



The Newsletter of Monroe County United Ministries

Working Together

May 2014

Spring has Sprung at MCUM!

MCUM kicked off spring with a special, 75th anniversary-themed version of its signature event. The 10th Annual *Spring Into Action!* Luncheon and Auction took place at the Bloomington/Monroe County Convention Center on Sunday, April 6. More than 250 attendees enjoyed a delicious meal, an impressive selection of silent- and live-auction items, and an exciting opportunity to socialize with other MCUM supporters. The event netted about \$21,000 for MCUM's Childcare and Emergency Services programs. A huge "thank you" goes out to all attendees and volunteers who demonstrated their commitment to these important causes!

MCUM extends a special thank you to Emcee Jim Whitlach, Board President Mary Ellen Brown, Speaker Robin Zachery, and the more than 25 volunteers who donated their time to make the event a success. MCUM would also like to recognize the generous support of its event sponsors: 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.



Feinstein Challenge a Success for MCUM

Community supporters have once again proven they are up for a challenge through their response to MCUM's special request for food and financial donations in March and April.

Contributions received during these two months qualified for the Feinstein Challenge, which divides \$1 million proportionately among participating hunger-fighting agencies nationwide based on the amount of donations collected.

At the time of this newsletter's printing, generous donors had contributed about \$34,000 and well over 4,000 pounds of food and cleaning closet items with about a week remaining in the challenge.

MCUM thanks the individuals, congregations, community groups, and businesses who participated in this annual effort to alleviate food insecurity in Monroe County. Your generous support helps MCUM receive a larger portion of the Feinstein funds and is critical to the ongoing success of MCUM's programs. Thanks to you, your neighbors have a helping hand in times of financial crisis.

Food Pantry Needs

MCUM welcomes donations of all non-expired, nonperishable foods for its Emergency Food Pantry, but currently there is a special need for:

- Juice
- Ziploc bags

Cleaning Closet Needs

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

- Hair conditioner
- Floor cleaner
- Cleaning spray
- Toilet bowl cleaner
- Women's size 16-20 underwear
- Adult socks

Childcare Needs

Spring has sprung! The Childcare Program needs all kinds of outdoor supplies, including:

- Plastic shoe boxes
- Twin size flat sheets
- Blank recordable CDs
- Poly Pellets (plastic pellets sold at Walmart and most craft stores)

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:

- Paper and plastic bags
- Towels
- Pots and pans
- Fabric and yarn
- Craft materials

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

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.

Farmer's Market Table Volunteers:

MCUM plans to have a table at the Farmer's Market on Saturdays in June. If you are interested in representing MCUM and leisurely interacting with community members at the Farmer's Market for one or more Saturday mornings, please contact Kate at development@mcum.org or 812-339-3429 x15.

Fresh Foods Coordinator:

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

75th Anniversary Assistants:

Volunteers are needed for a variety of activities. Want to help plan an event, represent MCUM at the farmer's market, or volunteer for day-of tasks like set-up or tear-down? Check out 75th anniversary highlights on page 4, and email Kate at development@mcum.org to get involved!

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.

Grow MCUM's Future with Matchstick



MCUM's endowment at the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County provides a stable source of revenue that ensures MCUM's long-term ability to provide high-quality childcare and emergency services to those in need.

The Community Foundation's Matchstick Endowment Matching Program helps your contribution to this fund go further. From now until March 31, 2015, the foundation will add an additional dollar for every two dollars donated by community members until MCUM reaches its goal amount. So, when MCUM reaches its goal of \$6,667, the Community Foundation will contribute \$3,333, for a grand total of \$10,000!

Matchstick donations must be made directly to the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County, 101 W. Kirkwood Ave., Suite 321, Bloomington, IN, 47404. Please note that your contribution is for MCUM's endowment in the memo line of your check.

For more information about this opportunity, contact Katie Broadfoot at fundraising@mcum.org or (812) 339-3429 x18. To check on MCUM's current campaign balance, contact the Community Foundation at (812) 333-9016.

A Client Story: MCUM and Opp House Step In to Help

Jake first visited MCUM in early 2013 to request socks and a clothing voucher to Opportunity House. At that time, he was staying at the winter shelter and seeking a job in construction or dish washing, in which he had experience. He was storing his belongings at his mother's house in Owen County but was unable to visit often, and his mother could not drive due to a medical condition. He had just applied for food stamps, and was trying to get back on his feet after a couple of run-ins with the law. MCUM provided the requested socks and voucher to Opportunity House.

About a year later, Jake returned to MCUM to request temporary assistance with food, cleaning items, and an Opportunity House voucher. He had moved into his own place, thanks to a small loan from his step-father, and had been working about 30 hours per week as a custodian since September. He had begun receiving food stamps and was back on track toward self-sufficiency, thanks to a helping hand from MCUM and Opportunity House.

