



Working Together

June 2014

Grow MCUM's Future with Matchstick



Monroe County United Ministries is like a tree. It bears fruits that assist in homelessness prevention, feeding families, and preparing children for success in school. Like all trees, MCUM requires a lasting legacy of community support to ensure survival through the toughest conditions.

MCUM welcomes support in a variety of forms, and the support that will help our tree's roots stay secure for years into the future is MCUM's endowment.

Today and for the whole year, MCUM is participating in a unique opportunity from the Community Foundation of

Bloomington and Monroe County: donations to MCUM's endowment will be matched (2:1) by the Community Foundation. MCUM has set a goal of adding \$10,000 to its endowment this year and must reach its share of the goal (\$6,667) before funds will be matched – **can MCUM count on you?**

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MCUM Childcare Re-accredited and Recognized for Excellence

MCUM is proud to announce its successful re-accreditation with the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). Accredited childcare centers must meet requirements including being licensed and in good standing; having a first-aid and CPR-certified staff member present around each group of children at all times; and not using physical punishment or psychological manipulation. Program administrators and teaching staff must also meet a number of requirements.

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Mark Your Calendars: "Each One, Feed One" Coming August 22-24

Save the date for MCUM's ninth annual "Each One, Feed One" Community Food Drive! This year's event will take place Friday, August 22, through Sunday, August 24.

The goal this year is to collect 15,500 pounds of food over the three-day period—an ambitious jump from the amount of food collected during last year's drive, but on par with earlier years' donations.

Last year, generous community members contributed more than 12,800 pounds of food and \$1,500 in cash to the initiative. About 200 volunteers gave 740 hours of time to help collect, transport, and sort food donations, as well as spread the word about MCUM's mission. Community support is critical to the success of the drive, which restocks MCUM's Food Pantry after summer months, when donations typically decline.

Want to help ensure your neighbors have access to food in times of crisis? This community effort will again rely on 200+ volunteers for a variety of tasks, from event planning to distributing flyers and sorting donations on the big weekend.

Contact Meri Reinhold today at 812-339-3429 x11 or mcum@mcum.org to learn more about the impact you can make with just a couple hours of your time!

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:

- Juice
- Ziploc bags
- Paper towels

Cleaning Closet Needs

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

- Hair conditioner
- Floor cleaner (e.g. Mr. Clean, Pinesol)
- Spray cleaners (general purpose, but disinfecting kind is the best)
- Toilet bowl cleaner
- Women's size 16-20 underwear
- Adult socks

Childcare Needs

Spring has sprung! The Childcare Program needs all kinds of outdoor supplies, including:

- Dry erase markers
- Construction paper
- AA batteries
- Shoe box-size 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

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.

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

"Each One, Feed One" Community Food Drive Volunteers (August 22-24):

200+ volunteers are needed for a range of tasks, from event planning in the coming months to distributing flyers at stores, picking up or sorting donations, and packing donated food into the pantry during the big weekend.

Contact Meri at mcum@mcum.org or (812) 339-3429 x11 to find out how you can help!

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 managing the refrigerator, and coordinate pick-ups from the food bank. Contact Cliff at help@mcum.org.

75th Anniversary Assistants:

Volunteers are needed for a variety of activities. Want to help plan an event, represent MCUM at the farmer's market, or volunteer for day-of tasks like set-up or tear-down? Check out 75th anniversary highlights on page 4, and email development@mcum.org to get involved!

Opportunity House Volunteers:

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

Grow MCUM's Future with Matchstick

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As endowment funds grow, they ensure MCUM can continue to assist the community for years to come. These funds also generate interest income, paid to MCUM each year to support programs. Your gift through the Matchstick Initiative will be stretched through this special matching opportunity, supporting MCUM in 2014 and providing stability in MCUM's future.

To take advantage of this tax-deductible matching opportunity, note "MCUM/ Matchstick" in the memo line of your check and mail your gift directly to:

Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County
Attn: Matchstick Initiative
101 West Kirkwood Suite 321
Bloomington, IN 47404

If you have questions about the ways MCUM's endowment benefits the agency's essential programs or would like to know how much more is needed for MCUM to reach its fundraising goal, contact Katie Broadfoot at 812-339-3429 x18 or fundraising@mcum.org.

MCUM Childcare Re-accredited and Recognized for Excellence

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In addition to the recent news on NAEYC re-accreditation, Chances and Services for Youth (CASY) also recently recognized MCUM along with ten other childcare centers in West Central Indiana.

"We want to thank these programs for continuing to prioritize healthy environments in early care and education settings and look forward to continuing to work together to support children," the CASY email release said.

MCUM was recognized specifically for its nutrition education initiative, which has introduced "food experiences" into the children's classroom environment, as well as into their meal times in the cafeteria. Children have the opportunity to sample new fruits and vegetables each month through this component of the curriculum.

