

Working Together

April 2015

Why Four Generations Chose MCUM Childcare



MCUM's childcare program is a family tradition in the Walden family. Chad Walden, as well as his daughter McKenzie (now in the fourth grade), attended the program. His son Keegan is currently enrolled in the Dolphin classroom. He and Keegan even shared the same beloved teacher – Marycarole Matlock.

However, Chad's MCUM childcare connections run much deeper – four generations to be exact. His grandmother volunteered with the program and his mother also attended. His sister, who even worked there for a time, was enrolled in the program too.

Why are they so enthusiastic about MCUM? **“It is a staple in the community,”** Chad said. **“It helps people get the assistance they need during rough times and provides a great education for the kids.”**

Although Chad's memories of his own years in the program are faint, he said his experience as a parent has been wonderful from the moment McKenzie began at MCUM. Not only has it allowed him to work, but he knows his children are being engaged.

He said that McKenzie and Keegan attended numerous daycares before they were old enough to enroll at MCUM, but Chad never felt he could trust other centers the way he trusted MCUM. At one daycare, Chad recalled that Keegan was seated in front of a television when he was dropped off and again when Chad picked him up hours later.

But MCUM is different. “He is learning so much there,” Chad said. “Especially in the last few months, he has really been working on his numbers and letters.”

Chad is confident that when Keegan leaves the childcare program, he will have built friendships and be prepared for first grade, just as McKenzie was. He said MCUM's impact on her is evident when she comes with him to pick up Keegan. “She always wants to go in and say ‘hi’ to the teachers.”

Match Madness A Community Success!

We reached our Match Madness goal and then doubled it, all thanks to our generous donors! MCUM set out to raise \$10,000 for its endowment in a single 25-hour period on March 11. Thanks to a large outpouring of contributions from community members, we raised over \$20,600!

The Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County matched those funds, making the final tally **\$41,068 added to MCUM's endowment this year!**

We couldn't have done it without you. Your support helps ensure that MCUM can feed a family in financial crisis and provide high-quality education to all children in our community.



Food Pantry Needs

- Canned/dried fruit
- Pudding

Cleaning Closet Needs

- Razors
- All-purpose spray cleaner
- Men's underwear 30-36
- Women's underwear 2-7
- Women's socks
- Dish soap
- Toothbrushes
- Baby wash
- Baby lotion
- Baby powder

Office Needs

- Flat-screen computer monitor
- Computer mouse

Childcare Needs

- 15 quart containers

The following books are needed:

- "Easy As Pie" by Cari Best
- "Applesauce Season" by Eden Lipson
- "Animals Don't Wear Pajamas" by Eve Feldman
- "Flight" by Ian Graham
- "Miss Frizzle's Adventures in Ancient Egypt" by Joanna Cole
- "Construction Zone" by Richard Sobol/Cheryl Willis Hudson
- "The Magic School Bus on the Ocean Floor" by Joanna Cole
- "The Lorax" by Dr. Seuss
- "The Great Kapok Tree" by Lynne Cherry
- "Tell me, Tree" by Gail Gibbons

Spring Into Action! Luncheon & Auction

It's time to think spring! MCUM's 10th Annual *Spring into Action!* Luncheon and Auction is just around the corner. The event will take place on Sunday, April 26, 2015 at the Bloomington/Monroe County Convention Center. Guests will be treated to a delicious hot buffet meal and a silent and live auction filled with an exciting array of trips, tickets, art, and more!

Doors will open at 12:00 pm, at which time silent auction bidding will begin. Lunch will be served at 12:30 pm, followed by remarks and a live auction. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$10 for youth ages 5-12, and free for children under 5 years old. Consider serving as a table host by purchasing a block of eight tickets for \$175. Hosts can resell or share their tickets, will have a table reserved in their names, and will be entered into a drawing. Buy your tickets at mcum.org/SpringLuncheon or call 339-3429 x18.

Funds raised from this event will provide high-quality childcare for low-income families and basic needs assistance to those in crisis. In 2014, MCUM provided affordable care to 132 children and distributed enough food to make 32,410 meals, in addition to many other community services.

