

The Newsletter of Monroe County United Ministries

# Working Together

September 2018

## Each One, Feed One Success!

### 3-day food drive will once again feed thousands

Thanks to the incredible support of our many donors, congregations, local grocery stores, volunteers, sponsors and countless shoppers, MCUM's annual **Each One, Feed One** food drive was once again a tremendous success.

Between August 10 and 12, more than 175 of MCUM's dedicated volunteers collected, transported, and sorted through **10,252 pounds** of food and cleaning/hygiene supplies. All of these donations will be distributed through MCUM's Self-Sufficiency Center to local families experiencing food insecurity and financial hardship.

This year, Each One, Feed One could not have come at a more pressing time for MCUM. In 2018, MCUM's food pantry has been serving an average of 40 percent more families in any given month. This translates to roughly 100 additional families being served each month, relative to 2017 totals.

As the photos below show, our food pantry had been perilously bare. With your help, Each One, Feed One activated the generosity of our entire community, offering a low-barrier opportunity for all of us to care for our neighbors and help meet their basic human needs.

Thank you for making this possible and for making our community a better place for everyone.



## Now enrolling at both locations!

Great news for families: Both of MCUM's Compass Early Learning Center sites are still enrolling!

If you or someone you know is seeking high-quality, affordable childcare in Monroe County, please contact Tina Burress, Business Manager, at **(812) 339-3429 ext. 19** or [tburress@mcum.org](mailto:tburress@mcum.org) to schedule a site tour and program overview.

### Eligibility Guidelines

MCUM's licensed and accredited Compass Early Learning Center is designed to serve low-income, working families living in Monroe County.

In order to qualify for enrollment, parents must be working, attending school, or have employment lined up at the time of enrollment. Each family's cost of care is determined by a sliding fee scale based on each household's income.

For more information on the Compass Early Learning Center, please visit:

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

# Current Needs

## Food Pantry

- Small cereal
- Tomato products
- Canned chicken
- Canned fruit
- Canned pork & beans
- Baking mixes (Bisquick, Jiffy, etc.)
- Uncooked pasta

## Cleaning Closet

- Feminine products
- Toilet paper
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Toothbrushes
- Diapers size 4-6 & pull ups
- Disposable razors
- Hand & body lotion

## Child Care

Please consider helping our Compass Center stock up the following Back-to-School supplies:

- Kid scissors
- Markers (thin and thick)
- Construction paper- all colors
- White paper
- Glue/Glue sticks
- Borax
- Vinegar
- Cornstarch
- Cooking oil
- Crayons
- Paint
- Watercolors
- Tracing paper
- Paintbrushes
- Googly eyes
- Yarn
- Measuring cups/spoons
- Wooden spoons

MCUM also gladly accepts *paper grocery sacks* for the food pantry. Paper bags hold more than plastic and stand up nicely. Please ask for paper when you shop and bring them to MCUM to reuse.



We have some new and returning faces at MCUM! Please join us in welcoming our newest **student volunteers from Indiana University!**



**Paige Kotecki** is beginning her 4-year role with us as Advocate for Community Engagement (ACE). She will be spending this year learning the ropes from **Alex Dowland**, our senior ACE who will graduate in May. A native of St. John, Indiana, Paige describes her role here as “a bridge for student volunteers from the academic classroom to their field study experience.” Paige earned direct admission to the Kelley School of Business, where she plans to focus on marketing. Her career goal is to be a global marketing manager focusing on business development. She is most excited about the opportunity to broaden her perspective through serving people in need. In her free time, she loves dancing and spending time with her friends.



**Maddie Spickard** comes to us from Little Rock, Arkansas. Her academic goal is to earn her Master’s in Public Affairs with a concentration in Nonprofit Management. Her role here at MCUM is Volunteer Coordinator. When asked what drew her to the position, she said, “I really resonate with the mission of MCUM, helping to serve families in the community with both immediate needs and long-term goals. I also love working with diverse groups of people, so the position of working with volunteers and service-oriented people is very exciting to me.” Maddie’s career goal is to work in an organization dedicated to women’s empowerment and economic security, a strong passion of hers. During her free time she loves to travel and explore new areas. Her favorite part of moving to Bloomington has been trying all the restaurants.

**We’re so glad to have both of you aboard!** If you see Paige or Maddie, be sure to say hello! We look forward to seeing all they can accomplish.

.....

