

# Working Together

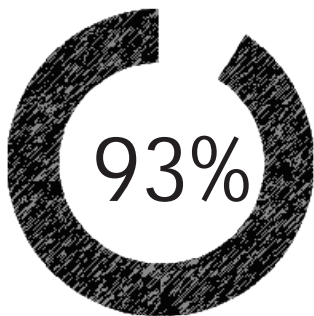
November 2014

## Celebrate 75 Years by Making an Impact in Your Community

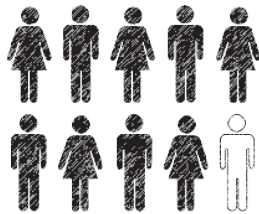
As MCUM's 75th anniversary year draws to a close, we give thanks for the loyal supporters who helped us reach this important milestone. Over the years, countless Monroe County residents in need have obtained the resources necessary to achieve self-sufficiency due to the generosity of caring community members like you. As we look toward the future, we are counting on your gift to ensure the long-term success of MCUM's Childcare and Emergency Services programs.

Your donation helps provide working families with the critical support necessary to make ends meet. Nine out of ten childcare parents said enrolling their child in MCUM's program has improved their educational and employment opportunities. Ninety-three percent of emergency services clients said the assistance they received from MCUM met their needs, and 80% were less worried about having enough to eat.

Join us in a final anniversary celebration by making your contribution today. A gift of any size makes an important difference in the lives of MCUM's preschoolers and emergency services clients. Please make your tax-deductible donation by using the enclosed envelope, contributing online at [www.mcum.org](http://www.mcum.org), or calling (812) 339-3429 x15. Thank you for being part of MCUM's history!



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## Holiday Giving Opportunities

Your family, congregation or club can take part in many special activities this time of year to make the season bright for Monroe County families in need, including:

- Donating a ham or turkey for holiday food baskets
- Organizing a toy drive to collect items needed for MCUM's childcare program
- Honoring a loved one with a donation to provide affordable childcare or basic needs assistance to a neighbor
- Donating a food basket to ensure families in need can have a festive holiday meal
- Collecting socks and underwear so adults and children can stay warm and clean this winter
- Making a contribution to the rent and utilities fund so a local family can stay in their home during the holidays.

For more information about how you can make a difference, visit [www.mcum.org](http://www.mcum.org) and click on "Holiday Giving Opportunities."

## 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:

- 1 lb packages
- Drinks
- ground beef
- Canned fruit
- Whole chickens
- Pudding
- Cooking oil
- Dry beans (1-lb bags)
- Sugar
- Tuna
- Baking mix

## Cleaning Closet Needs

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

- Diapers (size 4)
- Razors
- Bleach
- Scrubbies
- Baby wash
- Paper towels
- Cleaners (spray, floor, and general)
- Kleenex

## Childcare Needs

The Childcare Program needs all kinds of outdoor supplies, including:

- Baby dolls (preferably plastic)
- Dry erase markers (non-toxic)
- Construction paper
- White paper
- Glue
- Finger paint (washable)
- Tempera Paint (washable)

## 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

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](http://www.mcum.org), call (812) 339-3429, or email [help@mcum.org](mailto:help@mcum.org).



### 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](mailto: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 manage the refrigerator, and coordinate pick ups from the food bank. Contact Cliff at [help@mcum.org](mailto:help@mcum.org).

### Opportunity House Volunteers:

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

### Want to Receive MCUM Newsletters by Email?

Too much mail? You can reduce clutter and save trees by signing up to receive this newsletter online! To make the switch, email Megan at [development@mcum.org](mailto:development@mcum.org) or call (812) 339-3429 x15.

# Eagle Scout Project Transforms MCUM's Grounds

Parents and other visitors may have noticed a change to the space along the fence between MCUM's childcare building and Tri-North Middle School. MCUM owes this transformation to Pealer Bryniarski, a senior at Indiana Connections Academy and member of Boy Scout Troop 100. He landscaped the area as part of his Eagle Scout project, which requires Eagle Scout candidates to demonstrate leadership while performing a project that benefits the community.

Pealer learned about the opportunity when MCUM Childcare Director Traci Mehay contacted his troop leader about the project in the spring. He was interested in the creative freedom of building a garden and the chance to develop his landscaping skills.

The project involved a lot of weed removal and prevention, as well as the building of a limestone wall and two retaining walls to help the area keep its shape and prevent erosion. Pealer used donated Indiana limestone for the front wall and bought his own rocks for the retaining walls. B.G. Quarries, Inc. generously donated rock slabs for the stepping stones.

