



The Newsletter of Monroe County United Ministries

Working Together

September 2014

“Each One, Feed One” A Community Success!

In a mere 48 hours, Monroe County community members donated 13,368 pounds of food, hygiene items, and cleaning supplies to MCUM’s Emergency Services Food Pantry and raised more than \$2,000 to benefit the Emergency Services Program. Thanks to this outpouring of support, MCUM’s food pantry will be stocked until the holiday season. This incredible accomplishment speaks to the generosity of MCUM supporters and the community at large.



More than 220 volunteers joined MCUM’s staff over the weekend of August 22-24 to contribute a combined total of 850 hours of time and energy to the cause. Some individuals volunteered for their first “Each One, Feed One” food drive, while others continued an annual tradition of service. Without these dedicated individuals, this event would not have been possible.

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We would like to offer a special thank you to this year’s event sponsors:



American Legion
Post #18



Bunger & Robertson

ATTORNEYS AT LAW



Join MCUM for a Special Community Open House

**Saturday, October 4
3-5pm, Free Admission
827 W 14th Ct.**

MCUM is celebrating 75 years of service to Monroe County with a community-wide birthday party! Guests will enjoy an afternoon of fun, food, music, and birthday cake. Help introduce MCUM to more people in Monroe County by inviting others to attend!

Guided tours of MCUM’s childcare and emergency services facilities will take place throughout the event. Guests are encouraged to tell their stories about how MCUM has impacted their lives through its services, special events, or volunteer opportunities. If you are interested in sharing your experiences with MCUM supporters, please contact MCUM Development Associate, Megan Reece at development@mcum.org or (812) 339-3429 x15.

Save the date and bring a friend!
The more people who know about MCUM, the more MCUM can accomplish in the community!

Food Pantry Needs

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

- Canned tuna
- Pie crust mix (Jiffy)
- Juice and instant drinks
- Pudding and Jello
- Rice and/or pasta side meals

Cleaning Closet Needs

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

- Shampoo and lotion
- Adult socks
- Spray cleaners
- General Cleaners
- Q-Tips
- Boys underwear sizes 2-6
- Girls underwear size 4
- Baby wash, shampoo, and powder
- Male and female deodorant

Childcare Needs

The Childcare Program needs all kinds of outdoor supplies, including:

- Washable paint (tempera, finger, watercolor)
- Paper
- Glitter
- Glue (sticks and liquid)
- All sizes of storage containers with lids

Opp House Needs

Opportunity House can find new homes for your gently used items, with proceeds benefiting MCUM's programs. Please consider donating items such as:

- Paper and plastic bags
- Towels
- Pots and pans
- Fabric and yarn
- Craft materials

Volunteer Opportunities

For more information about these or other volunteer opportunities, visit www.mcum.org, call (812) 339-3429, or email help@mcum.org.

Featured Volunteer Position

Community Open House Volunteers (Saturday, October 4):

MCUM is celebrating its 75th birthday in style this year with an Open House in early October. Volunteers are needed to help greet guests and introduce members of the community to MCUM's mission and programs. Have fun while mingling with friends and newcomers! Want to help plan the event or assist with day-of tasks like set-up, tear-down, or greeting guests? Contact Megan at development@mcum.org or (812) 339-3429 x15 to learn more.

Maintenance Volunteers:

Volunteers are needed to perform basic maintenance tasks of any skill level, from changing light bulbs to basic carpentry. Work is usually performed between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Contact Meri at mcum@mcum.org or (812) 339-3429 x11.

Fresh Foods Coordinator:

MCUM seeks an energetic individual to coordinate fresh foods for its emergency services clients. This person will organize and manage the refrigerator, and coordinate pick ups from the food bank. Contact Cliff at help@mcum.org.

Opportunity House Volunteers:

Opportunity House, a resale shop located at 907 W. 11th Street, is MCUM's important partner. Volunteers are needed to sort and price items and serve as cashiers. Call (812) 336-2443 for more information.

“Each One, Feed One” A Community Success!

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Volunteers spent hours in the sun talking to shoppers, collecting and transporting donations, and helping unload and sort bag upon bag of donated items at MCUM. Several Indiana University students spent their first weekend back in Bloomington volunteering for the food drive. MCUM greatly appreciates the support it received from these community members!



Volunteers reported that shopper responses at participating stores were overwhelmingly positive. One volunteer at the Kroger College Mall location shared the story of a former MCUM childcare parent proudly making a contribution, saying, “I love MCUM, and this is my first chance to give something back to the organization.” Other shoppers connected with MCUM for the first time during the food drive, and volunteers were met with a number of questions about other ways they could become involved with the organization.

The collection from this year’s drive will help re-stock the shelves of MCUM’s food pantry and represents about 15 percent of the total donations the pantry hopes to receive in 2014. The 13,368 pounds collected over the weekend will help keep the pantry running smoothly until the holidays, a time when MCUM traditionally receives a high number of donations.