The MCUM Childcare Program was recognized as a Level 4 childcare site at Monroe Smart Start/WTIU's first *Early Childhood Excellence Awards* on April 10. The awards highlighted early childhood providers making a positive impact on young children in Monroe County by preparing them for school and life.

Thank You!

We would like to extend special thanks to...

- Stephanie Erwin for her donation of four cases of PediaSure for MCUM's Emergency Services program.
- Russell Chance for his donation of Labels for Education and his gift to the Feinstein Challenge in April.
- Diane Gregory for volunteering at the childcare program's Scholastic Book Fair, and to everyone who participated. This "buy one get one free" event sold more than \$350 worth of books, and MCUM received many book donations!
- Hoosier Hills Food Bank for its donation of coupons that allow Emergency Services clients to get free milk at participating retailers.
- MCUM's Community Outreach Committee members for their feedback and support on numerous events and activities.
- Sidney Harris, Advocate for Community Engagement; Tessa Skidmore, Service Corps Fellow; and Ki Werner, social work practicum student, for their hard work with MCUM this academic year

Sponsor a Swimmer

MCUM preschoolers will visit the pool again this summer. Swimming supports motor skill development, teaches children about water safety, and is a fun way for them to cool off!

Parents pay an additional fee for this activity. Your donation of \$28 can provide a "swimmership" for a child. Get in a summer state of mind 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 #14 is to "Continue to support Opportunity House's efforts to plan for the resale shop's long-term health and ability to provide ongoing support to MCUM's programs."

Opportunity House's new Publicity Committee has been hard at work identifying ways to draw Bloomington residents to the store who have not visited before. Increasing business not only raises funds to support MCUM, but familiarizes customers with the Opportunity House's mission and the important role it plays in the community. Visit www.mcum.org for a complete listing of strategic plan initiatives.

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:

- Anonymous Donor
- Arlington United Methodist Church
- Church Women United
- Daughters of Isabella
- Jef & Pam Davidson
- Stephanie Erwin
- Evening Glories Extension Club of Ellettsville
- First Christian Church
- First Presbyterian Church
- First United Church
- First United Methodist Church, Phoebe Circle
- Good Neighbors Home Extension Club
- Indiana University, Briscoe Residence Center
- McDoel Baptist Church
- New Friends Extension Homemakers
- Opportunity House
- St. John the Apostle Catholic Church
- St. Mark's United Methodist Church
- Trinity Episcopal Church
- Unitarian Universalist 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!

Celebrate with MCUM!

We are excited for you to be a part of MCUM's anniversary celebrations! Volunteers are needed to help plan and implement all aspects of the activities below. No time to volunteer? That's okay—grab a friend and visit MCUM in the following places throughout the year!

Now through the end of June
Community Voices Gallery Exhibit at the Monroe County History Center

Friday, June 6, at 6:00 p.m.
Exhibit Reception at the Monroe County History Center

Saturdays in June
MCUM at the Farmer's Market

July
Display in Showers Building

Friday, July 4
MCUM in the 4th of July Parade

Saturday, October 4
Community Open House at MCUM

MCUM is grateful to CFC properties, Inc., Old National Bank, and Ivy Tech Community College, whose support makes these activities possible.

In addition to these special activities, MCUM will hold its traditional events throughout the year. Keep an eye on future newsletters for all announcements and updates!

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!

Service-Learning at MCUM: The Year in Review

MCUM hosted more than 48 service-learners, ranging from freshmen to graduate students, from Indiana University over the fall and spring semesters. Through service-learning programs, students volunteer in the community in ways related to their academic coursework, providing them with a unique educational experience. Students from nutrition, health, social work, counseling, human development, early childhood education, journalism and Spanish classes served at MCUM this school year.

IU service-learners performed a variety of tasks for the Childcare and Emergency Services programs, as well as other special projects. Students who volunteered with the childcare program primarily acted as teaching aides—leading activities, reading stories, playing with the children, and more. Those who served in the food pantry sorted and organized donations and bagged three-day supplies of emergency items. Additionally, pantry volunteers had the opportunity to sit in on a case interview with a client seeking assistance from MCUM.

Congratulations are in order for sophomore Kuangda Shan, who received the Indiana University 2013-2014 Excellence in Service-Learning Student Award for his work with MCUM as part of his Human Nutrition course. This competitive award is given annually to five students on the IU Bloomington campus. MCUM would like to thank all of its service learners for their dedication this school year!

