



Working Together

July 2015

Former Student Looks to MCUM in Time of Need

Darla Pruitt is far from a stranger to MCUM's services. In her teen years, she roamed the halls on a regular basis in our after-school and summer programs. Here, she made close friends and learned essential cooking skills that she still uses to this day.



“I haven’t had help in a long time”

Now an adult, Darla humbly returns to MCUM seeking help for herself and her family. Tragedy struck when Darla’s husband passed away unexpectedly just over a year

ago. In addition to a heartbreaking life event, Darla faced a major financial crisis following his passing. With a single income and debt incurred from the funeral, Darla and her family could no longer pay rent and were homeless for a time. “If it was not for his passing, I would never have been homeless,” Darla recounts, knowing the circumstances were out of her control. “You all were there for me right when I needed you.”

Darla came to MCUM seeking food and clothing items to get her family through a rough spot. She is in the process of moving with her son, daughter, and two grandchildren, and hoping to finally get settled. Darla met with MCUM Caseworker Liz Lopez to discuss her options. “I haven’t had help in a long time,” Darla said. “Liz is awesome. She explained everything to us, and she let us cry when we needed to.”

Darla is thankful for MCUM’s help during this trying time. “I knew you would be there for us,” she said. Darla received clothing vouchers to Opportunity House and food for her whole family that will last more than a week. She chose MCUM’s services for its food bags that include items from every food group. “Other food pantries don’t give out all the food I need,” she explained.

“You all were there for me right when I needed you”

MCUM’s staff is happy to help clients like Darla, and she greatly appreciated feeling welcome here. “What I like most about MCUM are the friendly people,” she said. “They are there to help.” However, Darla does not plan on returning any time soon. This visit will help get her through this crisis and back on track. “Folks cannot take advantage of MCUM’s services. They are focused on helping people in the greatest need,” she explained. We wish Darla well in her future endeavors and thank her for thinking of MCUM.

Emergency Services Word Scramble

Y	B	Y	Z	M	A	L	D	L	L
T	I	U	R	F	D	Z	I	Y	W
L	Q	P	M	G	S	C	A	O	B
P	J	C	J	A	L	F	P	K	X
B	Z	L	E	R	C	F	E	T	I
B	P	D	R	R	U	N	R	I	P
V	C	R	I	M	M	O	J	M	L
V	M	S	V	O	U	C	H	E	R
X	I	H	G	O	N	Z	W	O	F
S	A	O	O	F	F	S	H	Z	J
Z	A	L	W	V	L	Q	S	J	Y
G	W	L	G	O	U	I	U	M	L
F	W	E	M	S	N	W	Q	N	B
T	W	L	O	O	O	X	I	F	Y
U	W	L	D	W	N	T	R	C	L
X	Q	U	O	B	Y	Z	C	J	M
A	B	O	T	Y	G	E	T	B	Z
Y	N	J	G	W	A	P	Z	W	T
G	Q	I	H	B	C	M	O	P	S
D	N	G	N	U	G	D	B	Y	Z

Diaper Fruit Voucher
Plus **THREE** mystery words!

Find and e-mail the mystery words to mreece@mcum.org to redeem a prize!

Current Needs

Food Pantry

- Pudding/jello
- Canned tuna
- Chilli
- Spam
- Treet
- Canned chicken
- Canned and dried fruit

Cleaning Closet

- Feminine products (tampons and maxi pads)
- Toilet paper
- Women's underwear (size 2-11)
- Boys' underwear (size 2-8)
- Baby wipes
- Diapers (size 4, 5, 6)
- Spray cleaner
- Detergent
- Dish soap

Childcare

- Working new or used digital cameras
- Shoe box-sized plastic containers
- 15 quart containers

Office

- Flat-screen computer monitor
- 8.5" x 11" address labels
- Masking tape

Opportunity House

- Paper and plastic bags
- Towels and washclothes
- Baking dishes
- Pots and pans

Did You Know Swimming Promotes Learning in the Classroom?

Swimming has been proved to help build confidence, reduce anxiety, and improve the overall wellbeing of young children. This translates to better focus in the classroom, including the students in MCUM's childcare center. Will you help MCUM make swimming a possibility for its Otter, Penguin, and Dolphin classrooms this summer? A \$24 contribution will sponsor one child for six weeks of swimming. Enabling our preschoolers to spend the summer months splashing and playing, while learning to set goals and achieve them, is an important part of growing up that we do not want them to miss out on. Mail your "Swimmership" donate to MCUM or call Megan at (812) 339-3429 x15 today!

