

The Newsletter of Monroe County United Ministries

# Working Together

October 2016

## MCUM Impacts all Members of the Community

*Speaking on behalf of the Office of the Vice Provost for Research and its colleagues:*

"When I came to IU in 1996, the office had already been sponsoring families from MCUM. A colleague and I took over the purchasing for a few years.

Being part of this effort makes you realize how lucky you are, to have a job and to help make holidays brighter for someone who isn't as lucky as you. When we receive the wish list every year, the family's requests are for things we take for granted, basic needs like socks, towels. In all of these years, no family has asked for extravagant items, again things we take for granted every day. All I want to do is help them maybe make a very sad and hard year better for at least one day.

Shopping for groceries with colleagues, we think about the family that will use the items. We carefully calculate how we can stretch the funds so we can purchase as much food as possible and then we always add in more for items not on the list that they normally could not get.

We look forward to getting the MCUM family information each year, because this is what the holidays are about, giving to others."

*- Comments from Senta Baker, Research Compliance Associate, Office of Research Administration, IU Bloomington*



"MCUM is such a critical partner in the Bloomington community, and my colleagues are proud and pleased to have been able to support them in this way for so many years. Receiving a family and being able to fulfill their basic needs, if only temporarily, plus bring some holiday joy to children, is a priceless gift to us as donors and sponsors."

*- Comments from Lauren Bryant, Associate Director of Research Development Communications, Office of Research Administration, IU Bloomington*

### Inside this Issue:

- MCUM's impact
- Open house success!
- Last year's holiday season inspiration
- How YOU can make a difference in a family's life
- Organizing a successful food drive
- ... and more!

## Current Needs

### Food Pantry

The Each One Feed One food drive brought in 13,800 lbs of food! We still need 2,200 lbs, especially of:

- Canned chicken
- Canned fruit
- Jelly

### Cleaning Closet

- All-purpose cleaner
- Laundry soap
- Shampoo
- Conditioner

### Childcare

- Plastic bins with lids any size
- 24 piece puzzles
- Barbies
- Felt any color
- Lamination 3ml.
- Construction paper any color
- Artificial flowers

MCUM gladly accepts paper grocery sacks for the food pantry. Paper bags hold more than plastic and stand up nicely.

Please ask for paper when you shop and bring them to MCUM to reuse.

## Open House Success!

A huge thank you to everyone who attended our open house Sunday, September 25th! We had a great time celebrating our new food pantry, playground, and Self Sufficiency Center! There was lots of free food, family fun, and interactive tours. We had a blast and hope you did, too!



## Holiday Season Inspiration

Last year we had the opportunity to help so many families because of people like you! Special thanks to:

- Members of the Unitarian Universalist Church for generously preparing more than **70 food baskets!**
- Overseen by St. Mark's United Methodist Church, Boy Scout Troop #100 made and delivered **25 Thanksgiving baskets** to MCUM's emergency services clients!
- The following groups went **above and beyond** by hosting food drives for MUCM: The Open Door, St. Charles Borromeo School, Yarns Unlimited, Bill C. Brown Associates, Hoosier Court Nursery, and First United Church!



## How can YOU get involved this holiday season?

It's easier than you think! From the smallest gestures to the biggest donations, anything that helps our MCUM community is greatly appreciated.

**Volunteer** - Special volunteer opportunities for this time of year include wrapping presents, picking up food drive donations around town, sorting donations in the food pantry, and more!

**Provide Holiday Food Baskets** - Help provide our childcare families and emergency services households with holiday food baskets.

**Donate for Santa Bags** - Help jolly old St. Nick provide a goodie bag to each child in our childcare program when he comes to visit! Examples include boxes of crayons, bubbles, toothbrushes, etc. Email [shampton@mcum.org](mailto:shampton@mcum.org) to see which items are available.

**Donate to the Rent & Utility Fund** - Directly assist families in need of emergency rent and utility aid during the year.

**Hold a Food Drive for the Food Pantry** - Help us keep stomachs full during the cold months by hosting a food drive.

**Sponsor a Family for Christmas** - This project is extremely rewarding and involves purchasing 3-5 gifts for each member of a family. A list of family members and their wishes will be sent to you.



## Organizing a Successful Food Drive

See a full list and sign up at [www.mcum.org](http://www.mcum.org)! Any group—school, workplace, neighborhood, club, or congregation—can serve as a host. Not only will the food drive help MCUM, but it will bring your community closer together in pursuit of a common goal.



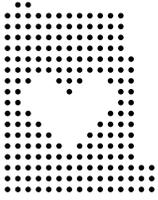
**1. Set a goal.** The best food drives are ones that involve numeric goals - pounds of food donated, percentage of people who participated, etc. A little friendly competition goes a long way!

**2. Set a date.** If you're trying to hold a food drive at your church, scheduling it on a date where people will be getting together can maximize the amount of people who contribute to the drive.

**3. Set standards.** We'll take as much as we can use, but there are some items that work better than others. Non-perishable items are ideal - think canned foods, household chemicals, shampoo, soap, etc.

**4. Get the word out!** Let everyone know - for a printable food drive flyer and a full list of preferred donations, visit: [mcum.org/holiday](http://mcum.org/holiday).

Please contact [kbroadfoot@mcum.org](mailto:kbroadfoot@mcum.org) to inform us if you are interested in hosting a food drive. Also, let us know if we can assist you in any way to help you be successful!



# Monroe County United Ministries

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## Inside This Issue

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- p2 Fall Open House Success, Holiday Season Inspiration
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Save a tree!

Sign up to receive our new eNewsletter.  
Email [development@mcum.org](mailto:development@mcum.org) to make the switch!

## Staff

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

## Hours of Operation

### Office

#### Monday:

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

#### Thursday:

Appointment only: 8:00-12:00  
 Food pantry only: 12:00-5:00  
 Walk-ins: 12:00-4:30

#### Friday:

Appointment only: 8:00-12:00  
 Food pantry only: 12:00-5:00  
 Walk-ins: 12:00-4:30

### 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.

## Opportunity House

Opportunity House, located at 907 W. 11<sup>th</sup> 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:

### A Message from the Store Manager:

Opportunity House is getting ready to stock its shelves for the fall season - light coats, Halloween costumes, cornucopias, and more!

Please follow us on Facebook to stay up-to-date about our weekly sales.

And... don't forget to tell your friends about us!



Please recycle this newsletter or share it with a friend.