MCUM can help! We'll make sure it's ethically recycled and contributes to programs that benefit vulnerable community members.

MCUM earns money from each phone and has the opportunity to receive additional funds from phones collected between now and April 30. For every 20 phones donated during this time, MCUM will be entered in a drawing for \$500. The more phones MCUM collects, the better its chances to win!

Help provide high-quality childcare and emergency services to your neighbors in need by dropping off your olds phones at MCUM today!

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
- Elaine Carpenter
- Margaret Chittum
- Greg Claretto
- Su Cowling
- First Presbyterian Church
- Sidney Harris
- Larry Jacobs
- LaDawn Joyner
- Eva Lenard
- Jennifer Lloyd
- Judy McDougal
- Leon McDougal
- Valerie Merriam
- Chris Meyer
- Hillary Person
- Wesley Ratliff & Mary Burch Ratliff
- Nancy Russell
- Paul & Betty Schoonmaker
- Susie Trisler
- Kiana Werner

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

Important Dates

- **March 9** Daylight savings time (move clocks forward one hour)
- **March 25** Kindergarten meeting
- **March 31** Puffin room reopens!

Did you know? MCUM teachers have been working diligently to provide fun, vigorous physical activity each day. They meet this goal by leading games, dancing, and anything else that gets your child's heart rate up!

They have also been focusing on encouraging the children to try new, healthy fruits and vegetables. In February, the students were introduced to cauliflower and tangelos. What's new in March? Broccoli and mangoes!

The goal of this program is to see what the students are willing to try and if they prefer the raw, cooked, or even dried forms. They are also learning to describe the smell, taste, and texture of these foods.

This opportunity is grant-funded, so we will be collecting data on the results throughout the year. Want to know what your child has tried and liked? Check with the teacher and she can let you know!

Childcare Staff

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

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 at the end of the month!

You can help MCUM keep this 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.

Seahorses

2.5–3 year olds

Teacher: Sarah Norzinskay

Teacher: Jessica Mackie

This month, the seahorses are very excited to read books by Eric Carle, Dr. Seuss, Mo Willems, and Charles Shaw!

Eric Carle is a wonderful writer and illustrator. We will read his books, "The Very Hungry Caterpillar," "The Grouchy Ladybug," and "Mr. Seahorse." We will also do many creative lessons with them, including making caterpillars with paper towel rolls and dipping them in paint. The Seahorses will also read, "The Very Busy Spider" and other science books to help them understand the difference between what is real and not real.

Dr. Seuss week is the first week in March. He has authored classic books like, "The Cat in the Hat" and "Green Eggs and Ham." He also has written science books, including "The Foot Book" and "The Ear Book." These books have fictional characters, but also teach the children about their bodies and how everyone is different.

Finally, the Seahorses will read books by authors less well known than Eric Carle and Dr. Seuss. These include "Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!" by Mo Willems, and "It Looked Like Spilt Milk" by Charles Shaw. It was one of my favorite books when I was a child, and it shows children how to use their imaginations with familiar items throughout the book.

Childcare Classroom Information (continued)

Penguins

3 year olds

Teacher: LaDawn Joyner
Aide: Sarah Landrum

During March, the Penguins will learn about children's book authors. We will focus on four of our favorite authors by reading their books, making art, and doing math and science activities related to them.

March 3-7 will be Dr. Seuss week! We will read books like, "There's a Wocket in my Pocket," "Green Eggs and Ham," and "Cat in the Hat." We will talk about our favorite Dr. Seuss books as we venture into his wonderful world and have silly days where the children can wear fun things like hats and pajamas.

March 10-14 will be Eric Carle week. We will read "The Very Hungry Caterpillar," "The Grouchy Ladybug," and "The Very Quiet Cricket." We will practice our counting by making a number line. We will also learn first, next, and last by talking about the order the Caterpillar ate the food.

March 17-20 will be Laura Numeroff Week. We will read "If You Take a Mouse to School," "If you Give a Moose a Muffin," and "If you Give a Mouse a Cookie." We will talk about the parts of a book, sort our favorite foods, and make a graph.

March 24-28 will be Karma Wilson week. We will read "Bear Snores On," "Bear Feels Scared," and "Animal Strike at the Zoo. It's True." We will talk about what makes us scared and try new food like broccoli and mangoes. It can be scary to try new things sometimes!

Otters

4 year olds

Teacher: Brittney Denton
Aide: Keelea Kile

This month, the Otters will talk about children's book authors. We have chosen five specific authors to learn about and will read their stories and do many fun activities related to them! The authors the otters will learn about are Dr. Seuss, Laura Numeroff, Eric Carle, Mo Willems, and Karma Wilson.

Since March 2 was Dr. Seuss's birthday, we will spend the first week of March celebrating his life and many works. Along with reading some of our favorite Seuss stories, we will create our own Seuss-inspired creatures and treats, participate in school-wide "crazy week," and even eat green eggs and ham! Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss!

Some of the books we will read this month include:

- The Cat in the Hat
- Fox in Sox
- Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What Do You Hear?
- Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?
- If You Give a Mouse a Cookie
- If You Give a Pig a Pancake
- Bear Feels Scared
- Bear's New Friend

In addition to our author theme, the Otters will continue to work on:

- Our weekly homework folders
- Writing our names
- Learning the letters of the alphabet
- Learning numbers 0-20
- Using words to express our emotions
- Following school-wide expectations

Dolphins

5-6 year olds

Teacher: Kim Clay
Aide: Emily Walden

During March, the Dolphins will board the train to visit famous children's book authors. Our first stop will be the world of Dr. Seuss. We will enjoy green eggs and ham and the antics of a mischievous cat as we learn about rhyming. We will also learn a valuable lesson when we visit the Sneetches, and follow Horton as he protects the citizens of Whoville.

Our next stop will be to visit Norman Bridwell and hang out with Emily and her dog Clifford. We will discover how fun friends can be no matter what shape, size, or color they come in. The joys of reading will continue as we explore the big city with H.A. Rey's most famous monkey, Curious George.

The final stop will be a visit to Eric Carle, best known for "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" that ate his way into the hearts of children. We will read books about caterpillars, ladybugs, spiders and big brown bears. After learning so much about these authors, we will be able to illustrate and write our own books!

Wow, winter is almost over! After having a bitter, frightful winter, we will spend time welcoming Spring. We will listen for the sweet sounds of singing birds, see the wee green buds of blooming plants and smell the nice fresh air. We will also write out plans of all the things we want to do now that the weather is getting nice enough to be outdoors again!



Monroe County United Ministries

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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.



Please recycle this newsletter
or share it with a friend