

# Working Together

November 2018

## Can you imagine our community without poverty?



That's our goal here at MCUM. Our Compass Early Learning Center will provide children with the start they need to be successful in school and later in life, while our Self-Sufficiency Center will provide the older generation with the resources they need to meet immediate needs and, when ready, to build their household to financial stability.

### What does it take to accomplish that?

The same that it always has – YOU.

With your support, we are on track to help more families than ever this year and in a hugely-impactful way:

- We have cared for 273 children through our Compass Early Learning Center
- We have 10 families enrolled in our IDA asset-building program, with the first completing her savings goal last month!

**We've got big plans for 2019**, including launching our Self-Sufficiency Center's new Your Path program, focused on long-term outcomes for families, like asset-building, improving financial position, and developing strong, meaningful relationships. We'll continue to incorporate Conscious Discipline and behavioral health into our Compass Early Learning Center. And, we will maintain the components to both our programs that have always been so meaningful for the community. But, we need your help!

### Can MCUM count on you this year during our end-of-year campaign?

Our campaign goal is \$105,960. Your gift is an extension of your belief in the families we serve—your belief that a better life is possible for every member of our community.

**You may give by donating online** at [www.mcum.org/donate](http://www.mcum.org/donate) or by mailing your donation to us at 827 West 14th Court, Bloomington, IN 47404.

### What Your Gift Can Do:

**\$22**

Provide 1 family with a pantry access card, valid for 3 visits to our pantry

**\$63**

One week's fee scale payment to Compass for a low-income family

**\$106**

2 hours of budget coaching and setup of an IDA match account for one family

**\$222**

Two months of early intervention behavioral health treatment for one child at Compass

### What difference will you make?



## Current Needs

### Food Pantry

- Canned carrots, potatoes, and mixed veggies
- Canned tomatoes or pasta sauce
- Canned fruit
- Pasta
- Baking Mixes (Jiffy, Bisquick, etc.)

### Cleaning Closet

- Razors
- Men's deodorant
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- All-purpose cleaners
- Lotion
- Kleenex

### Child Care

Please consider helping our Compass Center stock up the following supplies:

- Christmas and winter themed crafts
- Tissue paper
- Paper plates
- Old calendars with pictures
- Fabric for bulletin boards
- Glitter
- Pine cones
- Cotton balls
- Clear plastic ornaments

MCUM gladly accepts paper bags 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.

## A Compass Family Story



*Montse Lopez Aca with her three children at Compass Downtown: Maximiliano (3), Genesis (2), and Luis (1).*

Montse Lopez Aca is a champion. She's a single mother of three who works full time. And on top of that, her children are all under the age of three.

When looking for a preschool, Montse needed a place where her children could attend together. The infant program at Compass Downtown helped fulfill that need.

Max, Genesis, and Luis (ages 3, 2, and 1) – have been attending Compass Downtown for about a year now.

The sense of family and community at Compass are big pluses for Montse and her children.

“Sometimes my kids see each other in the hallway and stop to hug,” she says, smiling.

Montse also has great things to say about the Compass Downtown staff.

“They're so on top of things here. They worry about your kids on your behalf. They send individual progress reports home so you know what's going on.”

And her children have been progressing. Montse's youngest, Luis, started at Compass as a three-month old, and now he's starting to walk.

Her middle child, Genesis, loves to read, is very smart, very active, and loves to talk.

“She started doing all of that as she went day-by-day in the school routine,” Montse says, “and she speaks a lot more than she used to.”

At age two, Max, her oldest, wasn't talking yet.

“He'd cry every day,” Montse recalls, “but since he's been coming here, he's started talking, and he gets excited about coming.”

Knowing her children are in good hands makes all the difference for Montse, who works as an office assistant for the Family and Social Services Administration.

When she lived in Indianapolis, Montse was paying \$250 per week for childcare. Now her fees are completely subsidized.

“The staff even helped me complete all the financial paperwork,” she says. “I love this place. I'm so excited to have my kids here.”

We're so glad that Montse and her children are part of our Compass family!

## Call out for Winter Break volunteers

### Food Pantry needs your help in December and January

Are you looking for a way to volunteer without a long-term commitment?

**We're looking for 6 people** to help us bridge the gap in our Food Pantry while our student volunteers are gone during the months of December and January.

Among other tasks, you'll get to help our self-sufficiency clients with shopping in our Food Pantry. It's rewarding – and important – work!

If you're interested in volunteering, please contact Maddie Spickard, our volunteer coordinator, at [mspickard@mcum.org](mailto:mspickard@mcum.org).



## Thank you!

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

- The leadership teams of Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County, the Bloomington Township Trustee, Middle Way House, and Shalom Center for meeting with our Self-Sufficiency staff to improve our local resource knowledge and referrals.
- Pam Davidson for her weekly detergent donation (and more!)
- Opportunity House board members and volunteers for hosting a wonderful volunteer appreciation lunch.
- Claudia Brink for her service to MCUM's food pantry.
- Alex Dowland for filling in on food pantry shifts.

Thank you ALL.

We couldn't do it without you!

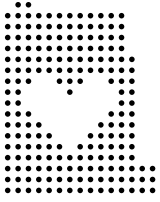


## Ho-Ho-Holiday Recruitment is Still Ongoing!

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](http://MCUM.org/holiday) or call us at **(812) 339-3429 x18** 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 [mcum@mcum.org](mailto:mcum@mcum.org)  
812.339.2912 fax [www.mcum.org](http://www.mcum.org)



### Inside This Issue

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### 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:

Opportunity House will be holding a store wide sale on Giving Tuesday, November 27, so plan to shop that day for your holiday gifts and support MCUM.

Christmas items will be available soon after Halloween including ornaments, wrapping paper, greeting cards, wreaths, decorations and trees. We also have a great selection of warm sweaters and coats to keep you toasty this winter!

As always, we need towels, silverware and volunteers!



Please recycle this newsletter or share it with a friend.