



Working Together

November 2017

“Be the Light” Campaign Kick-Off

Our Goal: **\$102,931**. Your Role? **Essential**.

From the moment our jack-o'-lanterns burn out, we know it's time to start thinking about the holidays to come.

At MCUM, holiday festivities bring to mind cheer and togetherness – the warmth of a fire and the soft glow of decorative lights.

Our end-of-year campaign asks *you* to partner with *us* to bring this light to your neighbors through our Compass Early Learning Center and Self-Sufficiency Center.

All year long, supporters like you have helped MCUM shine as a beacon of hope for local families in need. From literally keeping the lights on in 33 homes to helping 150 children's eyes light up as they write their names for the very first time, there are so many ways you light the path that leads the families we serve toward their goals of self-sufficiency and quality care for their children.

More than these outcomes, your gift is a light that shows the way for families who are working hard to make ends meet. Your light ensures that parents don't have to choose between quality, affordability, and job security when seeking care for their children. Your light represents a belief that no one deserves to go hungry in our community. Your light reminds people that they matter, and they are not alone.



Will you be that light?

Your gift - no matter how large or small - makes a difference in the lives of the people we serve every day.

Donate today by calling us at (812) 339-3429, mailing a check to MCUM at 827 W14th Ct or by visiting mcum.org/donate.

What's the power of my gift?

\$25 provides up to 132 pounds of food to our client choice food pantry, 108 diapers to the infants enrolled at Compass - Downtown, or enough cereal to feed 16 families.

\$55 provides coaching, referrals, and ongoing self-sufficiency support for 2 families, 6 hygiene items apiece for 2 families, or 165 boxes of mac & cheese.

\$105 provides coaching and 3 months of food support for one family, art supplies for our Puffins class for 4 months, or one week of food for our Zebra class.

I.D.A. Away!

New program helps families save for future

This month, MCUM is proud to announce our newest innovative partnership: we are now a local administrator of “**Individual Development Accounts**” - a matched savings account program designed to encourage low-income families to find ways to save for the purchase of an asset, like their home, small business, education or job training.

Participants in the program complete broad financial education, as well as training that is specific to their desired asset purchase. They then receive a \$4-to-\$1 “match” from the State of Indiana for their own contributions to a savings account. The program's objective is to help people with limited means achieve self-sufficiency through goal-setting, budgeting, establishing savings habits, and investing in assets.

MCUM Self-Sufficiency Coach Gene Hoard says she'll be checking in regularly with MCUM's first 5 enrolled families to help them grow, financially. “This is a really exciting program,” she said. “It gives people something to save for while making it exciting to save; it'll allow a lot of people to do things they wouldn't be able to do otherwise.”

For more information on the IDA program, visit: <http://www.in.gov/myihcda/ida.htm>.

Current Needs

Food Pantry

- Canned vegetables
- Canned fruit (any/all)
- Soups (condensed or ready-to-eat)
- Baking mixes (Jiffy, Bisquick)
- Peanut Butter
- Cereal

Cleaning Closet

- All-purpose cleaner
- Toilet paper
- Body wash
- Dish soap (S/M bottles)
- Laundry detergent
- Garbage bags
- Diapers (sizes 4, 5 & 6)
- Men's underwear (any size)
- Women's underwear (sizes 5-9)

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)
- iPad or other e-tablet

Travel-size Toiletries

Did you know MCUM gives out unused, travel-sized toiletries in our food pantry? Please consider bagging up your hotel goodies for MCUM!

Wanted: Winter Warmth



It's that time of year again - time to bundle up and brave the elements! That means MCUM has once again begun to offer new **winter hats, gloves, and scarves** to all eligible families in our food pantry.

If you would like to provide some warmth this winter, please consider donating **NEW** winter accessories for infants, children, or adults to MCUM in order to help keep your neighbors safe and warm this winter.

Thank you for your continued support!



Please help us welcome our newest staff to our MCUM family!

Our **Compass Early Learning Center** is proud to welcome 5 new teachers' aides to both our Compass - North & Compass - Downtown locations.

- **Grace Haines-Gallagher**
- **Alli Stallons**
- **Haley Williams**
- **Chelsea Hamilton**
- **Erika Stewart**

We're so glad to have you aboard!

We'd also like to welcome our new IU SPEA Service Corps Fellow, **Tyrian Robertson!**

A New Orleans native, Tyrian will serve as MCUM's Volunteer Coordinator while she pursues a Masters of Public Affairs with emphases in Nonprofit Management and Social Entrepreneurship. Tyrian has already met and built relationships with many of our volunteers and is enjoying her time with us.



