



The Newsletter of Monroe County United Ministries

Working Together

February 2018

'Be the Light' Final Figure: \$113,873

Your support adds exclamation mark to banner year for MCUM

With MCUM's annual professional audit underway, 2017's fiscal year is officially in the books. And frankly, we are still blown away by the results:

Last month, we were thrilled to report that our donors had so-far generously gifted more than \$106,000 to MCUM's annual campaign - the most benevolent outpouring of financial support in MCUM's 79-year history. Now, with the last of the donations processed, we are pleased to announce a final figure of **\$113,873** - more than \$10,000 *higher* than our original goal of \$102,931!

Because of you, the 'Be the Light' campaign successfully balanced the budgets of both our **Compass Early Learning Center** and our **Self-Sufficiency Center**, each of which grew tremendously in 2017; Compass expanded from 84 to 180 children, and the SSC served more than 5,000 more people (17,792 to 22,876).

We can't say it enough: **THANK YOU** for making these programs possible in 2017. Your love for our shared community and for your neighbors is an inspiration to everyone here at MCUM. Thank you!



What Will These Contributions Support?

In 2017, we received an incredible **\$113,873** in contributions between Nov. 1-Dec. 31! These donations make a collective impact that is equivalent to the *combination* of:

<p>5,773 meals from MCUM's Client-Choice food pantry.</p>	<p>777 cleaning and hygiene products from our supply closet.</p>	<p>739 Opportunity House vouchers for clothes, shoes, jackets, and small housewares.</p>
<p>4,266 meals for the children in MCUM's Compass Early Learning Center.</p>	<p>127 weeks of licensed and accredited care for children enrolled in Compass.</p>	<p>19 one-time rent payments to restore stability to families & prevent homelessness.</p>

Current Needs

Food Pantry

- Cereal
- Soup (condensed or ready-to-eat)
- Canned tomatoes
- Pasta sauce
- Canned potatoes
- Canned carrots or mixed veggies
- Macaroni & cheese
- Ramen noodles
- Pancake/muffin baking mixes
- Crackers
- Snacks or desserts

Cleaning Closet

- Deodorant (Men's & Women's)
- All-purpose cleaners
- Laundry detergent
- Bar soap
- Conditioner
- Tampons and Pads
- Size 4, 5 & 6 diapers
- Razors

Childcare

- Paper: lined, construction, graph - any :)
- Multi-racial Barbies/baby dolls
- Glitter
- Plastic containers with lids (shoe box size or larger)

Wanted:



Did you know MCUM's collects **Box Tops for Education** to support our Compass Early Learning Center? Each one is worth 10 cents, and we receive thousands of dollars in revenue each year!

Donate yours today!

Now Serving: More Families Than Ever

2017 ushered in an increase of all services across-the-board for MCUM. The chart below compares some of our 2017 Self-Sufficiency Center outcomes to their 2016 counterparts. The generosity of our donors and supporters (that's *you!*) not only made these increases possible, but also ensured that our program remained solvent despite this growth.

2016	2017	Thank you!
4,265	5,589	Families served by the Self-Sufficiency Center.
17,792	22,876	People served by the Self-Sufficiency Center.
922	1,081	New families who had never applied for services before.
55,296	84,609	Meals provided by MCUM's Client-Choice food pantry.
7,518	8,089	People who received Cleaning/Hygiene products.
6,929	9,346	Clothing/household items received from OpHouse vouchers.
72,374	87,612	Pounds of food received by MCUM's food pantry.

Free Tax Prep for Low-Income Families



The **United Way** is once again partnering with H&R Block to provide free federal *and* state tax returns to any household that made less than \$66,000 in 2017.

MCUM's coaches are encouraging eligible households to visit myfreetaxes.com to prepare their tax returns online. Returns can be started and saved to be finished later. A toll-free help line (1-855-My-Tx-Help) provides additional assistance between 10 a.m. and 10 p.m. EST, Monday-Saturday.