You're Invited! MCUM's Exhibit Reception, Friday, June 6, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

MCUM is featured in the Community Voices Gallery of the Monroe County History Center through the end of June. Stop by the History Center on Friday, June 6, between 6:00 and 7:30 p.m. (during the downtown gallery walk) for light refreshments and to connect with other MCUM supporters!

Admission to the History Center is free and open to the public during the reception. Come see MCUM's exhibit and enjoy the rest of the Center, too!

Thank You!

We would like to extend special thanks to...

- The congregations, businesses, community and school groups, and individuals who made this year's Feinstein Challenge a success.
- The friendly MCUM volunteers who will staff an information table for MCUM at the Farmer's Market this month. (Stop by and say hello!)
- The Monroe County History Center for hosting and supporting an exhibit featuring MCUM from April through June, as well as an exhibit reception.
- Student volunteers from the Undergraduate Interfraternity Institute (UIFI) at IU.
- Freida Hoffman for reaching out to her congregation on behalf of MCUM.
- Bryan Gilmer for sharing resources on poverty education.
- Macy Hughes for her insight on event planning for youth populations.

Sponsor a Swimmer

MCUM preschoolers are visiting the pool again this summer! Swimming supports motor skill development, teaches children about water safety, and is a fun way for them to cool off.

Parents pay an additional fee for their children to participate. Your gift of \$28 can provide a "swimmership" for a child. Get in a summer state of mind by sending in your donation today!

Congregation Spotlight: First United Church

by Katie Broadfoot

Monroe County's faith community plays a big role in supporting MCUM. This month, MCUM recognizes and extends a heart-felt thank you to First United Church for its commitment. So far in 2013, First United is setting an excellent example for other groups in the faith community by demonstrating all forms of support (congregation giving, member giving, food donations, and volunteering) to MCUM.

Previously known as First Baptist/United Church of Christ, First United Church is one of MCUM's nine founding congregations. Since 1984, First United Church has donated nearly \$300,000 as a congregation, and individual members of First United have contributed another \$350,000 over the same time period.* In addition to financial support, First United is one of MCUM's biggest Food Pantry and Cleaning Closet donors, with a collection site in the church for church-goers to drop off food and household items each week. This support has amounted to almost 51,000 pounds of food over time! With its vested interest in MCUM, First United also contributes many hours of volunteer service, with over 1,000 hours donated by dedicated congregation members.

MCUM was honored to present a "Mission Moment" to the First United congregation in November 2013. Additionally, First United's Board of Outreach held a hat and mitten drive for MCUM's preschoolers in December. Because of its dedication to sustaining MCUM's services, First United has been represented on MCUM's Board of Directors for many years. Thank you, First United, for all you have done and continue to do for MCUM and for your neighbors in need!

* Refers to individuals who have identified themselves to MCUM as members of the congregation. Donation total is not necessarily indicative of all giving among members of the congregation.

Thank You, Pantry Donors

MCUM depends on donations to make a difference for local households in crisis. Listed here are some of the groups and individuals who have recently contributed food, cleaning supplies, and/or hygiene products:

- Daughters of Isabella
- Jef & Pam Davidson
- First Christian Church
- First Presbyterian Church
- First United Church
- First United Methodist Church
- Good Neighbors Home Extension Club
- Hoosier Courts Nursery School
- Jackson Creek Middle School
- Opportunity House
- Basilla Jean Rogers
- St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church
- St. Paul United Methodist Church
- St. Thomas Lutheran Evangelical Church
- Trinity Episcopal Church
- Unitarian Universalist 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 activities below. No time to volunteer? That's okay—grab a friend and visit MCUM in the following places throughout the year!

Through the end of June
Community Voices Gallery Exhibit at the Monroe County History Center

Friday, June 6, at 6:00 p.m.
Exhibit Reception at the Monroe County History Center

Saturdays in June
MCUM at the Farmer's Market

July
Display in Showers Building

Friday, July 4
MCUM in the 4th of July Parade

Saturday, October 4
Community Open House at MCUM

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

In addition, MCUM will hold its traditional events throughout the year. Keep an eye on future newsletters for all announcements and updates!

Traveling this summer?

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

“Conscious Discipline” for MCUM Childcare

Following successful healthy living and nutrition education initiatives, the MCUM Childcare Program has begun a new program focused on building students’ social and emotional capacities and resolving behavioral issues. The program, called Conscious Discipline®, offers trainings and resources to teachers and parents to help them foster positive behavior in their children. Importantly, the program also empowers children to recognize their feelings and be part of the solution when responding to difficult situations.