Thank You, Pantry Donors

MCUM depends on donations to make a difference for local households in crisis. Some of the groups and individuals who have recently contributed food, cleaning supplies, and/or hygiene products are listed here:

- Arlington United Methodist Church
- Daughters of Isabella
- Fairview United Methodist Church
- First Christian Church
- First Presbyterian Church
- First United Church
- First United Methodist Church, Phoebe Circle
- Good Neighbors Home
- Extension Club
- Indiana University Health Center
- St. Mark's United Methodist Church
- St. Paul United Methodist Church
- Chris Stratten
- Tri-North Middle School
- Unitarian Universalist Church
- University Baptist Church
- Woodhaven Christian Church

Thank You, Volunteers

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

- Loretta Alonso
- Amanda Behnke
- Carolyn Bilo
- Marti Black
- Joyce Byrer
- Greg Claretto
- Carmen Diaz
- Katie Frey
- Sidney Harris
- Duane Hornick
- Pat Hornick
- Larry & Nancy Jacobs
- Judy McDougal
- Judy & Leon McDougal
- Valerie Merriam
- Donna Michael
- North-American Interfraternity Conference
- Amelia Predmore
- Walt Predmore
- Betty Schoonmaker
- Paul & Betty Schoonmaker
- Solsberry Hill Retreat Center
- Jean Summerville
- Murl & Marjorie Summerville
- Susie Trisler
- Michael & Julia Valliant
- John Zilvinskis

Each One Feed One: Three Ways You Can Get Involved



MCUM is already gearing up for its tenth annual Each One Feed One community food drive! This year's event will take place Friday through Sunday, August 21-23. The goal is to collect 15,500 pounds of food over the three-day period. Last year, generous community members contributed 13,400 pounds of food and more than \$2,000 in cash to the initiative. About 220 volunteers gave 850 hours of time to help collect, transport, and sort food donations. Sign up today at mcum.org/EOFO!

Community support is critical to the success of the drive, not only for volunteers but also to spread the word about MCUM's need in the community. This food drive restocks MCUM's food pantry after the summer months, when donations typically decline. Want to help ensure your neighbors have access to food in times of crisis? We have three great ways for you to contribute to our cause!

① Volunteer

We need more than 200 volunteers to help collect, sort, and deliver food donations. **Store Greeters** collect donations at local grocery stores, interacting with shoppers and spreading the word about the food drive. **Drivers** pick up the food donated at grocery stores and deliver it to MCUM. These volunteers are reimbursed for their driving time with a \$50 gas card. **Food Sorters** organize all the donated food and put each can in its proper place within the food pantry. These volunteers are treated to music and a fun environment at MCUM's main offices.



② Donate

Whether you find time to volunteer or not, we're calling on all of our MCUM supporters to donate food, cash, or checks at their local grocery stores during the August 21-23 weekend. We hope you'll enjoy seeing friendly faces stationed across Bloomington and will open your hearts and pockets for your struggling neighbors.

③ Spread the Word!

Please follow MCUM on Facebook and Twitter and share our Each One Feed One posts with your friends. If you're volunteering this year or have in the past, let your network know it! This will help encourage others to volunteer. Post our food drive flyer (found on our website at mcum.org/EOFO) and announce the event at your church - this is a great opportunity for folks to give back to the community!

Thank You!

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

- Fast Signs for donating car magnets that will be used in this year's Each One Feed One Community Food Drive.
- Lauren Plavnick for joining the MCUM staff this summer as our development assistant.
- Valerie Merriam for stepping in to help with the food pantry during a very busy month.
- Participating Each One Feed One stores: Kroger, Marsh, O'Malia's, Bloomingfoods, Lucky's Market, Hometown IGA, and Sahara Mart.
- Steve Shroyer, former MCUM Cook, for always thinking of MCUM and donating fresh produce for our preschoolers.
- Student volunteers from the Undergraduate Interfraternity Institute (UIFI) for helping with various projects around the agency, including their help painting the newly yellow house on MCUM's front lawn.

MCUM provides **magazines** in the emergency services waiting room. If you are finished with your monthly subscription and it's still in good condition, drop it off at our office. Our clients will appreciate your generosity!



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



Member Agency

Inside This Issue

- p1 Client Story
- p2 Current Needs, Volunteers & Donors
- p3 Food Drive

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. - 12 p.m. 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 1-3:15* 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.

A Message from the Store Manager:

The Opportunity House has all your summer needs and wants, including bathing suits, shorts, Capri's, knit tops, as well as Fourth of July decorations. Come in today and see the variety of unique items we have at very low prices.

Even with all the heat and rain, our loyal volunteer are still here to help you shop. We are so thankful for them, as well as our customers, and those who donate! As you know, our profits go to help MCUM with their preschool and other great programs they offer the community. Come see us soon - new items are added to store daily!