



The Newsletter of Monroe County United Ministries

Working Together

November 2015

We Believe

With the first of November comes a very special time of year. A time our spirits soar, our gratitude is overflowing, and, maybe most prevalent of all – a time to stand for what we believe in.

At MCUM, we believe in many things.

We believe in food that keeps our bellies full and our bodies strong. So far this year, MCUM has fed 2,835 people. Over 40,000 Monroe County residents aren't sure where their next meal will come from. Will you help us feed more?



We believe in a childhood that is enriching for all children. 130 children are part of MCUM's nationally accredited early childhood education program. Yet, only 25% of children in our community have spots in licensed childcare programs. Will you help us educate more?



We believe in roofs, electricity, warmth, and safety. We have kept 47 families from losing their homes through financial assistance from MCUM this year. Will you help us reach more?

We believe in innovation, collaboration, and YOU. We can't do any of the things in front of us without your help. We are here for Monroe County, and we are a reflection of our belief that each person here deserves educational, economic, and social justice.

Do you believe? Join the movement today to make a difference this year.

Send in your 2015 tax-deductible gift today!

What Your Gift Can Do:

\$1,000

- Provide a 4-day supply of food and stabilizing case management for 16 families
- Provide quality education, food, & health screenings for one 2-year old for one month

\$750

- Support 90 people with items from MCUM's closet, such as: diapers, shampoo, and Pine Sol
- Provide 75% of a child's daily nutritional requirements for one year

\$500

- Provide 50 vouchers to Opportunity House for clothing, shoes, and necessary home items
- Support MCUM's parent resource workshops for one year

\$325

- Prevent homelessness for one working Bloomington family
- Provide swimming lessons for one classroom of 4-year olds

\$150

- Pay for the food pantry for one day
- Purchase a new book for every child in MCUM's program

\$50

- Supply case management for one family searching for housing, food, clothing, or work
- Buy one week of childcare for a child enrolled on MCUM's sliding fee scale.

What difference will you make?

Current Needs

Food Pantry

- Canned tuna
- Spam
- Canned and dried fruit

Cleaning Closet

- Laundry soap
- Dish soap
- Women's underwear
- Men's underwear
- Women's sock
- Men's socks
- Dilutable cleaner
- Spray cleaner

Childcare

- Fabric (1 yard or bigger) to make sit-upons for the kids
- Shoe box-sized plastic containers

Office

- Pens
- 19" Flat-screen monitors
- 8.5x11" paper
- Refrigerator

Opportunity House

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

If you have items you're willing to donate to Opportunity House, please drop them off at the store at 907 W. 11th Street.

It is the season to make a difference

There are all kinds of ways to help MCUM help others this holiday season, from food drives to volunteer gift wrapping - but some of them of them don't even require you to leave your living room.

Leave a legacy

Give the gift of self-sufficiency this year with a MCUM Honor Card. For every \$25 donated, you may claim one honor card to give to a loved one indicating you have made a gift to MCUM in his or her honor. We will send your honor card(s) with your gift acknowledgment. These cards are not date-specific, so once you have them, you can gift them at any time.



One extra click for MCUM

Earn FREE money for MCUM while you do your holiday shopping online! When you shop online, MCUM can receive up to 4% of the cost of your purchase with no additional cost to you. It's so easy and it makes a difference! Please consider making just ONE extra click for MCUM:

1. Visit: fundsponge.com/groups/Monroe_County_United_Ministries
2. Hit: "Shop Now"
3. The site loads its partner sites like Amazon, Expedia, Best Buy, and more
4. Choose where you'd like to shop
5. Shop until you drop! (No registration required!)



Thanks to these people for making a difference!

- Judy, Diane, Amy and Alice for their help prepping MCUM's end-of-year mailing!
- Jill Argenbright and the Opportunity House Board for having us at their volunteer luncheon and for all they do to support MCUM.

New Staff Spotlight

- Alex Dowland, ACE Program Intern

For IU freshman Alex Dowland, choosing to work for MCUM ended up changing his life plans. Dowland is studying Business Management, and said before he came to MCUM, he imagined himself as an eventual company CEO. But since he started here, his dreams shifted from the for-profit sector to the non-profit sector.

“As soon as I started working here, I saw the good that MCUM was doing,” he said. “I love to hear that we are positively impacting the community.”

Dowland is here in a temporary position, going through the Advocates for Community Engagement program at IU as benefit of being a direct-admit to Kelley School of Business. But even though it’s temporary, Dowland says he sees himself working with MCUM for the duration of his college career.

“It’s my goal to be here for four years and cement the position as full-time,” he said. He wants the other ACE’s that come after him to enter a position that is active and vibrant and key to outreach that MCUM provides to the community. “My biggest goal is to leave a legacy for the ACE’s that come after me,” he said.



How to hold a successful food drive

Okay, so you want to help out this holiday season by collecting food for MCUM. Easy, right? You know lots of good people who’d love to help the hungry so you want to hold a food drive. It’s a wonderful idea --- but here are a few tips to make sure you can maximize the results.

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 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.





Monroe County United Ministries

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Save a tree!

Sign up to receive our new eNewsletter.
Email development@mcum.org to make the switch!

Staff

- Executive Director: Erin Predmore
- Development Associate: Katie Broadfoot
- Emergency Services Coordinator: Cliff Edens
- Emergency Services Caseworker: Jennifer Brown
- Emergency Services Caseworker: Sandy Clothier
- Office Manager: Shannon Hampton
- Childcare Director: Traci Mehay
- Education Coordinator: Tina Burress

Hours of Operation

Office
Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Emergency Services
Mon. & Thur 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Tues., Wed & Fri. 8 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.

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.

 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.

The Opportunity House is beginning to bring out winter clothing, and we are fully stocked with lots of Christmas and Thanksgiving decor, as well as cards and gifts.

Come in and see what we have--and at such low prices!

Our Publicity Committee has been hard at work trying to get people to know what we sell as well as where we are. We have recently had booths at the Farmer's Market, Ivy Tech, and IU trying to let students know how shopping with us can benefit them.

If you have extra time on your hands, join our great volunteers! We get a lot done and have such a good time.

Jill Argenbright