Over the course of the project, Pealer discovered a passion for landscaping that he may pursue in the future. He also gained valuable leadership skills, particularly in volunteer management and giving directions. He plans to come back and check on the status of the space in the future. "It's something I did for MCUM, and I'm happy to have done it," he said. "I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunity I was given and, most importantly, the people who helped make it possible."



## Special Office Hours

Are you looking to squeeze in more service learning hours or take advantage of MCUM's seasonal volunteer opportunities? Do you have limited availability during the week? Cliff Edens will be in the office from 8 am – 12 pm on Saturdays in November to prepare for the Winter Food Drive. Please contact him at [help@mcum.org](mailto:help@mcum.org) or (812) 339-3429 x 13 if you would like to come in during this time.

## Thank You!

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

- Monroe County Home Extension Club for their generous contribution of new socks
- Buskirk Chumley Theater for donating over 400 lbs of toilet paper to our emergency services pantry
- Melissa Spas for managing MCUM's water station at this year's CROP Walk
- Pam Davidson for donating laundry supplies to our emergency services pantry

## Answer the Call for MCUM

Have you purchased the new iPhone 6? Looking for a way to safely dispose of your old mobile device? Donating it to MCUM is an easy way to help fund our childcare and emergency services programs as well as help protect the environment!

Since 2005, MCUM has raised more than \$1,000 through the Shelter Alliance cell phone recycling program. It was created to provide a fundraising opportunity and socially responsible method of cell phone disposal for nonprofits.

You can support the missions of both the Shelter Alliance and MCUM by bringing your unwanted mobile device to MCUM today! Contact Megan Reece at (812) 339-3429 x15 or [development@mcum.org](mailto:development@mcum.org) for more information.

## **Congregation Spotlight: Stoneybrook Community Church of God**

By Katie Broadfoot

This month's congregation spotlight is awarded to the Stoneybrook Community Church of God for their consistent support in both unrestricted giving and food pantry donations. MCUM is honored to be a partner charity of Stoneybrook.

Although this congregation is small, it is mighty... and mighty generous, at that! Stoneybrook has been affiliated with MCUM since 2010, and since then has given \$1,774 in unrestricted gifts and more than 2,000 pounds to MCUM's food pantry. This congregation is a member congregation\* of MCUM for the 2014 year.

We are happy to have Stoneybrook Community Church on board with us here at MCUM and are excited to continue this partnership long into the future.

For information about your congregation's relationship with MCUM, please contact Katie at [fundraising@mcum.org](mailto:fundraising@mcum.org) or (812) 339-3429 x18.

*\*Member congregations are those in the faith community who, as an entity, have made an unrestricted financial gift to MCUM in the previous calendar year.*

## **Thank You, Pantry Donors**

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

- Hoosier Hills Food Bank
- Gary & Marcia Bishop
- Marcia Bishop
- Buskirk-Chumley Theater
- Church Women United
- Daughters of Isabella
- Jef & Pam Davidson
- First Christian Church
- First Presbyterian Church, Presbyterian Women
- First United Church
- Roger & Neva Gildersleeve
- Habitat ReStore of Monroe County
- Monroe County Extension Homemaker Association
- Nine Patches Ext. Homemakers Club
- Opportunity House
- Basilla Jean Rogers
- St. Mark's United Methodist Church
- St. Thomas Lutheran Evangelical Church
- Trinity Episcopal Church
- University Baptist Church
- John & Wendy VanderZee
- Woodhaven Christian Church

## **MCUM Promotes Literacy with Community Gift**

MCUM has made the corner of Opportunity House a little brighter in honor of its 75th Anniversary! Executive Director Meri Reinhold unveiled MCUM's gift of a Little Free Library during the Community Open House last month.

A Little Free Library is a creatively constructed box where anyone may stop by and pick up a book and either bring the same or another book back to share. It also serves as a way for community members to share their favorites stories



MCUM would like to extend a special thanks to Jeff Broadfoot for donating the supplies and labor to build the structure, and to Opportunity House for contributing the initial selection of children's and adult books.

To see photos of Little Free Libraries and search for ones in a particular area, visit [www.littlefreelibrary.org](http://www.littlefreelibrary.org). MCUM intends to register its library with this international organization.



## Meet the Staff: Justin Smith



Justin Smith reflected on her long history of social services experience and tenure at MCUM before her retirement on October 31. She served as a caseworker for MCUM's Emergency Services program since 2009.

Prior to joining the staff at MCUM, Justin was a supervisor at Bloomington's first low-barrier winter homeless shelter at Trinity Episcopal Church (now the Interfaith Winter Shelter). She also worked for the State of Indiana for 18 years – first in Child Protective Services and later as a Food Stamps/Medicaid caseworker.