Please come ready to bid on some great items, including:

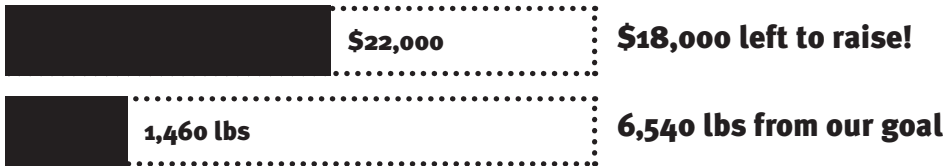
- A new "Buy It Now" gift card section
- Sporting event tickets: Pacers, Indians, Cardinals, Reds, and more!
- Local Excursions: Restaurants, concerts, & festivals
- Family-fun packages: Laser tag, bowling, toys & games
- Romantic getaways: Hoosier wine trail tasting tour
- Week-long vacations: Gulf Shores, AL & Christmas in Williamsburg, VA



'The Hunger Games' Are On

With just one month to go, we're calling on all of our Tributes (aka YOU if you're up for the challenge!) to help us raise \$40,000 and add 8,000 pounds of food and household products to our emergency food pantry. Your donation to this campaign will help provide 5,500 meals and 1,400 household products to your neighbors in need and will prevent homelessness for up to 75 individuals.

We have raised almost \$22,000 and collected 1,458 pounds so far. Let's work together to take the odds out of hunger! There are special incentives for groups wishing to compete for the title of MCUM Hunger Games Victors, but individuals are also encouraged to participate by giving in support of our community! You can donate in person or online at www.mcum.org/donate. If you would like to donate food, our office hours are 8 am – 4 pm, Monday – Friday. For more information, contact Katie at kbroadfoot@mcum.org or 339-3429 x18.



Working Together To Provide For Our Youngest Clients

Monroe County CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children) recently received My Stuff Bags to provide toys, apparel, and much-needed hygiene and educational supplies for children living in transition.

MCUM is partnering with Monroe County CASA by providing My Stuff Bags to children in our Emergency Services program. Many of those who walk through MCUM's doors seeking emergency assistance in the form of food, money, or clothing have suffered a short-term crisis, such as a car accident, medical bill, or divorce.

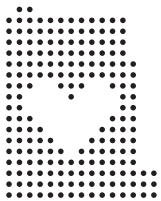
MCUM's Emergency Services caseworkers will provide the bags to children experiencing homelessness, a natural disaster, or leaving an abusive situation. **"It's wonderful to provide children who have little or no items to call their own with new belongings for a new beginning,"** caseworker Liz Lopez explained.



Thank You!

This month, we would like to express our appreciation for...

- IU Service Learners Emily Hurst, Lauren Johnson, Jessie Webster, Christy Crow, Melody Moore, and Tayler Hughes for helping with Match Madness set up and planning the upcoming Spring Luncheon.
- Alaina Brand for joining the MCUM team and helping with Spring Luncheon preparation and other office duties.
- Hoosier Hills Career Center for generously donating flowers and pots to be used at the Spring Luncheon.
- Monroe County CASA for partnering with MCUM to provide My Stuff Bags to Emergency Services children.
- All our donors and attendees at the Match Madness event. Thank you for joining us at Assembly Hall!
- All of our Spring Luncheon sponsors for 2015 so far: Bunger & Robertson, Ivy Tech Community College, Mectra Labs, City of Bloomington, Office of the Mayor, German American Bank, Bloomfield State Bank, CFC Properties, First Insurance Group, Bill C Brown Associates, Hilliard Lyons, IU Credit Union, Crane Federal Credit Union, Peoples State Bank, Innovative Financial Solutions.



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 mreece@mcum.org to make the switch!

Staff:

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

Hours of Operation:

Office

Monday - Friday: 8 a.m. - noon and 1-4 p.m.

Childcare

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

Emergency Services

Monday - Friday: 8 - 11:30* a.m. and 1-3:30* p.m.

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

Look for our eNewsletter

MCUM is making the switch to an updated eNewsletter to cut down on administrative costs. The funds saved by going paperless will be diverted to our childcare and emergency services programs, providing much-needed assistance to low-income residents of Monroe County. Please contact Megan Reece at mreece@mcum.org or sign up on our website at mcum.org/newsletter to make the switch!

What do you think?

MCUM recently made some revisions to the format and content of our newsletter and wants your feedback! Do you like the changes? What would you like us to include in the future? Your input is valuable and can be sent via email to mreece@mcum.org. Please note that donor and volunteer recognition lists will be included on a quarterly basis going forward.



Please recycle this newsletter or share it with a friend.