



Working Together

October 2015

A place to play

MCUM gets new playgrounds

Thirty-five years ago, MCUM had a beautiful new, top-of-the-line playground installed. Generations of children enjoyed the benefits of play, like physical fitness, learning to work in groups, share, negotiate, resolve conflicts, and learn self-advocacy skills -- among other socio-developmental skills.

Now, decades later, MCUM's playground is shiny, new, and soon to be the talk of the town! After receiving a generous grant from The City of Bloomington, two new playgrounds belong to MCUM and the children that play on them. Once the structures are fully installed, MCUM's playground will be used regularly by the 130 children served each year in MCUM's Childcare Program and the 130 children involved in after school programs at the Bloomington Boys and Girls Club. In the evenings, the playground will be open to children in the neighborhood who previously had only one playground within safe walking distance.

Today, red, blue, and yellow-colored play structures brighten MCUM's outdoor area and the entire Crestmont neighborhood. MCUM's staff, parents, and students alike are ecstatic about the new equipment and the joy it has already brought to the community. Education Coordinator Tina Burress says, "[it's] what we want, to be a welcoming place." Make sure to check out the new playgrounds on your next visit through town!



- *Left: A cutout in the preschool playground. Burress said the new facilities are developmentally more appropriate.*
- *Right: "Rock" climbing on the new playground.*



Thank You!

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

- Melissa Spas for delivering Mission Moments at First United Methodist Church.
- First Presbyterian Church for inviting Erin to speak during their service.
- First United Church for inviting us to table at their Kettlefest celebration.
- The Youth Day of Service volunteers from St. Thomas Lutheran Church for their help sorting and bagging groceries in the food pantry.
- Gail Bridges and the Bloomington Photography Club for their donation of a Canon PowerShot S30.
- Ivy Tech Community College & Indiana University for hosting MCUM and Opportunity House at your fall student involvement fairs.

Did You Know?

MCUM accepts Ensure and other nutritional drinks for our food pantry. Many of our clients face health programs that make it difficult to maintain weight or eat solid food. If you or someone you know has and no longer uses these products, please consider donating them to MCUM.

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 socks
- Men's socks
- Dillutable cleaner
- Spray cleaner

Childcare

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

Office

- Pens
- 8.5" x 11" address labels
- Masking tape

Opportunity House

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

MCUM also 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.

Thanks to our generous volunteers!

Thanks to all of our volunteers for being giving with your time and faithful with your service. MCUM relies on the work that you contribute to help us do more for the community. Without you, we couldn't do it all. Thanks to all volunteers and especially the following for the past month of service:

- Loretta Alonso
- Carolyn Bilo
- Marti Black
- Louise Bilsh
- Greg Claretto
- John Sgro
- Carmen Diaz
- Solustrima Garcia
- Larry Jacobs
- Kayne Mettert
- E. Veronica Lenard
- Susie Trisler
- Judy & Leon McDougal
- Valerie Merriam
- Donna Michael
- Lauren Plavnick
- Samantha Schoolman
- Jean & Murl Summerville
- Betty & Paul Schoonmaker

Opportunity House Running "Short"



Cliff and Katie are no strangers to the frustration of finding clothing that fits properly.

Each month, MCUM provides Opportunity House vouchers to more than 60 individuals. When jobs require specific clothing items or when people do not have essentials for their homes, like bedding, these vouchers allow them to visit Opportunity House and pick out exactly what they need.

While Opp. House does its best to remain stocked with clothing that serves a range of size needs, recently they've run "short" on plus-sized clothing. As our tallest and smallest MCUM staff members, pictured left, demonstrate, people come in all shapes and sizes. Can you imagine fitting these two into the same size?

If you've got any plus- or petite-sized clothing items, please consider donating it to Opportunity House. Donations are accepted Mondays through Saturdays from 8:30 AM - 3 PM.

Having a well-rounded stock of clothing to choose from means that people of all heights, shapes, sizes, and style preferences can find something to wear at Opp House! We value our partnership with Opportunity House and we are so grateful to all of you who donate your items!

Don't Forget:

When you shop at Opportunity House, you're supporting MCUM's programs.

"Like" Opportunity House on Facebook to stay up-to-date with the store's inventory and weekly sales.



New staff spotlight:

- Steve Thomas, Volunteer Coordinator
- Lyndsay Jones, Communications Intern



Continuing a legacy of service

Steve Thomas might be new to MCUM, but working in non-profits is nothing new for him. Before he moved to Bloomington earlier this year, he'd spent the greater part of five years involved with various service organizations across the country. For three years, he worked in the AmeriCorps program. Last year, he lived in Philadelphia, where he worked for Habitat for Humanity. "I like to travel and move," he said.

Grad school brought him to Bloomington - he's a graduate student in the SPEA program at IU where he studies non-profit management and international development - and grad school brought him to MCUM. "I'm with the Service Corps Fellowship through SPEA," Thomas explained. Thomas said he was interested in working with non-profits, and after several interviews and meetings with various other organizations in town, he chose MCUM. "Most jobs have really narrow job descriptions," Thomas said. "You're going to be filling out this form, you're going to be doing that." MCUM wasn't like that. There's opportunity for growth here."

Even though he's only been here since Aug. 31, Thomas said that job has been rewarding so far.

"New ideas are welcome here," Thomas said.



Jumping into a new adventure

Hi! I'm MCUM's communications intern for the 2015-2016 school year. Among other media-oriented things, I put together the newsletter you're reading! (This was my first though.) I'm really excited to get to be a part of what MCUM is doing. I had the opportunity to choose between MCUM and one other non-profit and I chose MCUM for my internship location without any hesitation. I'm looking forward to meeting more people here, doing more work and being part of the good that MCUM is doing. When I'm not here, I'm probably in class at IU - I'm a junior-year journalism major - and I write for the Indiana Daily Student. I love journalism and communications studies, and being on the PR end of media is proving to be an adventure so far. Here's to more of them! -Lyndsay

Meet new caseworkers Sandy & Jenn and ACE intern, Alex next month!



Monroe County United Ministries

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

827 West 14th Court
Bloomington, IN 47404

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812.339.2912 fax

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www.mcum.org



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Save a tree!

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

Staff

Executive Director: Erin Predmore
 Development Director: 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 & Emergency Services
 Monday & Thursday: 8 a.m.- 5 p.m.
 Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday: 8 a.m. - 4 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 and 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 Halloween decorations and costumes!

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