



m c u m

Monroe County United Ministries

Food Drive in a Box How-to Guide

About MCUM!

At MCUM, our mission is to “create lasting solutions to economic, educational and social injustice in our community through quality services, collaboration and innovation.” In plain English, our goal is to **assist people through the unforeseen hardships of life and to get them back on their feet**. Things like sudden injury, illness, loss of employment, divorce, or even the loss of a vehicle can drastically affect a family’s financial situation. MCUM meets with clients one-on-one to discuss their needs and circumstances, and provides assistance any way we can, including referrals to other agencies or government programs.

Our pantry provides clients with a 3-4 day supply of shelf-stable food supplemented by fresh fruits, vegetables and meat whenever possible. The amount of food clients receive is based on the size of their family, with a larger family receiving a greater quantity of food. The majority of our food is donated by people, churches and **ORGANIZATIONS** like you in Monroe County, with additional food provided by the Hoosier Hills Food Bank. When necessary, we purchase supplemental food with our own funding. We also distribute basic necessities, hygiene products and household cleaning supplies to families in need.

Our pantry is almost entirely volunteer-run. Clients select food items from the pantry after meeting with our professional “coaches” -- certified caseworkers who meet with each and every client personally to better understand their hardships and help them plan to achieve a better future for themselves and their families. MCUM’s coaches are able to connect clients to other resource agencies in Bloomington, provide vouchers for clothing at the Opportunity House, and can even authorize payments for utilities or rent, depending on a client’s situation.

Furthermore, we offer a premier childcare center for kids from birth to six years old at very low cost to families. This service allows the adults in the household the ability to gain or retain steady employment and support their families without worrying about the traditionally-prohibitive cost of daily childcare. Some of our families are enrolled using a government voucher system and pay nothing at all for childcare. Those that do pay are on a sliding-scale, and pay considerably less than the market rate for this service.

How MCUM's Food Drive Works

What is it?

A Food Drive in a Box can be exactly what you want it to be. Along with friends or a group you're part of, you will plan and implement a food drive of your own and bring the food to MCUM when you're done.

How does it work?

It's easier than you think! Here are some of our tried-and-true tips.

Tips for a Successful Food Drive

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

Who can participate?

Any group—school, workplace, neighborhood, club, student group, or congregation—can serve as a host. Anyone the group comes into contact with can serve as a donor.

Food Drive In a Box

MCUM's Food Drive in a Box Program is a fun, simple way to promote your drive and help collect food donations for the community. Food Drive in a Box is not only a great opportunity to make visits to MCUM more fun and easy but also helps you encourage others to give!

We're proud to provide these basic start-up materials that will help make your food drive a huge success!

Materials:

- A Box (if needed)
- Copies of Your Food Drive Posters
- Information About MCUM
 - Agency Brochures
 - List of Food Items
 - Marketing Support
 - And more!
- Our Contact Information

Contact Us

Ready to host a drive?

Contact our Cox Civic Scholar

Michaela Barber

civic@mcum.org

Address

Monroe County United Ministries

827 West 14th Court

Bloomington, Indiana 47404

Phone/Fax Numbers

Phone: (812) 339-3429

Fax: (812) 339-2912

Website

You can also find more information on MCUM here, or feel free to contact us directly!

<http://mcum.org/>

What kinds of items can we collect?

Food Pantry

Canned vegetables

Canned fruit

Crackers

Soups (condensed or ready-to-eat)

Canned pasta (Chef Boyardee, Spaghetti-O's)

“Helper” meals (rice or pasta sides)

*MCUM accepts all non-bulk, non-perishable food items

Hygiene & Cleaning Closet

Dish soap

Trash bags

Razors

Mouthwash

Diapers

Men's and Women's socks

Women's underwear

Feminine hygiene products

Children's underwear

Hats and mittens

General cleaner

Laundry detergent

Shampoo/conditioner

Contact solution/eye drops

Childcare

Books (new or gently used)

Art supplies

Toys (new)