



The Newsletter of Monroe County United Ministries

Working Together

December 2017

MCUM Fast-tracks Second Compass Expansion

Downtown childcare site aims to double its capacity by January 2018

It's a difficult time to find quality childcare in Monroe County. According to a recent survey from the City of Bloomington, there are only enough spots in licensed childcare centers for 36 percent of Monroe County children ages 0-4 years. Now, in the wake of recent local closures, that percentage is at risk of falling even further.

MCUM is rising to meet this challenge head-on by expediting the expansion of our Compass Early Learning Center's downtown site. Compass - Downtown, which opened in August of 2017, currently hosts 48 of MCUM's 144 spots for children ages 0-6 years. By licensing and furnishing the remaining classrooms and hiring new teachers, Compass - Downtown will **double** its enrollment capacity to 96 children by January 2, 2018.

Though this expansion was planned for MCUM's future, recent events created an immediate and dire need for more affordable childcare in our community. After all, finding a spot is merely the first step in accessing early childhood education: Paying for that spot can be just as prohibitive.

MCUM is the *only* licensed and accredited childcare center in Monroe County that specifically caters to low-income families, for whom quality childcare options are often too expensive. MCUM's sliding fee scale caps costs at 10 percent of household income, reducing the cost of care from the true price of \$230-\$285 per week to just \$40-\$60. Without MCUM's fee scale, new parents would pay roughly the equivalent of in-state tuition at Indiana University for their childcare.



Programs like Compass are essential to ensuring that *all* families have an opportunity to access high-quality childcare in pursuit of a brighter future for their children. And that's what this expansion is really about.

Our community needs us, and with your support, we will answer the call.

Want to support the expansion?

Visit www.fundly.com/compass to contribute directly to the project.

A Statement from the President of MCUM's Board of Directors



Brian R. Drummy
Board President

On behalf of MCUM's Board, I can say that we feel truly blessed to be in a position to respond quickly to rapidly-developing community needs. The approved Compass expansion will allow MCUM to serve an additional 48 children by January 2, 2018, boosting the program's capacity by nearly 40 percent. This will be an incredible boon for our community that is made possible by the very same community's support.

This expansion can only proceed because of the commitments, sacrifices, and donations made to MCUM through the years from its many donors, founding and member

church congregations, volunteers, and dedicated staff. First United Methodist Church has played a key role in not only helping to establish the Compass - Downtown site, but also in facilitating this expansion.

Although we are not in a position to save every job or place every displaced child, we know this expansion will provide significant benefits to the community during this direct time of need and for many years into the future.

Thank you for making it possible to better serve our shared community.

Current Needs

Food Pantry

- Canned carrots, peas, potatoes
- Canned fruit (any)
- Ramen noodles
- Peanut butter (esp. S/M jars)
- Cereal (esp. S/M boxes)
- Canned meat (esp. chicken)
- Macaroni and cheese
- Pasta sauce

Cleaning Closet

- Bar soap
- Men and Women's deodorant
- Men and Women's underwear
- All-purpose cleaner
- Dish soap
- Laundry detergent
- Conditioner
- Diapers (sizes 4 & 6)

Childcare

- Art paper (drawing, construction, etc.)
- Coffee filters (various sizes)
- Cotton balls (for crafts)
- Markers (dry erase or washable)
- Stickers
- Water color paints
- Containers with lids (all sizes shoe box or larger)

Office

- Stool (preferably with back)
- 2018 wall calendars
- Projector (for computer)
- Copy paper

Paper, not plastic :)

MCUM is always collecting paper grocery bags to distribute food to our clients. Please consider asking for paper during your regular shopping trips!



This month, please join us in welcoming MCUM's first Director of Operations, **Jennifer Smallwood!**

Originally from western Maryland, Jen has been in Bloomington for almost 10 years. She is excited to work with MCUM to combat economic and social injustice and brings nearly 20 years of knowledge and experience

in early childhood education to MCUM's staff. We are thrilled to have Jen joining our MCUM family and look forward to her leadership.



Jennifer Smallwood
Director of Operations

Welcome, Jen!

Thank You to the St. Charles School!

We'd like to extend a HUGE thank you to the **St. Charles Catholic School** for hosting their annual food drive in November!

The school's 6th, 7th, and 8th graders collected **3,524** pounds of food and cleaning/hygiene products in a single week! Thank you!



Left: Volunteer Coordinator Tyrian Robertson and ACE Alex Dowland unload MCUM's truck; **Right:** MCUM's volunteers unload the 2nd and 3rd vehicles needed to collect all of St. Charles' donations!

MCUM's "Be the Light" campaign continues through **December 31!** Please consider the difference you can make for local families experiencing hardship by making an end-of-year gift.

Please feel free to use the pre-addressed envelope included in this newsletter for your gift. Checks can be made payable to MCUM and mailed to **827 W 14th, Bloomington IN 47404**. Online donations are welcome at mcum.org/donate. Thank you for your unwavering support!

