

Thank You!

It is the most wonderful time of the year... to express our gratitude!

- Overseen by St. Mark's United Methodist Church, Boy Scout Troop #100 made and delivered 25 Thanksgiving Baskets to MCUM's emergency services clients last month.
- Members of the Unitarian Universalist Church have generously committed to preparing more than 70 food baskets.
- The following groups have gone above and beyond by hosting food drives for MCUM: The Open Door, St. Charles Borromeo School, Yarns Unlimited, Bill C. Brown Associates, Hoosier Court Nursery, & First United Church.
- The Episcopal Fund for Human Need has awarded MCUM a grant to support its childcare's sliding-fee scale.
- Employees of the Social Security Administration spent on of their Saturday mornings volunteering at MCUM's food pantry.
- Thank you to our RSVP volunteers for getting this newsletter ready-to-mail!
- MCUM interns, Lyndsay (Communications), Alex (Advocate for Community Engagement), and Steve (SPEA Fellow - Volunteer Coordinator) have put many hours into helping MCUM be successful this semester!
- Our food pantry is able to operate at such high capacity thanks to our volunteers and service learners!
- Childcare volunteers help teachers and aides in the classrooms and help kitchen staff serve meals.
- End-of-Year supporters are generously donating their money to help MCUM have a big impact on the community.
- Thank you to our fellow community agencies for working hard to make a difference!

Unitarian Universalist Church Continues Decades-Long Tradition of Giving

Each year, folks at the Unitarian Universalist Church get together and gather food for the holidays. The food isn't for them, of course, it's to make sure families who might not otherwise have a Christmas dinner aren't without. The church's Hunger Task Force begins at the pulpit one Sunday, announcing MCUM's food basket initiative and the church's goal for the season.

In the following weeks, the food really starts coming in. Mary Blizzard has been working with church for more than 10 years, helping other church members create and organize food baskets with the items they donate.

"Part of why we give to MCUM is because it's tradition, and part of it is because we really respect the work that MCUM does," she said.

Last year, the UU church collected enough food to make 90 baskets, a congregation record. Blizzard said that while the economy makes people feel insecure and she knows donating 90 baskets two years in a row would be tough to do, "we get a lot of satisfaction from feeding people."

If you are interested in making a difference for a hungry family this holiday season, MCUM's food pantry will continue to accept donations of non-perishable food items all season long.



Long-time donor Harv Hagerty: MCUM's impact has been "dramatic"

Retired Kelley School of Business professor Harv Hagerty has a long history with MCUM. In the 1970's, he sat on the board for First United Church and began working closely with nonprofits the church supported. The one that really caught his eye was MCUM.

"I saw what the impact was not only from its inception, but also saw MCUM make a dramatic difference in the lives of people over [the course of] 40 years," he said.

Hagerty worked alongside MCUM before the childcare building was ever constructed; when it was finally built he said he watched the outreach that MCUM provided children expand even more than had already impressed him.

All that he saw inspired him to begin financially supporting the agency. Hagerty continues to watch MCUM serve the community and said he is pleased with what he sees.

"I hope MCUM will continue to provide the services they do now at the quality and compassion level that has always been hallmark of MCUM. I have a long history of seeing MCUM make a significant difference in people's lives." Harv knows his end-of-year gift to MCUM is already being put to good use to meet community needs, and he hopes you will make a gift to help MCUM have an even larger impact this year.

If this story inspires you, please consider sending your end-of-year support to MCUM using the return envelope provided. You can also donate online at www.mcum.org/donate or by texting "give" to 812-619-9919.

New Staff Spotlight

Sandi Clothier, Emergency Services Caseworker

Sandi Clothier is a new emergency services caseworker at MCUM, but helping people is not new to her.

“All of my work has been with non-profits,” Clothier said. “I’ve always been interested in working with people.” When she decided it was time to look for a new job, it seemed natural to consider a position with MCUM. “I was [already] a shopper at Opp House. I already knew MCUM did good work.”

As a caseworker, Sandi works with clients to determine their eligibility for rent assistance, food pantry services and more. While processing the paperwork that goes along with providing these important services can be tedious at times, Clothier said hearing the stories that people bring to her and being able to respond to them makes it all worth it.

“It’s a powerful thing to be able to be there for people in distress, to hear their stories.”

When she’s not at MCUM, Clothier entertains a number of hobbies - gardening, going to plays, and participating in several other community organizations. AND she loves art: “I was an art history major in college,” Clothier said.

On warmer days, you might see her walking to work, giving herself what she said is a refreshing start to her day.

We are so glad to have Sandi on our team. Feel free to stop by MCUM and say hello!



Not Just the Holidays: Woman’s Giving Extends Past the Holiday Season



Mary Levato is retired, but you almost wouldn’t know that from how busy she is! She’s interested in charity, in helping others get the practical things they need as well as things that help make their lives comfortable.

Among her many projects is making sure children have stuffed animals to play with. In fact, she makes stuffed animals by hand. When she needs materials, she goes to Opportunity House to find unique supplies at inexpensive prices.

Her process goes like this:

“I put everything through the washing machine, and I fix and repair and scrub, whatever needs to be done.” Then, she stuffs and sews the fabric into animal shapes like those pictured to the left.

Levato began shopping at Opp House when her children were young, ever on the lookout for clothing at affordable prices. Years later, she’s still coming back for those same prices so that she can help even more children.

“I couldn’t afford to do what I do if I had to buy retail,” she said. Be sure to stop by Opportunity House, located at 907 West 11th Street, for your holiday decor, craft supplies, or shopping needs!



Monroe County United Ministries

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

827 West 14th Court
Bloomington, IN 47404

812.339.3429 *phone*
812.339.2912 *fax*

mcum@mcum.org
www.mcum.org



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Save a tree!

Sign up to receive our new eNewsletter.
Email kbroadfoot@mcum.org to make the switch!

Staff

Executive Director: Erin Predmore
 Development Associate: Katie Broadfoot
 Emergency Services Coordinator: Cliff Edens
 Emergency Services Caseworker: Sandy Clothier
 Office Manager: Shannon Hampton
 Childcare Director: Traci Mehay
 Education Coordinator: Tina Burress

Hours of Operation

Office & Emergency Services

Monday & Thursday: 8 a.m.- 5 p.m.
 Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Childcare

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

*On days of high demand for services, MCUM may stop taking applications earlier than posted hours.



Please recycle this newsletter or share it with a friend.

Opportunity House

Opportunity House, located at 907 W. 11th Street, is a volunteer-run resale shop that raises funds to support MCUM's programs. We are open 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.

The Opportunity House is has brought out winter clothing, and we are fully stocked with lots of Christmas decorations!

Come in and see what we have to trim your tree and wear for the holiday dinners--and at such low prices!

If you have any extra items this holiday season, please consider donating them to Opportunity House so we can resell them at fair prices for shoppers looking for gifts they may not otherwise afford.

Remember, your shopping and donations to Opp House support MCUM!

Jill Argenbright

Chairman