Farewell, Friends

MCUM recently said goodbye to two former board members and long-time supporters. **Al Ruesink** was a beloved biology professor who served on the faculty of Indiana University for more than 45 years. He was heavily involved in university service and was an active member of First United Church. He also served the community by advocating for children’s gardening and city-wide religious efforts to slow down climate change.

Retired from the Indiana University School of Education, **Betty Stines** was a devoted member of Mt. Gilead Christian Church. She also participated extensively in the Order of the Eastern Star, the Social Order of the Beauceant, and the Monroe County “Evening Bells” Homemaker Club. MCUM deeply appreciates the contributions of these individuals, and they will be greatly missed.

Thank You!

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

- All of our amazing volunteers who donated their time, energy, and resources to help make Each One, Feed One a success, including:
 - The RSVP, Trinity Episcopal Church, Church of the Latter Day Saints, Kappa Delta Collegiate Sorority, Arlington Church Youth, and Retired Teachers Association volunteers who collectively took on an astonishing 43 store shifts.
 - St Mark’s UMC Youth and the Mehay-McNeely family for their supportive roles, including sorting, can wrangling, and picking up food.
 - Ryan Jochim, who provided MCUM with packaging materials for the food drive.
 - IU SPEA students Alyce Kanabrocki, Emily Hall, Donovan Wright, Thomas Walton, and Cassandra Carver, who helped with set up.
 - The companies who supported the food drive: Bunger & Robertson, American Legion Post #18, Tawni Hill Farmers Insurance, Heflin Industries, and WFIU.
- Kathleen Broadfoot, who graciously took on the project of making 48 “Feeling dolls” to help the children learn to identify their emotions.

Congregation Spotlight: Unitarian Universalist Church

By Katie Broadfoot

Congratulations to MCUM's August Congregation of the Month, Unitarian Universalist Church. This congregation has been a MCUM partner since 1985 and is currently a MCUM member congregation.* Over the history of this partnership, Unitarian Universalist Church has given nearly \$40,000 in donations to MCUM and has been one of MCUM's top pantry donors during the past few years, contributing 11,631 pounds of food and household/hygiene products in 2013.

In July, a group of volunteers from Unitarian Universalist Church spent a Saturday at MCUM washing windows, cleaning and building shelves, and completing other projects in honor of their "Bill Sent Me" celebration. During the summer months, MCUM sees a lull in volunteers, and this support was just what the agency needed.

Thank you, Unitarian Universalist Church, and to all of the faith community, for your generous support over the years.

For information about your congregation's relationship with MCUM, please contact Katie at fundraising@mcum.org or (812) 339-3429 x18.

**Congregations that made an unrestricted financial contribution to MCUM during the previous year are considered member congregations.*

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:

- Daughters of Isabella
- Flo Davis
- First Christian Church
- First Presbyterian Church
- First United Church
- St. Mark's United Methodist Church
- Opportunity House
- St. Thomas Luthern Evangelical Church
- Trinity Episcopal Church
- University Baptist Church
- Woodhaven Christian Church

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!

Celebrate with MCUM!

Join MCUM's anniversary activities throughout the year! Volunteers are needed to help plan and implement all aspects of the events below. No time to volunteer? That's okay—grab a friend and visit MCUM in the following places!

Saturday, October 4
Community Open House at MCUM

Early October
MCUM Restaurant Week at multiple locations throughout Bloomington

Keep an eye on social media and future newsletters for more information!

MCUM is grateful to CFC properties, Inc., Old National Bank, and Ivy Tech Community College, whose support has made these activities possible.

Looking to dispose of your old cell phone?

Bring it to MCUM, where it will be turned into cash to support the agency's programs! Donations are accepted at MCUM and Opportunity House.

Traveled this summer?

MCUM gladly accepts **travel-size shampoo and conditioner** for its emergency services clients. These small items can go a long way toward helping your neighbors in need feel more prepared and confident for their day!

Meet the Staff: Kim Clay

Kim is the teacher for the Dolphin (5- to 6-year-old) classroom. A seven-year veteran of MCUM's childcare program, she started as a floating aide before becoming a full-time teacher aide and then a teacher. As a Family Studies student at Indiana University, she always knew she wanted to work with children in some capacity. Although she initially envisioned herself employed in the healthcare field, she saw the difference she could make in children's education when she began working at MCUM.



That difference is why Kim enjoys her position here. Kim explains why she loves coming into work, saying, "The feeling that I just made a difference, when they get this spark in their eyes." Whether it's a child writing his or her name for the first time or running up to give her a big hug after she's been gone for a day, the small things that make a big impact are her favorite part of the job. She also values the sense of belonging she feels among her coworkers and says MCUM feels like a second home for her.