Tina Burress, Education Coordinator, is leading trainings for staff and parents. Session 1, “Becoming Brain Smart,” focused on the ways the brain operates and the importance of building brain connections. Three Session 1 offerings in May drew 16 parents and 14 staff attendees. One excited parent reflected, “I am so happy that you are offering this opportunity. My wife and I are looking forward to improving our communication with each other and our children!” Burress, who plans to attend the Conscious Discipline Summer Institute in 2015, explained: “Today’s society is very distracted. Children are watching too much television; parents are trying to balance multiple jobs, school, etc. Challenging behaviors continue to increase to dangerous levels. Conscious Discipline will give the parents the tools they need to guide their children to become successful adults and teach parents the importance of being ‘present’ with their children.”

As the only local agency accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children that focuses specifically on low-income working families, MCUM will bring the Conscious Discipline® program to some of the children and families in Monroe County most in need of support. The program will also positively affect participants’ interactions with other members of the community now and in the future, as children raised under this kind of philosophy grow and contribute to their families and society.

Thank You, Volunteers

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

- Loretta Alonso
- Jessica Beckman
- Amanda Behnke
- Kara Birt
- Rachel Case
- Greg Claretto
- Rachel Colegrove
- Su Cowling
- Andrea Cox
- Kaitlyn Gorman
- Sarah Griffin
- Lauren Haney
- Sidney Harris
- Madeline Hayford
- Larry Jacobs
- Aysha Jemison
- E. Veronica Lenard
- Sarah Lobien
- Judy McDougal
- Leon McDougal
- Valerie Merriam
- Ben Mertz
- Chris Meyer
- Donna Michael
- Emily Milnes
- Makenzie Monastro
- Joyce Nyakato
- Naomi Orsay
- Jasmyn Powell
- Nancy Russell
- Olivia Sanchez-Felix
- Betty Schoonmaker
- Paul Schoonmaker
- John Sgro
- Melissa Spas
- Paige Stamper
- Jean Summerville
- Murl Summerville
- Susie Trisler
- Daniel Versweyveld
- Anna Vittori
- Kiana Werner

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

June 2 Conscious Discipline Session 1
(make-up, 5:15-7:30 p.m.)

June 16 Conscious Discipline Session 2
(5:15-7:30 p.m.)

June 21 Conscious Discipline Session 2
(9:00-11:00 a.m.)

June 26 Conscious Discipline Session 2
(5:15-7:30 p.m.)

Preschool/Kindergarten Graduation

Congratulations to the children who graduated from MCUM's childcare program on May 20!

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 812-339-3429 x10 or childcare@mcum.org for more information. Thanks for your support!

Walk in the 4th of July Parade!

Sign up by June 6 to walk in the 4th of July Parade with your child! Children must be with a parent or guardian to participate. Waivers and sign-up sheets are available in the front office. Contact Katie at fundraising@mcum.org or 812-339-3429 x18 with any questions.

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

Hooray for summer! It is warm enough for us to do our water play! The Puffins will play with sprinklers, bubbles, water tables, and other fun stuff. The Puffins will also have a sand table with diggers and shovels to scoop sand and have a sensory experience outside. Besides, most children just like to be outdoors!

The next subject we will work on is summer safety, such as the use of sunscreen and a hat to protect our skin and eyes from the sun. Also, we talk about how we hold hands when we have to cross the street or use a sidewalk. We look to see if any cars are coming so we are safe!

We will also continue working on our numbers, color, letters, and shapes. These are the numbers 1-5, the colors brown and green, the ABC's song, and the star and diamond for shapes. We sing, "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" to help us with the shapes and we will sing many sun songs, such as, "Mr. Sun," and, "You Are My Sunshine."

The children have ample opportunities to explore their environments in the classroom and outside. They look at the trees and seeds that fall on the ground, and they begin to master activities played in the classroom. Puzzles and peg boards are some of the activities children like to do, and most are beginning to really master the art of putting pieces in their places on the puzzle and the peg boards!

It should be a fun month and a fun summer!

Seahorses

2.5-3 year olds

Teacher: Jessica Mackie

Throughout June, the Seahorses will be talking about summer fun! We will share all the things that we delight in doing with our families, learning ways that others enjoy their summer months, and even participating in some extremely fun activities outside!

The books we will read this month include:

- *Baby Loves Summer* by Karen Katz
- *Beaches and Bicycles* by Rebecca Fjelland Davis
- *How Do You Know it's Summer?* by Ruth Owen
- *Flip Flop* by Dana Meachen Rau
- *It's Vacation Time* by Lerryn Korda

In addition to celebrating all things summer, the Seahorses will discuss letters of the alphabet, numbers, shapes, and colors. We will talk about things in our environment that begin with certain letters, play number games to familiarize the children with numbers, create shapes with play-dough, and paint with the colors of the month. Some other activities we will take part in, as well as the specific letters, numbers, shapes and colors we will cover during June are:

- Letters: Nn-Zz
- Numbers: 1-5
- Shapes: the star and the diamond
- Colors: yellow, green, and brown
- Food experiences with cherries and lettuce
- Top Secret Father's Day surprises!