2017: MCUM's Year-in-Review

A remarkable (and unprecedented) year of growth and service

As we come to the close of 2017, we're looking back at some of the amazing milestones you have helped MCUM achieve this year. Follow along with some of our highlights!:



* It's hard to believe our **Compass - Downtown** site has only been open for 4 months! That's 16 weeks of high-quality care for up to 48 more children, including infants! With the expedited second expansion scheduled for the weeks to come, Compass Early Learning Center will have **more than doubled** the number of children in our care in 2017!

* Last month, MCUM's **IDA (Individual Development Account)** program officially enrolled its first families. These low-income families are investing in their home, small business, or education and receive financial coaching from MCUM's coaches along the way. Best of all, the State of Indiana is matching their savings at **\$4-to-\$1!**

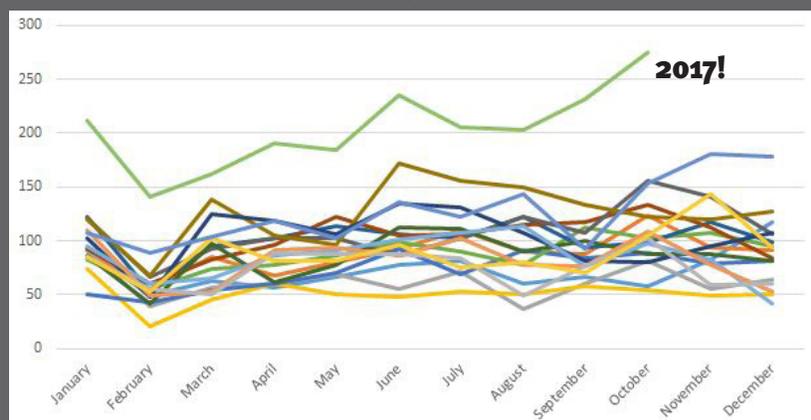


* MCUM shifted our food pantry to a "client choice" service model in September of 2016, but the pantry has grown to become an indispensable resource for more families than ever in 2017. On average, we are serving **76% more clients each month** than in corresponding months of 2016!

Moreover, although we're still tallying our November numbers, October was our busiest month **EVER**, marking the first time our pantry has served **more than 10,000 meals (10,233) or served more than 1,000 (1,137) people in a single month.** That's a lot of families who are grateful for your support!



Number of families served monthly in MCUM's Food Pantry 2000-2017



Thank You!

It's the season of giving, and we'd like to say thank you to those who have already given so much to MCUM for the holidays:

- Thank you to everyone who has donated holiday food baskets! So far, we've collected 36 baskets, with dozens more on the way soon.

Special thanks to the **Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington** for pledging 75-90 baskets! You all are astonishing!

- Thank you to **Community Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Ram of Bloomington** for partnering with MCUM this holiday season.

In addition to hosting a month-long food drive for both staff and patrons, the dealership is also providing hundreds of items to fill "Santa Bags" for every child in our Compass Early Learning Center. Thank you for your partnership!

- Thank you to every supporter who has sponsored gifts for one or more of our Compass families. We have now found a match for **every family** who requested support. Thank you for making the season of giving possible for all families in our community!
- Thank you to all groups and individuals who have held food drives and delivered products to MCUM's pantry so far. Thank you for helping us keep up with the growing needs of our clients and our community (see the "year-in-review," left).



Monroe County United Ministries

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

827 West 14th Court
Bloomington, IN 47404

812.339.3429 *phone*
812.339.2912 *fax*

mcum@mcum.org
www.mcum.org



Member Agency

Inside This Issue

- p1 Breaking: Compass - Downtown Expansion
- p2 Director of Operations Hire, End-of-Year Campaign
- p3 2017 Highlights: MCUM's Year-in-Review

Save a tree!

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

Self Sufficiency Center

Monday, Thursday, & Friday

Appointment only: 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Food pantry only: 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Walk-ins: 12:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday:

Appointment only: 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Food pantry only: 12:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Walk-ins: 12:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday: CLOSED

Compass Early Learning Center

Monday - Friday: 7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Main Office

Monday - Friday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Leadership Staff

Executive Director: Erin Predmore
Director of Operations: Jennifer Smallwood
Development Director: Katie Broadfoot
Office Manager: Shannon Hampton
Education Coordinators: Jessica Mackie
(Compass - North) & Tina Burress (Compass -
Downtown)

Tis' the Season to be Generous

Sprucing up your home for the holidays? Need some help clearing out your guest room? Make room by donating your clothing, household goods, and other wares to the Opportunity House! While you're here, hunt for that missing holiday decoration that will complete your preparations and give your home that finishing touch. As always, all of our proceeds help fund MCUM's programs! Help us help MCUM today!

We are always grateful for all of your donations, and this month, we are still in need of **children's coats, pots and pans, blankets, towels, and silverware**. Check out our hours below and come see us!

Spread Some Cheer: Volunteer!

Short on stuff but still want to give back? Opportunity House's volunteer team is continuing to grow! Help us sort incoming donations, organize our sales floor, and serve our clients and our community.

You can fill out an application our new website, OpHouseThrift.org/ Volunteer, or call us at (812) 336-2443 for more information.

The Opportunity House 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. Contact us by calling (812) 336-2443, e-mailing ophouse68@gmail.com, or by following us on Facebook!