However, teaching young children has its challenges. Kim says she must take special care to talk to her students in ways they understand, and notes the difference between talking to and really connecting with them. Kim recalls, "I have to talk in a way they understand me and make sure I'm really reaching them." But even the challenges have their benefits. It is very rewarding for her to witness the magic that comes from finding unique ways to reach a child for the first time, such as making references to Power Puff Girls or Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle episodes.

Never Grow Up! FUNdraiser

This year's Never Grow Up! FUNdraiser will take place at MCUM from 3 pm to 5 pm on Saturday, November 1. The program is geared toward youth groups and will feature an interactive "Trail to Self-Sufficiency" simulation, during which participants will learn about the circumstances that bring clients to MCUM and how MCUM's two programs can serve them. Volunteers are needed to help with the activity stations! Contact Katie at (812) 339-3429 x18 or fundraising@mcum.org for more information.

Thank You, Volunteers

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

- Louise Blish
- Greg Claretto
- Su Cowling
- Larry & Nancy Jacobs
- Nadia Kang
- Andrew & Veronica Lenard
- Judy McDougal
- Chris Meyer
- John Sgro
- Susie Trisler
- Lee Van Buskirk

Make MCUM Part of Your Legacy

For 75 years, generous community members like you have rallied with MCUM to provide essential services like high-quality, affordable childcare and emergency assistance to Monroe County residents who need a helping hand. Your support has helped thousands of individuals get back on track to self-sufficiency.

You can ensure that MCUM's programs have an impact for the next 75 years and beyond by making a gift to MCUM through your estate plan. Numerous giving options and tax incentives allow you to create a lasting legacy in a manner that suits you and benefits the community. Gifts of all sizes boost MCUM's capacity to serve local residents in need of support.

Making a bequest to MCUM is a simple, meaningful way to show your commitment to helping your neighbors in need. Below is sample language for your will or trust to guarantee MCUM's ability to put your gift to its best possible use.

"I hereby leave [specific dollar amount/specific property/rest and remainder, etc.] of my estate to Monroe County United Ministries, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation in Bloomington, Indiana, to be used for the benefit of the organization in such a manner as the board of directors may elect."

If you would like to find out more about the impact you can have, contact Katie at (812) 339-3429 x18 or fundraising@mcum.org.

Announcements for Parents

Important Dates

- Sept 1** Labor Day - MCUM Closed
- Sept 6** Conscious Discipline Session 5
(8 - 10 a.m.)
- Sept 8** Conscious Discipline Session 5
(5:30 - 7:30 p.m.)
- Sept 15** Childcare Open House
(5 - 7:30 p.m.)

Spread the Word

Do you know families who may be interested in high-quality, affordable childcare for their young children? Send them our way! MCUM has spaces available for 2 and 2.5 year olds in the newly reopened Puffin classroom. Share your stories about how MCUM's program has contributed to your child's development and prepared him or her for success in school, and let interested parents/guardians know they can contact Traci at (812) 339-3429 x10 or childcare@mcum.org for more information. Thanks for your support!

Creating the MCUM School Family

MCUM Childcare is eager to introduce you to our comprehensive classroom management program called "Conscious Discipline". It is a way of organizing classrooms around the concept of a School Family, where each member learns the skills needed to successfully manage life tasks. Interested in learning more? Contact Tina at (812) 339-3429 x19 or visit www.ConsciousDiscipline.com.

Childcare Staff

Childcare Director: Traci Mehay
Education Coordinator: Tina Burress
Cook: Denise Garrett
Assistant Cook: Derrick Mackie

Childcare Classroom Information

Puffins

2-2.5 year olds

Teacher: Sarah Norzinskey

Welcome to fall! The first month of fall, the Puffins will focus on community helpers. This will include making our own police badges and stop signs to mimic what real police officers do. We will also dress up as other various community members, such as postal service workers, and write notes to friends and teachers, which shows friendship in addition to building the children's pre-writing skills.

We will also read books about community helpers to show the children what these people look like and what they do to help keep us safe. One book we will read, "A Very Busy Firehouse," goes through all of the different parts of a fire station and the basic duties fire fighters perform daily. The children will read books about police officers and fire fighters because they are people that keep our city and schools safe, and we are learning about how we keep our classmates safe.

In addition to the community helpers activities, we will continue working on our numbers, letters, colors, and shapes with books, puzzles, and other activities. This includes: the numbers 3 and 4, letters D-F, the color blue, and the circle. We will also continue singing our songs for circle time that relate to community helpers, such as, "The Wheels on the Bus" for bus drivers, and, "Old MacDonald Had A Farm" for farmers.

We look forward to having a fun month!