Thank You, Volunteers

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

- Anna Ballard
- Jessica Beckman
- Tracy Bee
- Amanda Behnke
- Kara Birt
- Marti Black
- Laura Bond
- Mary Ellen Brown
- Judy Bush
- Elaine Carpenter
- Mary Carpenter
- Rachel Case
- Margaret Chittum
- Greg Claretto
- Rachel Colegrove
- Su Cowling
- Andrea Cox
- Daisy Day
- Kacey Gilligan
- Diane Gregory
- Sarah Griffin
- Lauren Haney
- Sidney Harris
- Madeline Hayford
- Duane Hornick
- Pat Hornick
- Larry Jacobs
- Ashley Jemison
- Nakia Jones
- LaDawn Joyner
- E. Veronica Lenard
- Jennifer Lloyd
- Sarah Lobien
- Melissa Margolis
- Judy McDougal
- Leon McDougal
- Valerie Merriam
- Ben Mertz
- Chris Meyer
- Kelsey Miklos
- Emily Milnes
- Joyce Nyakato
- Allie Ohslund
- Cindy Ohslund
- Nicole Percy
- Carol Peterman
- Jasmyn Powell
- Nancy Russell
- Olivia Sanchez-Felix
- Betty Schoonmaker
- Mitch Smith
- Melissa Spas
- Paige Stamper
- Jean Summerville
- Murl Summerville
- Susie Trisler
- Erika Twer
- Daniel Versweyveld
- Anna Vittori
- Joanne Weddle
- 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!

Save the Date: “Each One, Feed One” August 22-24

Mark your calendars for MCUM's annual “Each One, Feed One” Community Food Drive! This year's event will take place Friday, August 22, through Sunday, August 24.

Last year's drive raised more than 12,800 pounds of food and \$1,500 in cash. About 200 volunteers contributed 740 hours of time to help collect, transport, and sort food donations, as well as spread the word about MCUM's mission. Such community support is critical to sustain MCUM's Emergency Services program as contributions typically decline during the summer months.

Stay tuned for details and information about volunteer opportunities.

Announcements for Parents

Important Dates

- May 1** Parent-teacher conferences begin
- May 4-11** National Screen-Free Week
- May 9** Family Fun Night
- May 16** Parent-teach conferences end
- May 20** Preschool/kindergarten graduation
- May 26** Memorial Day - closed

Preschool/Kindergarten Graduation

Mark your calendars for MCUM's childcare graduation ceremony on May 20! The program begins at 6:30 p.m. at the Tri-North Middle School auditorium and includes a slide show, student performance, diploma presentation and refreshments. Please contact Tina if you would like to volunteer at this fun-filled event!

Spread the Word

Do you know other families who may be interested in high-quality, affordable childcare for their young children? Send them our way! MCUM has several spaces available for 2 and 2.5 year olds in its newly reopened Puffin classroom. Share your stories about how MCUM's program has contributed to your child's development and prepared him or her for success in school, and let interested parents/guardians know they can contact Traci 812-339-3429 x40 or childcare@mcum.org for more information. Thanks for your support!

Volunteer Opportunity

Help coordinate MCUM's participation in the 4th of July Parade! You can join a committee to help plan activities for the day, lend your creativity to assembling materials before the parade, and/or walk in the parade! Contact Kate at development@mcum.org or 812-339-3429 x15 for more information.

Childcare Classroom Information

Puffins

2-2.5 year olds

Teacher: Sarah Norzinskey

The Puffins will be busy learning about space and weather this month. First, they will learn about the planets. This will help them start to understand what space is and that we live on the planet Earth. We will also talk about who and what goes into space, including astronauts. The Puffins will also sing songs about rockets and blasting off!

The second part of the month will focus on weather. We will sing songs about different types of weather, such as rain and sunshine. These songs will include, "It's Raining, It's Pouring," "Mr. Sun," and, "You Are My Sunshine." We will also read "The Itsy Bitsy Spider," and learn the finger play.

Finally, we will continue to work on our letters, shapes, numbers, and colors. We will focus on the letters A-M, the triangle and rectangle, the numbers 9 and 10, and the colors red, blue, and purple. The children will also look at pictures of the letters, which helps with recognition of the alphabet.

The Puffins will paint with the colors of the month and count objects outside and inside, such as cars, blocks and toys. Number puzzles and posters will also be up to reinforce counting, and we will read many different books about numbers. So, the Puffins will be very busy this month!

Seahorses

2.5-3 year olds

Teacher: Jessica Mackie

Clouds, rainbows, snow, sunshine, planets, moons and stars... The Seahorses will study all these things in May! We will discuss weather, including the causes of some of our favorite weather phenomena. The Seahorses will even become little meteorologists as we create our own weather charts this week!

That's not all! Throughout the month, the Seahorses will blast into space and talk about the names of the planets and constellations. We will also make our own spaceships with various materials, and talk about craters, meteors, aliens, and other wacky space things.