June will also bring water play for the Seahorses! We will spend time on the playground with water tables, sprinklers, bubbles and tons of fun in the sun!

Childcare Classroom Information (continued)

Penguins

3 year olds

Teacher: LaDawn Joyner
Aide: Sarah Landrum

During June, the Penguins will talk about summer fun. We will do a lot of activities outside and talk about what our families do in the summer. We will also start go to the pool once a week!

We will read *Froggy Learns to Swim*, *Zoomer's Summer Snowstorm*, *Little Critter at Scout Camp*, and *Click Clack Splash Splash*. We will talk about the books' authors and who the characters are and what they do. We will continue to review the alphabet focusing on letters Nn-Zz.

In math this month we will work on positional words, addition, and subtraction. We will make shapes out of play-dough while focusing on the star and diamond. We will paint with yellow, green, and brown as we review these colors. We will work on our counting as we do the calendar each morning and review the numbers 1-5.

We will talk about our five senses this month also. We will describe various foods using our senses. We will do science experiments outside that involve Mentos and Coka Cola and baking soda and vinegar.

We will paint with pool noodles and flowers. We will also make some paper plate fish! Since Flag Day is in June we will be making our own flags. Lastly we will make bubble prints.

We will also talk about our fathers, grandfathers, uncles, and any other special male role models in our lives. We will talk about what we love most about them. We will do a top secret project for Father's Day.

Otters

4 year olds

Teacher: Brittney Denton
Aide: Keelea Kile

The theme of June is Summer Fun! We will fly kites, swim, go on scavenger hunts, and do many more "summer" activities. We will read books about summer, learn about the season, sing songs, and learn fun activities that we can do at school and at home with our parents.

June has two main holidays that we will learn about. The week before Flag Day (June 14) we will learn about our national and state flags as well as many other recognizable flags. We will also discuss flag patterns and symbols. We will talk about the fifty stars and the stripes, and we will make flags this week too.

Also, June 15th is a very important day. It is the day of the year that we celebrate our fathers or the important men in our lives. The Otters will make something special for these men the week before the holiday.

Parents may go to the pool with their child's class if they wish. The Otters will go to the pool every Thursday from 10:00-11:00, if any parents are interested in attending with us.

In addition to all of the summer learning, we will continue to work on:

- Writing our names, sight words, and numbers
- Counting and sorting
- Personal care (teeth brushing, dressing, shoe tying, etc.)
- Address and phone numbers
- Communication (verbalizing thoughts, feelings, and actions)
- Alphabet recognition
- Classroom and school expectations

Dolphins

5-6 year olds

Teacher: Kim Clay
Aide: Vanessa Schultz

It is really starting to warm up and summer is right around the corner! It is time for the Dolphins to get into the groove of summer and enjoy the great outdoors! We will begin this month by talking about water and swimming. As we begin our adventure of going to Mills Pool, we will go over the rules for pool safety and the importance of wearing sunscreen. We will talk about the various places you can find water and what it can be used for. We will have our sensory table filled with water and different types of water toys. We will continue to celebrate fun in the sun by discussing the great outdoors and what we like to do with our families. We will discover what types of creatures live in the woods and what they do to survive.

Other summer fun topics we will discuss are:

- Camping
- Ice cream
- Flowers
- Watermelon

Also in the month of June, we will honor the male figures in our life. The Dolphins will share stories about their dads (or other male role models) and tell us what makes these men so special. We will think of ways that we can help our dads and show them how much that mean to us. Dads, look for little surprise this month!



Monroe County United Ministries

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Return service requested.

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Bloomington, IN 47404

812.339.3429 *phone*
812.339.2912 *fax*

mcum@mcum.org
www.mcum.org



Member Agency

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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: Kate Zilvinskis
 Emergency Services Coordinator: Cliff Edens
 Emergency Services Caseworker: Justin Smith
 Office Manager: Shannon Hampton
 Childcare Director: Traci Mehay
 Education Coordinator: Tina Burruss

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.

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.

Opportunity House is stocked with everything you need for the summer season and priced to sell. Come in to find abundant spring and summer clothes, toys, decorations, and many other unique items.

New volunteers are always needed and welcome! Come visit with us to get out of the house for a few hours each week or month. As garage sale season gets into full-swing, also keep in mind that Opp House is a great place to bring "leftovers." Or, simply donate your items to us and save yourself a lot of work! Proceeds go to a great cause, to benefit the children and clients of MCUM.

 Please recycle this newsletter
or share it with a friend.