



Working Together

June 2017

MCUM Preschool Graduates Take the Stage



Nineteen of MCUM's 22 pre-K graduates line the stage at Tri North Middle School, ready to celebrate their accomplishments!

Graduation season is upon us, and MCUM is again celebrating our children's success!

MCUM honored the achievements and hard work of its graduating students on Monday, May 15 in the Tri-North Middle School auditorium. Preschool students donned their traditional caps and gowns before walking the stage, ready to take on the challenges of kindergarten. Each year, this special ceremony celebrates each child's success in completing MCUM's high-quality early childhood education program.

Twenty-two students from MCUM's Dolphin, Otter, and Penguin classrooms graduated last month and will attend kindergarten in the fall. For the first time in two years, MCUM will be hosting its own kindergarten class for the 2017-2018 school year, retaining 12 of our graduates for another year of learning and care.



Two of MCUM's newest graduates proudly show off their hard-earned diplomas.

According to Education Coordinator Tina Burress, MCUM's graduating 5-year-old students are well prepared for public school. "In addition to academic skills, the students (at MCUM) are learning to problem solve, be empathic, and regulate their emotions," she explained. "Attaining these skills will allow each child continue to make positive connections that will guide them in their future opportunities."

It's not easy to get to where these graduates are, and the class of 2017 has demonstrated

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Each One Feed One Scheduled August 11-13

The dates for MCUM's annual "Each One Feed One" community food drive have been announced! Mark your calendars for this year's event, which will take place Friday through Sunday, August 11-13.

Last year, generous community members contributed 13,880 pounds of food and more than \$13,000 in cash donations! Almost 220 volunteers gave 850 hours of time to collect, transport, and sort incoming donations.

Community support is critical to the success of Each One Feed One, both for donations and volunteers. This drive stocks MCUM's Food Pantry after summer months, when donations typically decline and the need for services spikes.

Want to help your neighbors? This community effort will again rely on 200+ volunteers for a variety of tasks, from event planning to distributing flyers to sorting donations on the big weekend. Keep your eyes peeled: We'll be updating our website with more information in the coming weeks.

You can also contact Steve Thomas today at stthomas@mcum.org to learn more about the impact you can make volunteering with MCUM!

Current Needs

Food Pantry

- Dry beans
- Baked beans
- Condensed soup
- Baking mixes (Jiffy, Bisquick, etc.)
- Muffin mix
- Canned tomatoes
- Pasta sauce
- Peanut Butter (medium jars)
- Helper meals (Hamburger Helper, Rice-a-Roni, etc.)
- Mac & cheese

Cleaning Closet

- All-purpose cleaners
- Dish soap (various sizes)
- Laundry soap (various sizes)
- Shampoo/Conditioner
- Deodorant (male and female)
- Wipes and adult wipes
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- Diapers (4s & 5s)

Kitchen

- ~23Wx35H dry erase board
- Microwave - any size ----->1000 watt
- Baking dishes - all sizes (glass)
- 6 bread pans
- Cutting boards with handle
- Large cutting knives
- Paring knives
- MP3 Player
- Any size storage bins with lids

Office

- Barstool with a back

Did you know MCUM has been seeing and serving up to 50% more people each month?

Please share this list to help us collect more food to meet demand!

Kind Words for a Caring Teacher

Teacher Christa McAuliffe once said: “I touch the future; I teach.”

Every day, MCUM’s teachers are also touching the lives of their students, as evidenced by a letter that arrived at MCUM just last week. It was addressed to Jessica Mackie, who has served on MCUM’s childcare staff for almost 15 years. Here’s what the letter said*:



MCUM Teacher Jessica Mackie

Dear Jessica,

I’m not sure if you remember me because it’s been so long, but it’s teacher appreciation week at my school and I remembered you. My name is Natalie Smith, daughter of Karen Smith. I went to school at MCUM in 2004, and you were my teacher. I remember you letting us up in the little library to read sometimes, and I miss being able to take naps since I’m in 8th grade now!

I just wanted you to know that your hard work as a teacher has not gone unrecognized! I am thankful to have had you as a teacher!

*Best wishes,
Natalie*

MCUM is so proud of Jessica and all of our teachers who work so hard to make a lasting impact on the lives of their students. Congratulations to our childcare staff on a job well done for another graduating class!

* The names in the letter above have been changed to respect the identity of the author.



Summer Swimming Sponsorships!

Each year, MCUM partners with the City of Bloomington’s Parks and Recreation Department to offer swimming lessons to children enrolled in our program. MCUM’s children swim 3 times per week for 6 weeks with professional instruction to help them learn water safety and fundamentals.