Seahorses

2.5-3 year olds

Teacher: Jessica Mackie

This month, the Seahorses will learn about the special men and women who help out around our community! We will talk about who these people are, what their special jobs are, as well as what they do and how it affects us. Not only will we be discussing our own community's helpers, we will also start our Conscious Discipline school family jobs. These jobs will involve small tasks that each child can take on daily to contribute to our school family. Jobs may include door holder, morning greeter, librarian, light helper, and more.

In addition to learning about community helpers and beginning our school family jobs, the Seahorses will also learn the following new letters, numbers, colors, and shapes throughout the month of September:

- The letters D, E, and F. These letters will be introduced to the children through books, songs, puzzles, games, and art.
- The numbers 3 and 4. We will play number games and count various items equal to both numbers.
- The color blue. We will discuss different items that are blue, search for blue in our classroom, and use blue to color, paint, and express ourselves creatively!
- The circle. We will trace circles, build circles with various materials, and help the children recognize all the circles in our everyday world.
- Tomatoes and apples. We will encourage the children to try them!

Childcare Classroom Information (continued)

Penguins

3 year olds

Teacher: LaDawn Joyner
Aide: Sarah Landrum

Throughout the month of September, the Penguins will talk about community helpers, including fire fighters, police officers, librarians, and many more. We will examine what they do to help the community and how it affects us. We will also take this time to talk about and draw pictures of what we want to be when we grow up.

We will read various books about community helpers, such as “George Visits the Fire Station”, “Little Bill: Everyday Heroes,” and “Cruzer the Police Car.” We will also learn about community helpers who are farmers by making an apple-picking sensory table and “picking apples.”

In addition, the Penguins will also incorporate our school family jobs into our classroom. Each week, we will select a new student to do each job, ensuring that every child has an important task. This is part of our effort to integrate Conscious Discipline into our curriculum. We will also continue to learn new breathing techniques and “I Love You” rituals. We will begin using a visual display schedule, greeting routines, and bathroom routines.

Our morning learning will focus on tracing our names, the letters D, E, and F, and the numbers 3 and 4. We will also learn about the color blue and the circle by identifying items that begin with the letters and talking about objects that are blue and circular.

Otters

4 year olds

Teacher: Brittney Denton
Aide: Samantha Doughty

Now that we have all learned a little about each other in August with the All About Me theme, we will begin learning about community helpers. We will explore various professions that contribute to the well-being of the community. The Otters will also learn how they can help to make our community better. Parents and family members are encouraged to come in and talk about the job they do in our community and share how it is important to all of us.

We will also play matching games, make costumes, and identify what many different professions (doctors, nurses, fire fighters, construction workers, police officers, etc.) do for our community.

In addition, we will focus on the Conscious Discipline structures this month. We will implement meaningful jobs, bathroom routines, greeting routines, and picture rule cards. We are already seeing the benefits of these techniques each day in social interactions and the children’s emotional development.

We will also continue working on:

- Writing our names
- Counting to twenty
- Number and letter recognition
- Sight words
- Patterns
- Social and emotional development, including using our words, breathing, and connecting techniques.

Dolphins

5–6 year olds

Teacher: Kim Clay
Aide: Vanessa Schultz

During the first weeks of August, the Dolphins focused on family, friends, and learning all about our classroom environment. This month, we’re providing play activities that offer various experiences about community helpers. This will help prepare the children to become productive members of society and appreciate all that our community helpers do for us.

We will learn about the important helpers in our community, including teachers, librarians, postal workers, bus drivers, and many more. We will talk about what our parents do for a living and why their jobs are important to the community. We will also look at the wonderful things that Bloomington has to offer and explore how we can give back to our community. We will make a chart of what the Dolphins would like to be when they grow up.

We will also talk about teddy bears and learn where the name “teddy bear” originated. We will introduce new classroom friends, too; every Friday, a different student will be chosen to take our teddy bear home for the weekend.

In addition to learning about community helpers, the children will:

- Continue mini-lessons focusing on language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies
- Writing our names
- Counting
- Alphabet tracing



Monroe County United Ministries

Non-Profit Organization
US Postage Paid
Bloomington, IN 47404
Permit #186

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Save a tree! Sign up to receive this newsletter online. Email development@mcum.org, or call (812) 339-3429 x15 to make the switch.

Staff:

- Executive Director: Meri Reinhold
- Development Associate: Katie Broadfoot
- Development Associate: Megan Reece
- Emergency Services Coordinator: Cliff Edens
- Emergency Services Caseworker: Justin Smith
- 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.

 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. Our **new store hours** are 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:

Opportunity House is well stocked for your fall needs. In addition, we have great sales! We put out new items on a daily basis, so visit us often during our new hours!

We have lots of clothes for your children to wear to school. There is truly something for everyone! Come shop with us or spend a couple hours a week with our wonderful volunteers. Proceeds go to MCUM's valuable programs!