The free tax service grants access to H&R Block's Premium Tax Prep product and automatically applies all eligible tax credits to secure a maximum refund for low-income families as early as February 14.

Wild About Learning

New classrooms open at Compass - Downtown

With the **Compass - Downtown** expansion finally complete, we are excited to announce the names of our newest classrooms and their teachers!

Please join us in welcoming these four great educators to our staff, as well as the 45 new families they host in their classrooms!

We're happy you're here!

Our original **Compass - North** classrooms complete our classroom safari with sea critters! Puffins (18 months - 2 years), Seahorses (2-year-olds), Penguins, Dolphins & Otters (all 3-5-year-olds).



Monkeys
Birth-12 mo.

Teacher: Jennifer Banks
8/8 spots filled!



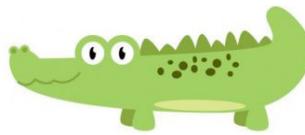
Tigers
12 mo. - 24 mo.

Teacher: Alissa Kristoff
10/10 spots filled!



Lions
2-year-olds

Teacher: Karen Tackett
10/10 spots filled!



Alligators
3-5-year-olds

Teacher: Lauren Geiss
17/20 spots filled!

Classic Classrooms Round Out the Roster!



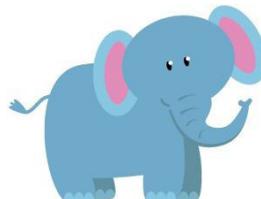
Giraffes
Birth-12 mo.



Hippos
12 mo. - 24 mo.



Zebras
2-year-olds



Elephants
3-5-year-olds

Thank You!

This month, we want to extend a special thank you to a number of our supporters:

- Thank you to our **returning student volunteers** in our food pantry! After taking the holidays off, we are pleased to welcome more than a half-dozen IU students back to our pantry volunteer team!
- Thank you to all congregations, groups, and individuals who continue to give food to MCUM's food pantry. Hunger has no season, and our families are grateful for your ongoing support!
- Thank you to the dozen **volunteers** (including many Girl Scouts!) who helped us paint and build shelving at Compass - Downtown to celebrate **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**. Great job!
- Thank you to **IU Credit Union** for renewing their corporate sponsorship of MCUM for 2018! Thanks for being such a great community partner!
- Special thanks to **IU professor Kate Myers' Spanish class** for teaching Spanish to our children at both Compass locations this semester! Gracias!

COMING IN MARCH

Monroe County United Ministries'

HUNGER GAMES

JOIN THE FIGHT AGAINST HUNGER

Visit mcum.org/hungergames



Monroe County United Ministries

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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

Director of Operations: Jennifer Smallwood

Development Director: Katie Broadfoot

Office Manager: Shannon Hampton

Compass Business Manager: Traci Mehay

Education Coordinators: Jamie Buck (Compass -

North), Kris Rundell (Compass - Downtown)

1,000 OpHouse Facebook 'Likes' and Counting!

Have you visited Opportunity House on Facebook yet? Don't be left out in the cold! We're celebrating reaching more than 1,000 'likes' (1,089, to be exact!) by posting weekly deal announcements, volunteer profiles, "New Find Fridays" and more!

Just visit facebook.com/ophousethrift/ or search for "Opportunity House" in the Facebook search bar, then 'Like' our page to start seeing our content in your News Feed. Be sure to comment on your favorite posts, and leave us a review to help promote the store to others! We're proud to boast a rating of 4.9/5 stars after nearly two dozen reviews, ranking us among Bloomington's best-reviewed thrift shops.

Visit the site online or stop in to see what the buzz is about today!

Now is the Perfect Time to Volunteer!

Winter blues starting to bring you down? Come experience the warmth of Opportunity House! Meet new people and make new friends while making a difference in the lives of shoppers and MCUM families alike.

Don't wait! Visit OpHouseThrift.org/Volunteer, or call us at (812) 336-2443 for more information about joining our dedicated team.

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 following us on Facebook!