## Special Thanks to Women Writing for (a) Change!

Women Writing for (a) Change is a local non-profit organization with a mission to “create safe and inspiring learning opportunities for individuals and organizations who wish to pursue the art of writing as a tool for growth and change.” We were fortunate to have **Beth Lodge-Rigal**, creative director, come to MCUM recently and lead our staff through some writing and sharing activities. This gave us an opportunity to step out of our normal work day, strengthen cohesiveness, and lift up the common challenges we face in our roles as service providers and administrators alike. It was a very meaningful experience, and we thank Beth and WWFAC for helping us “lean in.” We hope to have her back again soon.

# Microlending: a new opportunity for MCUM clients

MCUM is busy preparing to roll out a new microloan program this fall. Microloans are small, personal loans that can help individuals and families overcome a known barrier to increasing their income in a sustainable way.



These loans will range from \$500-\$1000 and are intended for use by households who would otherwise lack access to credit or a typical small loan from a bank. Loan recipients will have 6-12 months to pay back their loan with a low interest rate (typically about 10%).

Qualified uses for a microloan from MCUM include any purchase that will directly lead to increased earnings. These uses may include (but are not limited to):

- Enrolling in (or finishing) a short-term job training or certification program
- Enrolling in a degree program (or help with tuition if already enrolled)
- Purchasing tools or equipment that allow for more efficient or effective work
- Purchasing or repairing a vehicle to allow for additional hours or a career change
- Investing in one's own small business

The program offers opportunities to learn and practice sound financial management skills while building earnings and assets. Successful applicants are required to complete 6-8 hours of financial, loan, and credit education to better position them for a formal loan in the future. This will help strengthen their understanding of how to utilize the banking system, including how to manage savings and checking accounts, build credit, and move toward eligibility for more substantial loans from financial institutions.

Steve Thomas, assistant director of operations, is leading the efforts with this new program. According to Steve, “we want to help people overcome the financial barriers standing between where they are and where they want to go. Microlending offers them a creative solution to achieve their goals.”

MCUM is partnering with Trockman Initiative, a group from the Kelley School of Business, which looks at best practices in the microlending world and assists with program design, materials, and contracts.

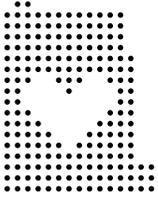
“This is an innovative program here in Bloomington, something both MCUM and the Trockman Initiative are passionate to put into practice” says Thomas.

The Microlending program is a component of Your Path, a new initiative in our Self-Sufficiency Center, which helps our clients look at five important and inter-connected topics that lead to self-sufficiency, including: *family stability, well-being, financial management, education & training, and employment & career management*. Stay tuned for more updates on Your Path as we roll the initiative out this fall.

## Thank you, volunteers!

This month, we would like to acknowledge all of our **Each One, Feed One** volunteers. This drive would not be possible without you!

- Jen Smallwood
- Dan Kirwan
- Vicki & Tom King
- Kayla Delaplane
- Brandon Helfrich
- Steve Thomas
- Sarah LaGrange
- Carol Peterman
- Renee Petrina
- Allison Polley
- Naomi Orsay
- Natalie & David Garshaw
- Carolyn & Brent Sweeny
- Carolyn Anderson
- Charity Aton
- Byron & Hayden Bangert
- Lyndsay Towell
- Barb Clark
- Laura & Addy Kao
- Sandi Clothier
- Bill & Phyllis Perkins
- Jane Pitt
- Janie Harnett
- Bryan & Jessika Hane
- John & Mary Jo Sgro
- Greg Claretto
- Norm Overly
- Elizabeth Johnson
- Debbie Eads
- Phyllis Eads
- Lauren Bryant
- Susan Siena
- Cheryl Rich & friends
- Gail Seegert
- Erin & Amelia Predmore
- Barb Unger
- Stacy Krebs
- Cherri Dupree
- David Ellies
- Connie Vaughn
- Marcie Francis
- Jamie Buck
- Kimie Perry
- Michael & Rae Ann Tibbs
- Ruth & Joseph Miller
- Gene Hoard-Jackson
- Teresa Hoard-Jackson



## 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](mailto:mcum@mcum.org)  
[www.mcum.org](http://www.mcum.org)



### Inside This Issue

- p1 Each One, Feed One Food Drive
- p2 Welcome New Interns
- p3 New Programs

### 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:*

Interim Executive Director: Katie Broadfoot

Asst. 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:*

On your next visit to Opportunity House look for our fall and winter clothing, being introduced in early September. Also look out for Halloween items and winter coats all at our usual low prices.

Needs this month are gently used towels, wash cloths, silverware and pots and pans, these are frequently requested items for customers with vouchers and we often run out.

Also we always need more volunteers. If you can spare 2-3 hours once a month, or once a week, we can find a spot for you and it would be a great help.



Please recycle this newsletter or share it with a friend.