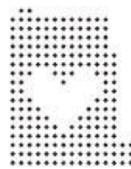


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**For Immediate Release
MCUM Launches Non-Profit Laboratory Program**

Bloomington, IN – April 7, 2015

Monroe County United Ministries (MCUM), a nonprofit provider of childcare and emergency services for Monroe County since 1939, announces today the launch of a new program, the Non-Profit Organization (NPO) Laboratory. MCUM’s new program aims to improve opportunities for like-minded NPOs to flourish in the Bloomington and Monroe County community.

The NPO Lab will provide a safe, nurturing environment for new nonprofits as they navigate the legal, financial, and strategic challenges of starting an organization. For participating NPOs to remain self-sufficient and successful, participants will receive individualized mentoring from experienced MCUM staff and be provided with networking opportunities throughout the Monroe County area.

“We want to establish an environment of innovation and collaboration to benefit all of the residents of our community,” said Erin Predmore, MCUM’s Executive Director. “There are many great ideas out there that are just waiting for the right time to get off the ground. This could be the right time for them.”

The new program will provide start-up organizations with local, practical information that will increase the likelihood of long-term mission success. Additionally, the NPO Lab aims to improve coordination and efficiency of local NPOs with similar missions by creating an avenue for new NPOs to communicate with and learn from experts in the community.

Individuals and groups interested in starting a nonprofit organization or new organizations (with a 501(c)3 status of less than a year) in Monroe County are invited to apply for participation in MCUM’s NPO Lab. Applications are due to MCUM’s Executive Director Erin Predmore by 12:00 pm on June 1, with a program start date of August 1, 2015. Applications and more information can be found at <http://mcum.org/programs/npolab>.

For over 75 years, Monroe County United Ministries has been working as an active member of the community to fulfill the most basic needs of low-income families in Monroe County.

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