



Working Together

May 2017

Our Mission:

Monroe County United Ministries creates lasting solutions to economic, educational, and social injustice in our community through quality services, collaboration and innovation.

Our Vision:

Our vision is a community free of poverty and injustice.

Inside this issue:

- Libby’s childcare experience
- Teacher appreciation
- Hunger Games update
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Libby’s Childcare Program Experience

Lisa Louis is a single mother raising her 2-year old daughter, Libby. The Louis family is new to Bloomington, having recently moved from Indianapolis to be closer to extended family. Their relatives were willing to care for Libby while her mother worked, but Lisa recognized that an irregular schedule and being cared for by different relatives would be difficult on her daughter. She said, “Libby needed the security of a regular schedule, and I needed to know that care would always be available so I could work full-time without concerns.”



When Lisa began to investigate her options, she repeatedly read good things about Monroe County United Ministries. Lisa commented, “when I visited MCUM’s childcare center, I immediately felt at ease.”

Libby was enrolled on MCUM’s sliding fee scale, which meant less than 10% of Lisa’s income would be spent on childcare. MCUM’s sliding fee scale has made it possible for this one-income family to afford a licensed, accredited, high-quality care center that would otherwise be beyond their financial reach.

Conveniently located on the near west side of Bloomington, MCUM provides a safe place for shy Libby to feel comfortable socializing, learning, and having fun. The Louis family benefits from their new regular schedule in several ways. Everyday Libby enters the same classroom with the same teacher

and classmates, helping her slowly come out of her shell. She is in a structured learning environment with trained teachers, rather than being cared for by a babysitter or relative. Lisa is able to go to work each morning, satisfied knowing Libby will spend her day in a safe place learning and playing.

“MCUM has given a much needed sense of stability to a family that has experienced many changes and challenges in recent years,” Lisa said.

“When I visited MCUM’s childcare center, I immediately felt at ease.”

- Lisa Louis

Celebrating our Childcare Staff

Teacher appreciation week is May 1 - May 5

Thank you to all who help to make our childcare program as successful as it can be.

This month we'd like to give special thanks to our childcare staff who make MCUM's program possible:

Vanessa Andrews
Jaleecia Bell
Caramée Bryan
Tina Burress
Kim Clay
Natalie Delarose
Ashlie Egan
Denise Garrett
Rebecca Hays

Seda Jackson
Stacy Krebs
Sarah Lucas
Derrick Mackie
Jessica Mackie
Natasha Magers
Traci Mehay
Amanda Morris
Iris Palacios

Kimmie Perry
Staci Radford-Vincent
Susana Ramirez
Michelle Rodrigues
Taylor Schulz
Allison Sipes
Elizabeth Tedrow
Lauren Zarazee

HUNGER GAMES UPDATE

The third-annual MCUM Hunger Games has been a great success, boasting more than ten new Districts participating. We are still finalizing our numbers, but preliminary analysis shows the drive brought **17,237 pounds** of food and hygiene items and **\$18,483** to MCUM. Way to go!

We would like to give a huge thank you to all participants, and a special shout-out to Cub Scout pack 123. Last month, 30 scouts and their families hosted a week long food drive at Wal-Mart. Their donations will feed more than 50 families. Keep an eye out for the official Hunger Games winner announcement coming out this week on MCUM's social media.



Save the Date: “Each One, Feed One”



Mark your calendars for MCUM's annual “Each One, Feed One” Community Food Drive! This year's event will take place Friday, August 11 through Sunday, August 13.

Last year's drive raised more than 13,800 pounds of food and \$12,500 for the Self-Sufficiency Center. Volunteers contributed hours of their time to help collect, transport and sort food donations, as well as spread the word about MCUM's mission. Such community support is critical to sustain MCUM's Self-Sufficiency Center, as contributions typically decline during the summer months.

Stay tuned for details and information about volunteer opportunities.

Current Needs



Food Pantry

- Corn bread mix
- Baked beans
- Vegetables
- Canned meat/protein
- Spaghetti sauce
- Peanut butter
- Saltine crackers
- Dessert items

Cleaning Closet

- All-purpose cleaner
- Laundry soap
- Trash bags
- Dish soap
- Shampoo
- Conditioner

Kitchen

- Around 23Wx35H dry erase board
- Microwave - any size at least 1000 watt
- Baking dishes - all sizes (glass)
- Mini muffin pans (at least 24+)
- Mini bread loaf pans 6-12 contained in 1 pan
- 6 bread pans
- Cutting boards with handle
- Large cutting knives
- Pairing knives
- Gallon measuring jug
- Gallon pitcher with closable lid
- MP3 Player
- Large storage bins with lids
- Medium storage bins with lids
- Small storage bins with lids
- Dry erase markers

Office

- Barstool with a back

Did you know we have been serving up to 40% more people each month?

Please share this list to help us collect more food and meet the demand.

Spring has Sprung at MCUM!

MCUM kicked off spring with the 13th annual *Spring Into Action! Luncheon & Auction* April 30 at the Bloomington and Monroe County Convention Center. More than 250 guests enjoyed a delicious meal, an impressive selection of silent and live auction items, and a fun afternoon socializing with fellow MCUM supporters. We are still crunching the final numbers, but we expect to have raised over \$25,000 for Compass Early Learning Center and our Self-Sufficiency Center. All of us at MCUM would like to thank everyone who attended or volunteered at the event!

MCUM extends a special thank you to the committed volunteers who helped to make this event possible: Jubilee Group from First United Methodist Church, IU's Community Plunge, Michaela Barber, Judy Bush, Alex Dowland, Suzanne Faulk, Elizabeth Johnson, Lilly O'Connell, Carol Peterman, Diana Smith and Wendy VanderZee. We would also like to recognize our sponsors: Bloomfield State Bank, Bungler and Robertson, First Insurance Group, Heflin Industries, Hilliard Lyons, Innovative Financial Solutions, Ivy Tech Community College, Olson & Co. CPAs, and The Peoples State Bank.



We have BIG news.

If you missed our Spring Luncheon, you may not have heard our big announcement: MCUM will be opening an additional childcare site and re-naming our childcare program **Compass Early Learning Center**.

We receive calls every day from parents wanting their children to be a part of our nationally-accredited program. This program is popular because of our sliding fee scale and high quality, making it affordable for all in need of a safe, educational place for their children. Our board members determined expanding our childcare program to additional locations will help us achieve our mission to create lasting solutions to educational injustice in our community.

The Compass Early Learning Center will now have two locations: Compass North and Compass Downtown. Compass North is our original location (827 W. 14th Court Bloomington, IN) and Compass Downtown will be located at First United Methodist Church (219 E. 4th St. Bloomington, IN). Compass Downtown will be a satellite of Compass North and will be mirroring our already highly-acclaimed program by maintaining the same standards and accreditation. We hope Compass Downtown will make it easier to for more Bloomington families to reach the childcare they need. Upon opening, Compass Downtown will accommodate 60 children; we hope to expand that number in the coming months. Compass Downtown will open in August 2017, and we are now taking applications.



Monroe County United Ministries

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Hours of Operation

Self Sufficiency Center

Monday, Thursday. & Friday

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

Childcare

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

Main Office

Monday - Friday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Leadership Staff

Executive Director: Erin Predmore
Development Director: Katie Broadfoot
Office Manager: Shannon Hampton
Childcare Director: Traci Mehay
Education Coordinator: Tina Burress

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:

We are in need of new volunteers! We offer a variety of positions including sorting, pricing, and cashiering and would love to have you join us. Call Nicola at (812) 336-2443 to learn more about becoming a volunteer.

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



Please recycle this newsletter or share it with a friend.