

Working Together

The Newsletter of Monroe County United Ministries

November 2010

Matching Opportunity for Endowment

This is the fifth year of the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County's Matchstick Endowment Matching Initiative. When MCUM raises \$10,000 for our endowment fund, an additional \$3,333 will be added by the foundation. This is a great opportunity to maximize the impact of your donation thanks to a 3:1 match and to add your generosity to the endowment that will support our programs for as long as they are needed. We still need \$2,990 to reach our goal for matching funds and every donation counts! Donations should be made directly to the foundation:

Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County
101 W. Kirkwood, Suite 321
Bloomington, IN 47404-6129



Please note "MCUM/Matchstick" on the memo line. Donations can also be made online through the foundation's website: www.cfbmc.org. Contact the foundation at (812) 333-9016 with questions or to find out exactly how much MCUM still needs to raise. Contact our office at (812) 339-3429 if you have any questions about how the endowment helps MCUM to provide affordable childcare and basic needs assistance

"Spring Into Action" for MCUM's Annual Luncheon

MCUM's annual "Spring Into Action!" Luncheon and Auction will be held on Sunday, April 3, 2011, in the Bloomington-Monroe County Convention Center. Are you ready to "spring into action" on behalf of this event? Here are just a few ways you can help:

- Provide a corporate sponsorship to cover event expenses, such as food and printing
- Donate an item to the auction. Desired items include art, interesting household pieces, services, certificates, and fun experiences.
- Join the organizing committee!

Holiday Helping Opportunities

Interested in getting involved this holiday season? MCUM offers numerous opportunities for you, your congregation, club or other group.

Visit www.mcum.org for checklists and suggestions. Call 339-3429 or email mcum@bloomington.in.us if you need more information.

Here are just a few ideas:

- provide holiday food baskets to local families
- adopt a family for Christmas
- provide a ham or turkey to childcare families
- help a certain jolly old elf to provide a goodie bag to each child in the Childcare Program
- help restock the Childcare Program's toy box
- donate to the rent, mortgage, and utility assistance fund

If you plan to adopt a family, please return your commitment form as soon as possible!

Food Pantry Needs

The pantry welcomes donations of all nonperishable foods, but we currently have a special need for the following items:

- canned meats: chicken, salmon, stew, etc.
- canned vegetables: tomatoes, beets, carrots, greens, potatoes, etc.
- crackers, especially saltines
- instant potatoes and other potato sides
- desserts: baking mixes, cookies, etc.

We need your **paper grocery sacks** for the Emergency Food Pantry! Paper bags hold more than plastic and stand up nicely on our shelves. Please ask for paper when you shop.

Cleaning Closet Needs

Demand for these items, which can't be purchased with food stamps, is very high. Help restock our shelves with:

- diapers, especially small sizes
- household cleaners
- new socks and underwear for men and women
- hair conditioner

Childcare Needs

The eighty children enrolled in the Childcare Program use many supplies, including:

- dry erase markers
- clipboards
- glue sticks
- plastic totes with lids (19-quart size)

Special Request: a 2-4 gallon, 110 current, portable **air compressor** for cleaning equipment, contact Cliff Edens at 339-3429 or mcumhelp@bloomington.in.us

Volunteer Opportunities

For more information about these or other positions, contact Cliff Edens at (812)339-3429 or mcumhelp@bloomington.in.us unless another name is provided below.

Featured Volunteer Position

Calling all musicians! Our preschool children love music. Would you be willing to spend a few hours sharing your instrument with young children? Contact Tina at 339-3429 or mcumeducate@bloomington.in.us.

Opportunity House Volunteers: Opp House is a resale shop at 907 W. 11th Street and is MCUM's important partner. Volunteers are especially needed to sort and price items and serve as cashiers. Contact Janet at 336-2443 for more information.

Pantry Assistants: Volunteers are always needed to sort food donations and bag groceries in the Emergency Food Pantry. Set your own schedule during office hours, once you are trained. Moderate lifting required.

Classroom Assistants: Do you want to work with preschool age children? Do you love to read? Love to do crafts? Do you enjoy being outside? We will find a task that suits you best.

Spring Luncheon Committee Members: Do you love to plan parties? Do you want to help raise funds for MCUM programs? Join the planning committee for the annual spring luncheon! Contact Rebecca at mcumfund@bloomington.in.us or 339-3429.



IU Students Run Nearly Naked to Keep Others Warm

On a recent warm fall day, you may have seen an unusual sight on the IU campus, thousands of students running in scant clothing. It was the “Nearly Naked Mile,” a homecoming tradition that gives students a fun opportunity to help those in need. Participants donated enough warm clothing to fill 63 large trash bags and made financial contributions to the United Way of Monroe County. This event helped MCUM to stock up on coats, jackets, gloves, hats and other winter wear. We appreciate all the support we receive from Indiana University, in all its many forms.

Faith Leaders and Staff Invited to Visit MCUM

We love to give tours to visiting groups or individuals. At this time we are extending a special invitation to faith leaders and staff. We know these folks often receive requests for the types of assistance MCUM provides and we want to know more about how we can work together effectively.

Spend an hour with us to:

- Learn more about MCUM’s services.
- Discuss how our organizations can better coordinate services and make referrals.
- Suggest how MCUM can better meet community needs.

When should you visit? Our office is open weekdays, 8am-4pm. Contact Cliff Edens at 339-3429 or mcumhelp@bloomington.in.us to schedule a visit at your convenience.

