

The Newsletter of Monroe County United Ministries

# Working Together

July 2018

## MCUM to Hire Early Childhood Mental Health Therapist



Katie Broadfoot, Bryan Hane, & Jessica Merkel celebrate Bloomington Hospital Foundation's re-branding with Director, John Barada.

"Too often, when talking about school readiness, the socio-emotional component is overlooked," says Erin Predmore, MCUM executive director.

Not at MCUM's Compass Early Learning Center anymore, thanks to the Bloomington Health Foundation (BHF).

BHF has partnered with MCUM to offer a three-year \$181,500 grant to **fully fund the salary and start-up expenses for a licensed early childhood mental health therapist.**

The National Center for Children in Poverty indicates that poverty is a major risk-factor that predisposes children to developing mental health conditions that can have a lifelong impact.

84% of the children enrolled in our Compass Early Learning Center come from families living below the federal poverty line.

Recognizing that many of our children were already displaying symptoms or were at-risk of developing mental health conditions, MCUM piloted an ECMH intern in 2016. Working limited hours in only three classrooms, the intern identified more than 25 children in need of services. She worked individually with 18 children during her internship and referred seven families to Milestones, her practicum site, for additional resources.

Families were exceptionally grateful for the support and noticeable impact early detection and intervention made on their children. However, with the demand for mental health services so much higher than what can reasonably be accomplished by any part-time intern, and following an expansion of Compass that increased our capacity by 209%, we determined that hiring a full-time ECMH therapist to float between classrooms and sites was an imperative service to provide our families.

MCUM's new ECMH therapist will help identify and support children already displaying signs of mental illness and those most at risk, focusing on play-based therapy, family engagement, and appropriate services.

We are so excited to bring our new therapist on board. Thank you, Bloomington Health Foundation!

## Self-Sufficiency Center Word Scramble

Y B Y Z M A L D L L  
 T I U R F D Z I Y W  
 L Q P M G S C A O B  
 P J C J A L F P K X  
 B Z L E R C F E T I  
 B P D R R U N R I P  
 V C R I M M O J M L  
 V M S V O U C H E R  
 X I H G O N Z W O F  
 S A O O F F S H Z J  
 Z A L W V T Q S J Y  
 G W L G E U I U M L  
 F W E S S N W Q N B  
 T W O O O O X I F Y  
 U L L D W N T R C L  
 C Q U O B Y N C J M  
 A B O T Y G E T B Z  
 Y N J G W A R Z W T  
 G Q I H B C M O P S  
 D N G N U G D B Y Z

Rent Closet Voucher  
Plus **THREE** mystery words!

Can you find them all?

## Current Needs

### Food Pantry

- Peanut butter (medium jars, please)
- Small cereal
- Canned beans
- Condensed soup
- Tomato products
- Canned chicken
- Canned and dried fruit

### Cleaning Closet

- Feminine products
- Toilet paper
- Baby wipes
- Spray cleaner (all-purpose)
- Laundry detergent
- Dish soap

### In case you missed it...

The Monroe County sanitation department is **no longer** recycling plastic bags. We hope this leads to less use of plastic overall. In the meantime if you have plastic bags to get rid of, we'll be happy take them!

We use plastic bags to distribute items from our cleaning and hygiene closet (soaps, shampoo, toiletries) and keep them separate from the paper bags we use in our food pantry.

You can donate bags anytime during our normal business hours.

## Help us close the gap!

You may be surprised to receive a solicitation request from us during the summer. Though uncharacteristic for us to ask for funds mid-year, summer tends to be a slower fundraising season for us. That's why we're reaching out to you to help us close a budget gap now rather than waiting until our end-of-year campaign.

As you know, we have expanded both of our programs in the last couple of years. It was ambitious, but it's working. We're serving more people more profoundly than ever before. Our Compass Early Learning Center's year-to-date enrollment is at an all-time high of 194 children, operating out of two facilities. Our Self-Sufficiency Center is on track to serve 160% more people than last year. Compass has a 5-year average of 74% of graduating children considered kindergarten-ready and the Self-Sufficiency Center has families ready to look beyond emergency assistance toward long-term financial goals, like enrolling in college and purchasing a home. MCUM's work sets up one generation for a lifetime of success and the other to overcome their financial instability.

However, we expected our income from donor contributions to be at \$127,083 through June and it falls shy by \$38,439. We also received notice that the Emergency Food & Shelter Program and Neighborhood Assistance Program, federally and state funded initiatives, cut funding to all agencies by 11 and 17 percent, respectively. Combined, MCUM's programs will lose about \$18,000 as a direct result of those funding cuts.

By putting our wallets together this month, **we can close that gap.** If you're feeling generous, please send your donation back to us in the enclosed envelope or donate online at [www.mcum.org/donate](http://www.mcum.org/donate). Our goal is to raise \$160,000 before August. **It's an ambitious goal, but an honest one for what we need to eliminate generational poverty.**



## Strategic Plan: Sneak Preview

Our Board of Directors is working tirelessly on our agency's new strategic plan. We will be so excited to share it with you. In the meantime, we wanted to share our updated 30-year vision: **to eliminate generational poverty in Monroe County for the people we serve.**

Please stay tuned over the next couple of months for the unveiling of our new Strategic Plan. You can be part of helping to eliminate generational poverty NOW by contributing to our summer campaign!