These lessons cost just **\$54** per child - a small price to pay for a life(saving) skill, but too much for many working families to afford on their own.

If you would like to sponsor a child as they learn how to swim this summer, visit mcum.org/donate or mail your contribution to 827 W 14 Ct. Bloomington, IN 47404.



Preschool Graduation

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exemplary academic work. At MCUM, students are tested throughout the year on their language and math skills, such as writing their name, recognizing their address, counting money, recognizing colors, naming shapes, letter-sound correspondence, and reading high-frequency words. These tests measure the student's ability to learn at the next grade level, and Burress says MCUM continues to see positive academic and social milestones being met.

Early childhood development is a predictor of future academic success, but in Monroe County, only 64 percent of children aged 0-4 have a spot in a licensed childcare center like MCUM's. What's more, many working families cannot afford to pay for such services, which routinely cost more than \$250 per child per week; over the course of one year, that's a higher cost than in-state tuition at Indiana University.

“We continue to see positive academic and social milestones being met.”



Another MCUM graduate in full regalia beams a smile that says, “We Did It!”

MCUM's childcare program - recently renamed the **Compass Early Learning Center** - makes childcare affordable for working families by capping costs at 10 percent of household income. This allows parents to maintain their employment without sacrificing reliable, licensed, and accredited care for their children.

As you may have read in last month's newsletter, MCUM is opening a second childcare location: **Compass Downtown**, this August! This new center will immediately provide an additional 60 spots for children - including babies! - with hopes and room to expand in the future.

If you or someone you know would like to apply for enrollment in MCUM's program, please visit www.mcum.org/childcare to inquire about an application.

Double Your Money at the Farmers' Market!

Do you have an EBT card or know some who does? The Bloomington Parks Foundation continues to offer “Double Market Bucks” throughout the 2017 summer season at the Bloomington Community Farmers' Market. Customers with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP - previously known as Food Stamps) may exchange up to \$18 in SNAP benefits to receive up to \$36 in fresh, locally grown food per visit. That's up to \$18 worth of food for free!

Bloomington Community Farmers' Market is open every Saturday from April through November. For more information about this offer, please visit <http://bit.ly/2rzZbkr>.



Thank You!

- Thank you, as always, to the Opportunity House for your amazing continued support of MCUM and our programs!
- Thank you to First Presbyterian Church for donating more than 550 lbs of food to MCUM's pantry last month! What an incredible and much-needed boost!
- Thank you to new and returning pantry volunteers Valerie Merriam, Cheryl Rich, Kate Emge, Nordia McNish, Barbara Hearn, Denise Breeden-Ost, Sarah Seo, Susan Dougan, Roger Gildersleeve, Natalia Ramirez, and all of our Elder and Sister Missionaries from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latterday Saints for helping our pantry stay fully-staffed throughout the month of May! You all make our pantry possible!
- Thank you to Chance, Chris, and Allie - work study participants at Bloomington North and South high schools for your volunteerism all year long!
- Thank you to the entire Bloomington faith community for their continuing commitment to alleviating food insecurity. You all are incredible!
- Thank you to the volunteers from the United Way of Monroe County for visiting MCUM during our recertification process.
- Thank you to Tri-North Middle School for lending us the use of their auditorium for our childcare graduation!



Monroe County United Ministries

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Member Agency

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Hours of Operation

Self Sufficiency Center

Monday, Thursday, & Friday

Appointment only: 8:00-12:00

Food pantry only: 12:00-5:00

Walk-ins: 12:00-4:30

Tuesday:

Appointment only: 8:00-12:00

Food pantry only: 12:00-7:00

Walk-ins: 12:00-6:30

Wednesday: CLOSED

Childcare

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

Main Office

Monday - Friday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Leadership Staff

Executive Director: Erin Predmore

Development Director: Katie Broadfoot

Office Manager: Shannon Hampton

Childcare Director: Traci Mehay

Education Coordinator: Tina Burress

We've Gone Platinum!



Ethics and transparency matter to us... and to our donors. We are proud of our Platinum status achievement on Guidestar this year! Guidestar is an information service that connects donors to non-profits. Platinum status is Guidestar's highest tier for non-profits; it not only signifies that MCUM meets compliance and transparency standards, but also measures progress towards our mission.

Calling All Volunteers!

MCUM is calling our volunteers to help us renovate and set up classrooms in our new **Compass Early Learning Center - Downtown** location! Though the center won't open until August, some of our most important work is happening the very first week of June - that's right now! If you would like to join us on-site **this week** to help paint classrooms, clean our new space, and move (light) furniture, reach out to Volunteer Coordinator Steve Thomas at sthomas@mcum.org!



Please recycle this newsletter or share it with a friend.