Justin's daily tasks at MCUM included making sure the food pantry was fully stocked and organized, and interviewing clients. Interacting with clients was her favorite part of the job. "As someone who's been in an emergency situation, I found it gratifying to help people find resources in the community they didn't know were available," she said.

Justin's job as a caseworker at MCUM was challenging at times. "It's difficult to see people stuck in situations and refuse to take advantage of the resources available to help them get out of it." However, she remains committed to helping disadvantaged members of the community, and plans to volunteer at one of the local shelters in retirement. As a former investigative journalist, she also hopes to return to writing. Justin was a valuable member of the MCUM family and will be greatly missed! We wish her the best of luck in her retirement and future endeavors.

## Thank You, Volunteers

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

- Loretta Alonso
- Alexander Ashkin
- Hannah Bailey
- Amanda Behnke
- Marti Black
- Louise Blish
- Allison Bolde
- Savanna Bruski
- Lucia Calderon
- Yuval Capsi
- Nicolas Carter
- Margaret Chittum
- Greg Claretto
- Su Cowling
- Robert Fowler
- Sidney Harris
- Duane Hornick
- Pat Hornick
- Larry & Nancy Jacobs
- Aysha Jemison
- Stephanie Keeshin
- Kelly Kreutz
- Andrew & Veronica Lenard
- Zoe Lewis
- Judy McDougal
- Judy & Leon McDougal
- Valerie Merriam
- Chris Meyer
- Donna Michael
- Ashley Miller
- Chloe Mounayar
- Nina Ogrizovich
- Mike Paidle
- Daniella Rao
- Allison Reiplinger
- Maya Rothenberg
- Jordan Scheinberg
- Paul & Betty Schoonmaker
- John Sgro
- Tessa & Zach Skidmore
- Jean Summerville
- Murl & Marjorie Summerville
- Susie Trisler
- Erika Twer
- Evan Waldrop
- Justyce Weeden
- Avery White
- Jingrui Yu

## 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

**Nov 6** Conscious Discipline Session 6/7  
(5:30 - 8:00 p.m.)

**Nov 15** Conscious Discipline Session 7  
(9:00 - 11:00 a.m.)

**Nov 25** Thanksgiving Luncheon

**Nov 27/28** Closed for Thanksgiving

## 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 at (812) 339-3429 x10 or [childcare@mcum.org](mailto:childcare@mcum.org) for more information. Thanks for your support!

## Creating the MCUM School Family

MCUM Childcare is eager to introduce you to our comprehensive classroom management program called "Conscious Discipline". It is a way of organizing classrooms around the concept of a School Family, where each member learns the skills needed to successfully manage life tasks. Interested in learning more? Contact Tina at (812) 339-3429 x19 or visit [www.ConsciousDiscipline.com](http://www.ConsciousDiscipline.com).

### 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  
Aide: Karen May

The Puffins are going to be learning about transportation this month! We will also talk about giving thanks to the people and things we love as we gear up for Thanksgiving.

Our transportation unit will include interactive stories and painting cars. The Puffins will make race tracks with paint, play with shaving cream to make a car wash, and much more! We will read books about trains, planes, cars, dump trucks, buses, and other types of transportation through songs and finger plays, such as "The Wheels on the Bus" and "Old McDonald Had A Farm."

We will also talk about being thankful for the people and things that are important in our lives. The children will be making turkey hand-prints closer to Thanksgiving, and will read, "Oh My, Pumpkin Pie!" The children will also craft their own pumpkin pies from paper plates, paint, and glitter!

The Puffins will also continue working on their letters, numbers, shapes, and colors this month:

- The letters J, K, and L
- The numbers 7 & 8
- Rectangles
- The color yellow

The Puffins will also experience sweet potatoes and pumpkin in many different forms! Overall, we are looking forward to another fun month of fall!

## Seahorses

### 2.5-3 year olds

Teacher: Jessica Mackie  
Aide: Jessica Corbin

This month, the Seahorses will discuss all of the special people and things that make us thankful. We will also spend time learning about the first Thanksgiving Day, reading other stories of ways Thanksgiving is honored, as well as sharing the ways that we celebrate Thanksgiving. This includes who we celebrate the holiday with and what foods we eat when we enjoy this special day. We will also celebrate as a school family when we have our school-wide Thanksgiving lunch where our family members come to MCUM and eat with us during the week of Thanksgiving.

In addition to talking about being thankful, we will also spend time learning:

- The letters J, K, & L. These letters will be introduced to the children through books, songs, puzzles, games, and art.
- The numbers 7 & 8. We will play number games and count out various items.
- The color yellow. We will discuss different items that are yellow, search for yellow in our classroom, and use yellow to color and paint.
- The rectangle. We will trace rectangles, build rectangles with various materials, and help the children recognize all the rectangles in our everyday world.
- Our food experiences for November are sweet potatoes and pumpkin. We will introduce these foods to the children and encourage everyone to try them!