## A Note from Erin:

Dear MCUM donors and supporters,

By now, you have probably heard that I will be leaving my position as MCUM's Executive Director at the end of July. In updating our board and staff about the transition, I realized I wanted to make sure you are "in the loop" on the information as well. The trust and support you give us, demonstrated by your financial donations, food donations, and volunteer time, is extremely important to the agency – we could not do what we do without your help.



Your continued support is more important than ever, and not just because of my departure. It is important because we are serving more people through our programs than ever before. We have doubled our service delivery in the past year – twice as many children from low-income families are served by Compass Early Learning Center, and twice as many families are coming to our Self-Sufficiency Center for financial counseling, food, clothing, and other items. Our Board of Directors has boldly set our 30 year vision to eliminate generational poverty in Monroe County

for the people we serve. That means we are not just giving out food and providing childcare, but also inviting our clients into a long-term relationship where they are encouraged and supported to set their own goals, tackle personal projects, and work on their own lives to increase their stability.

MCUM's strategic plan is bold, exciting, and necessary. Our next leader will continue the work, leading MCUM forward towards an important future, and the stewards of this vision and plan are members of this community – our **Board of Directors**. I want to reassure you that MCUM is in excellent hands, and ask for your continued support. As we have challenged ourselves to serve more people, we've realized the need is greater than we ever realized. Your financial and food donations are more important than ever before, and I'm asking you to continue your support, and to increase it if possible.



As my time at MCUM comes to an end and we welcome a new leader, I know my family will continue to support the agency and the critical work it does in the community. We cannot just say that high quality affordable childcare is important, that food is a human right, or that all people in poverty deserve a chance to improve their lives – as a community we have to back up those statements with money, food, and volunteer time. We have to give of ourselves if we want to see a change.

Although my time as MCUM's leader is coming to a close, I will be rooting from the sidelines for big impacts to be made in the next 80 years.

A handwritten signature of Erin in cursive.

## Thank You!

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

- Our newest pantry volunteers, Tanya & Sage Orbaugh and Claudia Brink. Just a few weeks into their service, they're already developing reputations for their meticulous sorting efforts.
- First United Methodist Church for arranging Compass-Downtown kiddos to have a shade structure in their outdoor play field.
- The Jack Hopkins Social Services Committee for awarding MCUM funding for technology updates for the Self-Sufficiency Center and helping us support our payroll after a massive influenza outbreak this winter.
- Our friends at the Bloomington Township Trustee's office for helping us provide financial assistance to a family who would have otherwise been ineligible and would likely have been evicted from their homes

## EFO SIGNUP TIME IS HERE

It's officially that time!

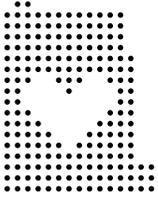
**Each One, Feed One:**

**August 10-12.** We have many volunteer shifts and positions available, please check them out (and sign up!!!) at:

[www.mcum.org/eof](http://www.mcum.org/eof)

or

contact Katie at  
kbroadfoot@mcum.org  
or 812.339.3429 ext. 18.



## Monroe County United Ministries

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### *Inside This Issue*



Member Agency

- p1 ECMHT Hire
- p2 Current Needs, Summer Campaign
- p3 A note from Erin

### **Save a tree!**

Sign up to receive our new eNewsletter.  
Email [kevans@mcum.org](mailto:kevans@mcum.org) to make the switch!

### *Hours of Operation:*

#### **Self Sufficiency Center**

##### **Monday, Thursday. & Friday**

Appointment only: 8:00-12:00

Food pantry only: 12:00-5:00

Walk-ins: 12:00-4:30

##### **Tuesday:**

Appointment only: 8:00-12:00

Food pantry only: 12:00-7:00

Walk-ins: 12:00-6:30

**Wednesday:** CLOSED

#### **Compass Early Learning Center**

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

### *Leadership Staff:*

Executive Director: Erin Predmore

Director of Operations: Steve Thomas

Development Director: Katie Broadfoot

Office Manager: Shannon Hampton

Site Director- North: Jamie Buck

Site Director - Downtown: Charity Aton

## **Opportunity House**

Opportunity House, located at 907 W. 11th Street, 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, 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.

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

The Opportunity House has all your summer needs and wants, including swim suits, shorts, capris, knit tops, as well as Fourth of July decorations. Come in today and see the variety of unique items we have at very low prices.

Even with all the heat and rain, our loyal volunteer are always here to help you shop. We are so thankful for them, as well as our customers, and those who donate! As you know, our profits go to help MCUM with their preschool and other great programs they offer the community. Come see us soon - new items are added to the store daily!



Please recycle this newsletter or share it with a friend.