We will read the following books this month:

- "What's the Weather like Today?"
- "A Rainy Day"
- "Storms"
- "My Book of Planets"
- "Dogs in Space"
- "The Moon Book"

We will also attempt these activities:

- Indoor "puddle" jumping
- Planet counting game
- Create planets from paper plates to hang in our classroom
- Talk about what kind of clothes to wear for different types of weather
- Investigate types of motion
- Review the letters Aa-Mm and the numbers 9 and 10
- Discuss triangles and rectangles and the colors red, blue, and purple
- Create top-secret crafts for our moms for Mother's Day
- Food experiences with apricots and okra

Childcare Classroom Information (continued)

Penguins

3 year olds

Teacher: LaDawn Joyner
Aide: Sarah Landrum

During May, the Penguins will talk about space and weather. We will discuss the sun, moon, and stars, and how they help the Earth. We will also talk about rain, snow, and storms, and how weather ties into space.

We will read lots of books about weather, including “Clifford and the Big Storm,” “The Magic School Bus Inside a Hurricane,” and “What is a Rainbow?” We will read books about space as well, such as “The Magic School Bus Lost in the Solar System,” “I Know About Planets,” and “What is the Moon Like?” We will also review the letters Aa-Mm.

Throughout the month, we will also sort, count, and compare stars, snowflakes, and raindrops. We will look at the different sizes, colors and patterns of the planets, and begin adding and subtracting.

The penguins will keep a weather graph, and compare the number of days that are sunny to those that are not. We will predict what will happen with the weather, and talk about what we can see in the sky during the day and what we see at night.

The penguins will do art projects like creating clouds and raindrops, and using cotton balls to paint craters on moons. We will also make puffy planets, shiny stars, and rain sticks.

Finally, we will celebrate our mothers, grandmothers, aunts, and other important women in our lives. We will talk about how they care for us and what we love most about them.

Otters

4 year olds

Teacher: Brittney Denton
Aide: Keelea Kile

This month, the otters will learn about space and weather. We will talk about all the different types of weather we see during the four seasons. We look at pictures of the earth from space, and learn about the different planets, as well as the one we live on.

We will talk about the importance of the sun and moon, and the effect they have on us. We will also discuss gravity, and imagine what our world would be like if there was no gravity.

We have many things going on this month, including Cinco de Mayo, Mother’s Day, Graduation, and Memorial Day. Because May 5 is Cinco de Mayo, we will learn about Mexican heritage, and make sombreros to wear for the day. Since May 11 is Mother’s Day, we will make surprises for the special people in our lives, and share with the class why they are important to us.

Graduation is May 20 for the Pre-K Otters. We will prepare for it by practicing our songs. We hope to see everyone there to celebrate with us! May 26 is Memorial Day, so we will talk about what freedom means around that time.

We also will continue working on:

- Months of the year
- Counting and the numbers 1- 20
- Writing our names and weekly sight words/numbers
- Letter recognition and sounds
- Using language to express our emotions
- Following classroom and school-wide expectations

Dolphins

5–6 year olds

Teacher: Kim Clay
Aide: Vanessa Schultz

The Dolphins will begin the month of May by celebrating Cinco de Mayo and talking about Mexican heritage. We will read books, talk about popular Mexican food and drinks, and make a Piñata for our class. We will go over common Spanish words and learn a special song as well.

The Dolphins will also focus on some of the most important people in the world – mothers. We will discuss their amazing ability to take care of us and our families, go to work, run errands, and sometimes even manage to have fun and take care of themselves! We will make a special surprise for our moms to show how much they mean to us.

We will spend the last two weeks of the month taking a closer look at the sky. We will talk about what we see – planes, birds, hot air balloons, and more. We will also take a trip to outer space to learn about the planets, stars, moon, and the other things in our galaxy.

In addition to our monthly themes, we will continue to work on the letters of the month, reviewing popcorn words, our weekly homework, and following school-wide expectations.

Childcare Staff

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



Monroe County United Ministries

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

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Bloomington, IN 47404

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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. Our new store hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Saturday, with donations accepted 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call us at (812) 336-2443 or follow us on Facebook!

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

Opportunity House has rebounded from the long, cold winter with abundant spring and summer clothes, toys, decorations, and many other unique items. We are well stocked with everything you need for the season and priced to sell!

We greatly appreciate the new volunteers who have joined us in cashiering and pricing. If you would like to get out of the house for a few hours a week or month, come have fun with us! Also, we would like to encourage all those having garage sales to keep in mind for their "leftovers." Or donate your items to us and save yourself a lot of work! Our proceeds go to a great cause - helping the children of MCUM!

 Please recycle this newsletter
or share it with a friend.