If you see Tyrian, be sure to welcome her! We look forward to seeing all she can accomplish.

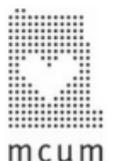
How are we doing? Let us know!



PLEASE TAKE A FEW MINUTES TO TELL US WHAT MATTERS TO YOU!

SUPPORTER SURVEY

WWW.MCUM.ORG



Supporter Spotlight:

First United Methodist Church



MCUM has had the honor of partnering with First United Methodist Church (FUMC) since our inception in 1939. Then called First Methodist Church, FUMC is one of MCUM's 12 original founding congregations.

In the last 78 years, FUMC has provided more than \$350,000 in financial support, 30,000 pounds of food and hygiene products, countless hours of volunteer support and Board member leadership to MCUM. The past three years have seen new and innovative forms of partnership between FUMC and MCUM that are already having life-changing impacts on local families.

FUMC member Steve Ulrey represents the congregation on MCUM's Board of Directors. He explained MCUM's new role in both FUMC's Wednesday Food Pantry and former childcare program:

"Although the congregation is growing in many ways, a couple of its long-time programs fell on hard times in recent years. Due to several problems, our Wednesday Pantry ceased to operate, and our childcare program - most recently known as Parent's Day Out - was also experiencing some difficulty.

In 2015, (MCUM Executive Director) Erin Predmore secured MCUM's support to form a partnership between the Church administration, interested former Pantry volunteers, Hoosier Hills Food Bank and MCUM to provide administration and support to re-open the Wednesday Pantry. Now, nearly every Wednesday we once again provide much needed food to supplement already-stretched budgets for several hundred family members, a significant number of whom are experiencing homelessness.

Shortly thereafter, Erin began looking for a downtown location to expand MCUM's childcare program, which had outgrown its existing facility. She approached the Church Leadership and developed another opportunity for partnership. The result is MCUM's new Compass - Downtown site, which opened a few months ago but appears to be on the road to success."

So much of MCUM's success depends on congregations like FUMC. Thank you, First United Methodist Church, for nearly 80 years of collaboration and commitment to Monroe County and its people. And here's to 80 more!

Congratulations!



MCUM is proud to congratulate our Childcare Director, **Traci Mehay (right)**, and Compass - Downtown's Education Coordinator **Tina Burress (left)** on their receipt of the prestigious Herb Kiesling Award from the Community Justice and Mediation (CJAM) Center in Bloomington.

Traci & Tina received this award in recognition of their decades of service in pursuit of providing equal educational opportunities for local, at-risk children. Their restorative justice efforts have allowed thousands of children from low-income families to receive high-quality care from MCUM's childcare program.

We are so proud of their contributions to the wider Bloomington community and to MCUM. Thank you both for working so hard; we are honored to have you lead our MCUM family!

Congratulations, Traci & Tina!



Ho-Ho-Holiday Recruitment is Still Ongoing!

Still searching for a way to give back to your community this holiday season? Look no further! MCUM is still recruiting for our many holiday giving opportunities! Visit MCUM.org/holiday or call us at **(812) 339-3429 x24** for more details on how to:

- Sponsor Christmas morning for one of our Compass childcare families
- Give the gift of a full holiday meal to a family who otherwise would go without
- Ensure Santa has a gift for every child in our Compass Early Learning Center
- Host a food drive that will help feed the 250 families we expect will visit MCUM's pantry between Thanksgiving and Christmas



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 "Be the Light" campaign, New program at MCUM
- p2 New staff welcome, Take our supporter survey!
- p3 Supporter spotlight, Ho-Ho-Holiday opportunities

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

Childcare

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

Development Director: Katie Broadfoot

Office Manager: Shannon Hampton

Childcare Director: Traci Mehay

Education Coordinators: Jessica Mackie

(Compass - North) & Tina Burress (Compass -
Downtown)

Share your Wares and Wears with Opp House

Jack Frost is coming, and he's got us all reaching for our favorite sweaters, coats and blankets. What better time to donate some of your extra winter wear to the Opportunity House, where it will find new life with a new family this holiday season. Help your excess winter belongings fulfill their destiny, bringing warmth to those who need them. And who knows? While you're here, you might even find a new favorite!

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

Volunteer with Opportunity House

Short on stuff but still want to give back? Opportunity House is continuing to welcome new volunteers! Help us sort incoming donations, organize our sales floor, and serve our community. Join our volunteer team today!

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!