# Childcare Classroom Information (continued)

## Penguins

3 year olds

Teacher: LaDawn Joyner

During the month of November, the Penguins will be focusing on the theme of the month: Giving Thanks. We will discuss what Thanksgiving is, how Thanksgiving came to be a national holiday, and what we are most thankful for in our lives. We will also discuss the food we eat during Thanksgiving and share the special places we go to celebrate the holiday.

We also plan to incorporate Thanksgiving traditions into our lessons throughout the month. We will learn new numbers by counting to ten using a turkey number line. We will also talk about fall colors while we color paper turkeys and learn about shapes and sizes by asking which turkey is bigger, which is smaller, and which one looks different. We will be focusing on the color yellow and rectangle shapes throughout the month.

The Penguins will be reading books about the upcoming holiday, such as "Thanks for Thanksgiving," "This is the Turkey," and "The First Thanksgiving Day." We will also learn some Thanksgiving poems and rhymes and dictate our own Thanksgiving feast pictures. To learn more about our favorite holiday foods, we will make a Thanksgiving dinner by cutting pictures of food from magazines and pasting them together. In addition to the holidays, we will also be talking about Veteran's Day and why we should be thankful to the veterans.

We invite you to take time this month to consider what you are thankful for in your life.

## Otters

4 year olds

Teacher: Brittney Denton

Aide: Sarah Landrum

The theme of the month of November is Giving Thanks. The Otters will be discussing many things that we are all thankful for throughout the month. We will also be doing a month-long class project. Each week, the Otters make a few pages for a "I Am Thankful for..." book. Each child will take his or her book home on the day before Thanksgiving to share with their family. We will also be celebrating Thanksgiving the Tuesday before break at our annual Thanksgiving lunch. Friends and family are invited to join us and their child in this celebration.

The 11th of this month is Veteran's Day, so we will be making a special craft and discussing the importance of veterans, soldiers, and other community helpers, building on October's theme a little more.

This month, the Otters will be working on the letters H, J, U, and L. We will be learning about one letter each week of the month. Parents can help their child by continuing to talk about the letter of the week at home. For example - What does it sound like, and what does it look like? We will also be talking about the numbers 13-16.

In addition to our monthly theme and associated activities, we will continue to work on:

- Writing letters and numbers
- Scissors, puzzles, buttons, and zippers
- Describing our feelings
- Turn taking, connections, etc.
- Physical development
- Nutrition

## Dolphins

5-6 year olds

Teacher: Kim Clay

Aide: Vanessa Schultz

This month, the Dolphins are going to discover the best way to get from here to there. We will explore many types of transportation and learn which ones are best to use depending on where we are going.

We will take a trip back into history to discover when the first form of transportation was invented and by whom. This will be an excellent opportunity for the children to share stories of their travels and which types of travel they prefer. The Dolphins will make a graph to determine how most of the class comes to school. We will also talk about all the places we will travel this holiday season and with whom we will visit for Thanksgiving dinner.

To get ready for the school-wide Thanksgiving dinner the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, we will read the story "Stone Soup" and learn how people can share what they have to make a feast for everyone. The Dolphins will create a feast of their own in our dramatic play area. We invite all parents and friends to join their child at the annual MCUM Thanksgiving lunch.

Throughout November, we will take some time to celebrate Thanksgiving and learn the history behind it. The Dolphins will spent time discussing what we are most thankful for in our lives. We will also think about people less fortunate than ourselves and discuss ways in which we can help them. Overall, we are looking forward to a fun and meaningful month!



Monroe County United Ministries

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

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Bloomington, IN 47404

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www.mcum.org



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**Save a tree!** Sign up to receive this newsletter online. Email [development@mcum.org](mailto:development@mcum.org), or call (812) 339-3429 x15 to make the switch.

### *Staff:*

- Executive Director: Meri Reinhold
- Development Associate: Katie Broadfoot
- Development Associate: Megan Reece
- Emergency Services Coordinator: Cliff Edens
- Emergency Services Caseworker: Justin Smith
- Office Manager: Shannon Hampton
- Childcare Director: Traci Mehay
- Education Coordinator: Tina Burress

### *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.

### **A Message from the Store Manager:**

Opportunity House is well stocked for your fall needs. In addition, we have great sales! We put out new items on a daily basis, so visit us often during our new hours!

We have lots of clothes for your children to wear to school. There is truly something for everyone! Come shop with us or spend a couple hours a week with our wonderful volunteers. Proceeds go to MCUM's valuable programs!

 Please recycle this newsletter or share it with a friend.