



## Dear Neighbors,

This has been a year of exciting changes at MCUM. Through generous donations, grants, and community support, we were fortunate to physically and programatically renovate our Emergency Services program into the Self-Sufficiency Center. During the renovation, we transitioned to a client-choice food pantry whereby clients enter our shopping area and, with assistance from volunteers, select the food items they prefer for their family.

Visitors to MCUM have welcomed the change as it means they are getting more of the foods they will actually eat. Our new method of coaching and promoting self-sufficiency also enables our guests to experience a stronger sense of empowerment by having the opportunity to make choices - which is rare among the population we serve.

So far this year, we have served **2,587 families**, which is a 14% increase over this point in time last year. This was possible thanks to more than 42,000 pounds of donated food, cleaning, and hygiene items. In order to meet this increased demand, we hope to collect another 30,000 pounds by the end of December. *Will you help?*

Please contact me at [jwebeck@mcum.org](mailto:jwebeck@mcum.org) or by calling 812-339-3429 ext. 13 or designate your interest on the enclosed Holiday Commitment Sheet if you'd like to participate. I am happy to assist you in any way to help you be successful.

Thank you for helping to make the holidays brighter for families in Monroe County.

Sincerely,



Jenn Webeck  
Self-Sufficiency Coach



## Tips for Organizing a Successful Food Drive

It's easier than you think! Any group—school, workplace, neighborhood, club, or congregation—can serve as a host. Not only will the food drive help MCUM, but it will bring your community closer together in pursuit of a common goal.

Here are our recommended steps to success:

- 1) Set a timeline and a location for drop-off.
- 2) Announce your food drive for MCUM and explain why it is important!  
*We would be happy to help by providing fact sheets, bulletin inserts, or presentations.*
- 3) Promote your drive.  
*Use the flyer on the back of this sheet if you'd like!*
- 3) Deliver food or arrange for us to pick it up.
- 4) Congratulate your group on being a vital part of MCUM's mission!



**Help Fight Hunger**

**Please Give Generously**

Thousands of families come to MCUM each year seeking emergency assistance. Help us restock our pantry and closet and reach our goal of collecting 80,000 pounds of items!

**Here's what we're seeking this winter:**

**Most Needed Food Items**

- Canned fruit
- Boxed cereal
- Canned meat  
*(Salmon, chili, chicken, corned beef, ham, Spam)*
- Canned vegetable and tomato soup
- 1 lb. bags of rice
- Corn bread mix



**Most Needed Closet Items**

- Adult socks
- Boys underwear (all sizes)
- Laundry detergent
- General cleaners (Mr. Clean, Pine-Sol, etc.)

**Other Needs**

baking mixes, powdered milk, boxed potatoes, pudding, Ramen noodles, "Helper" meals, flour, sugar, oil, canned mixed vegetables, girls underwear (all sizes)