

Working Together

March 2015

Match Madness Endowment Event

In celebration of its 25th Anniversary, the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County is hosting a special one-time shot to help area nonprofits grow their endowments. It is offering \$100,000 as a proportional match to 10 local agencies as part of Match Madness. This event will take place in lieu of the Matchstick program, and MCUM has been selected to participate with an agency goal of \$10,000!

Match Madness is mainly an online fundraising event, **beginning March 10 at 6 pm and ending March 11 at 7 pm**. Donors are asked to visit MCUM's online giving portal, which can be found at mcum.org/MatchMadness.



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MCUM Hosts 'The Hunger Games'

Each year, the cold winter months take a toll on MCUM's food pantry. With nearly a quarter of Monroe County residents living in poverty and one in five children not knowing where their next meal will come from, MCUM's emergency services program plays an important role in ensuring all members of our community have enough to eat. In 2014 alone, MCUM provided 32,500 meals to struggling families. You can help replenish the pantry and assist your neighbors in need by participating in MCUM's annual spring food- and fund-raising drive!

This year's event has been reimagined as the MCUM Hunger Games. In addition to individual donations, "districts" composed of congregations, clubs, and companies will compete in an exciting food- and fund-raising challenge.

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MCUM's Impact in 2014



4 out of 5 parents

said enrolling their child improved their employment or educational opportunities

MCUM provided over

\$19,500

to low-income residents on the verge of homelessness



were provided to those experiencing a financial crisis.

97%

of parents saw improvement in their child's basic literacy and math skills after enrolling in MCUM's program.

Current Needs

Food Pantry

MCUM welcomes donations of all non-expired, nonperishable foods for its Emergency Food Pantry, but currently there is a special need for:

- Canned fruit

Cleaning Closet

Cleaning and hygiene supplies can't be purchased with food stamps. The following items are in high demand:

- Men's underwear (sized 30-32)
- Women's underwear (sizes 2-7)
- Floor cleaner
- Detergent
- Dish soap
- Toilet bowl cleaner
- Spray cleaner

Office

- Flat screen computer monitor

Childcare

- Measuring spoons and cups (plastic)
- Restaurant menus
- Magnifying glasses (plastic)
- Small pitchers (plastic)
- Baby dolls (preferably plastic)

Opportunity House

Opportunity House can find new homes for your gently used items, with proceeds benefiting MCUM's programs.

Match Madness

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As part of making this endowment campaign a special one, the Community Foundation is offering **up to a 1 to 1.5 match for every dollar MCUM raises**. That's the highest match the Community Foundation has ever offered!

If MCUM raises 20% of the total funds raised by the 10 agencies during a 24-hour period, it will receive \$20,000 in matching funds. The Community Foundation is offering an additional \$5,000 to each of the 10 agencies if they collectively reach a community-wide goal of \$100,000. Supporters will also be able to celebrate and contribute to MCUM's success during the final hours of the event from **4-7pm on March 11** at Indiana University's Assembly Hall!

The live event will include a free-throw contest, live entertainment, snacks and drinks. To learn more about how you can donate to the Match Madness campaign or participate in the live event, contact Megan Reece at mreece@mcum.org or (812) 339-3429 x15.

Congregation Spotlight: All Saints Orthodox Christian Church

By Katie Broadfoot

This month's Congregation Spotlight goes to the All Saints Orthodox Christian Church in Bloomington. The church has been one of MCUM's Supporting Congregations since 2012. Over the past several years, it has donated to MCUM's emergency services food pantry. This winter, however, members of All Saints Orthodox Church participated in a unique way. Through a special drive at the church, members collected hats, gloves, coats, and pants to help support MCUM's winter basic needs assistance. For as long as supplies last, MCUM's emergency services program is distributing these accessories to all households who apply for assistance to help keep them warm while the weather is so cold.

Hats off (or should we say "hats on!") to our friends at All Saints Orthodox Christian Church for their extra effort!

Save the Date: Spring Luncheon April 26, 2015

Mark your calendar for MCUM's 11th Annual "Spring into Action!" Luncheon and Auction. The event will take place on Sunday, April 26, at the Bloomington/Monroe County Convention Center. Tickets (\$25 per person or \$175 for a table of eight) will go on sale March 16. All proceeds benefit MCUM's emergency services and childcare programs.

Emergency Services: One Client's Story

Sharon came to MCUM last month seeking assistance with rent and household items. Originally from Indianapolis, she moved to Monroe County last summer and quickly secured a job on the sales floor at a local furniture store. Sharon is paid on commission and sales have slowed significantly this winter. She has also struggled to find rides to work. However, she purchased a car, which she was able to repair to working condition with help from her brother.

Between her reduced pay and the vehicle purchase, Sharon found herself unable to meet her basic needs. Fortunately, MCUM was able to help. The emergency services coordinator sent Sharon's landlord a check for the money owed and provided her with cleaning supplies and hygiene products. Sharon expects sales to increase in the coming months, and she now has dependable transportation. With MCUM's assistance, she was able to overcome a temporary setback and is back on her way to financial independence.

Thanks to your ongoing support, MCUM has been able to provide increased assistance to people like Sharon. We recently moved from offering our emergency services clients a three-day supply of food to a **four-day supply of food**. However, this transition has left our food pantry with a shortage of fruit. It takes 11 cans of fruit to provide four days worth of proper nutrition for the average family seeking help at MCUM. **"I understand fruit is expensive, but it's a major food group and we don't want to short folks,"** MCUM Emergency Services Coordinator Cliff Edens said.

Please help us continue to share success stories like this one by donating canned or dried fruit to our pantry. Your contribution can provide critical support for local families in need.

MCUM Hosts 'The Hunger Games'

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"Tributes" from each district will go head-to-head to win the ultimate title of the MCUM Hunger Games Victors.

MCUM plans to raise **\$40,000** and **8,000 pounds of food** in the two-month period between

March 1 - April 24. This will provide 5,500 meals and 1,400 household items to needy families, and allow 75 individuals on the verge of homelessness to stay in their homes. You can help us reach this goal by making a donation or forming a district today. Contact Katie Broadfoot at kbroadfoot@mcum.org or (812) 339-3429 x 18 for more information.

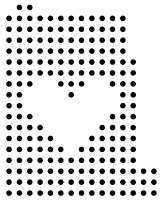
THE MCUM HUNGER GAMES



Thank You!

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

- Lotus Education & Arts Foundation and Lotus Blossoms artist Kuniko Yamamoto for visiting MCUM's childcare center and presenting dramatic storytelling for the Dolphin classroom.
- Kip May for donating his photography services to provide MCUM with professional agency photographs.
- Duane Busick for making time to videotape and produce a promotional video for MCUM's upcoming Match Madness participation.
- K. W. Deer Processing for donating 100 lbs of venison to MCUM's emergency food pantry.
- The Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County for help promoting MCUM's participation in Match Madness.
- First United Church Youth Group and Indiana University Panhellenic Council for hosting a MCUM presentation.
- All of our Spring Luncheon sponsors for 2015 so far:
 - Bill C. Brown Associates
 - Bunger & Robertson, Attorneys at Law
 - First Insurance Group
 - German American Bank
 - Hilliard Lyons
 - IU Credit Union
 - Crane Federal Credit Union
 - The Peoples State Bank
 - Ivy Tech Community College
 - CFC Properties, Inc.
 - Mectra Labs



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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, which will be delivered to your email account in an effort 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.