Food Pantry Has Special Saturday Hours

MCUM’s Emergency Food Pantry will have special Saturday hours in November and December to accomodate volunteers and donors.

November 6, 13, 20

December 4, 11, 18

The pantry will be open 8:00 am – 12:00 pm on these days. If you would like to schedule a volunteer group or donation drop-off, please contact Cliff Edens at 339-3429 or mcumhelp@bloomington.in.us.

Thank you!

We would like to thank...

- everyone who has adopted a childcare family for Christmas.
- United Way of Monroe County for the many ways they support MCUM.
- Bruce Norton of Delphi Graphics for his logo and sign support.
- Monroe Bank and Old National Bank for their committment to MCUM’s programs.
- the Cardinal Stage Company for providing tickets for the Dolphin Classroom to see “If You Give a Mouse a Cookie.”
- Jill Bryniarski for supporting the Childcare Program.
- Iris Wood for keeping the Childcare Program supplied with new socks and underwear.
- Kristin Wolfe and Meadows Hospital for donating flu shots for MCUM staff.
- the members and staff of the many faith communities that support MCUM.

Cell Phone Recycling

When you upgrade your cell phone, stop to consider how to dispose of your old one responsibly. Some "recycling" programs ship phones to developing countries where they put human lives and natural resources in danger. MCUM is paid per phone (\$0.50 - \$35) by a recycling/refurbishing company with zero landfill and no-export policies. In addition, your phone will raise money to fund our programs.

Phones can be donated at TIS Bookstore, Opportunity House, MCUM's offices and anywhere MCUM items are collected.

Clip Labels and Box Tops

Looking for an easy way to help? Collect Labels for Education from Campbell's products and Box Tops for Education from General Mills products. Just clip this:



or this:



from products you already buy and send them our way. These logos may be in unexpected places so keep your eyes open!

MCUM Kids Celebrate Halloween



Indiana University students recently planned and hosted a Halloween party for MCUM. Children in the Childcare Program participated in fun and spooky activities like pin-the-face on the pumpkin, mask making, and a cupcake walk! They also munched on delicious cookies from Subway and decorated pumpkins donated by Bloomingfoods. Thank you to our donors and all the wonderful IU students who made the party a huge success!

Monroe County Religious Leaders
and Monroe County United Ministries present...

A VISION FOR THE COMMON GOOD: Faith, Advocacy & Public Policy

At a time when much of our religious discourse seems to contribute to the increasing polarization of society and the American political process, there is a need for a reasoned and respectful conversation among people of faith about what serves the common good. How can people of faith offer an authentic witness for social justice in public policy? It is our hope that this symposium will play a part in a renewed conversation.

Saturday, November 13, 2010

8:00am - 3:00pm

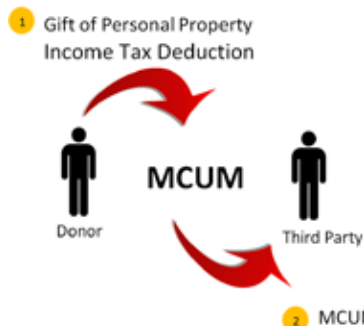
Ivy Tech Community College - Bloomington

Speakers will include:

- Jennifer Kottler, Director of Public Policy, Sojourners
- Professor Dan Conkle, Indiana University School of Law
- Local, state & national elected officials

This event is free and lunch is provided. Please register in advance at interfaithMCRL@gmail.com or (812)339-3429.

Plan Your Gift: Valuable Personal Property



When you donate your high-value books, works of art, or antiques to MCUM, we in turn sell them and use the proceeds to feed hungry families and provide quality childcare. At the time you donate, you can take an income tax deduction on the value of your items!

For more information, contact Rebecca Stanze or Meri Reinhold at (812) 339-3429.

Lead Testing Offered to Childcare



Daniel, of the Penguin Classroom, bravely faces the quick finger prick that the lead test requires. Gina Forrest, from Bloomington Hospital, administered the tests.

Thanks to the support of the Bloomington Hospital, nine of the children enrolled in the Childcare Program were tested for elevated levels of lead in October. Although none of these children were suspected to have lead poisoning, their parents chose to take advantage of the free test as a precaution. Lead poisoning can come from many sources and can lead to a variety of developmental issues so regular testing is an important part of ensuring your child's health.

Family Literacy: Library Fun

Welcome to our new series about how to make reading as a family fun, interesting, and a learning experience! Each month we will discuss simple ways you can incorporate reading into your family life. Research shows that reading to and with your children significantly increases their reading scores and overall performance at school. In a recent National Assessment of Education study, fourth grade children whose parents participated in reading at home scored an average of 28 points higher than the national average for reading and more than 70 points higher than their peers who did not experience reading in their home.

Luckily, all parents can help their kids succeed using free educational tools like the local public library. The Monroe County Public Library holds over 100,000 books and regularly offers free reading events for children birth to 18 years, using age-appropriate learning methods.

Toddlers and Preschool:
teaching words through songs, games, finger plays, story time, hands-on science and math

Kindergarten through Middle School:
guided reading activities, games, handouts, puzzles, story-related crafts

Teenagers:
homework help, teaching critical reading skills, book discussion clubs



Remember MCUM When Writing Your Will or Trust

Making a bequest to MCUM is a simple way to show your long-term commitment to helping our neighbors in need.

Sample Bequest Language:
I hereby leave [specific dollar amount/specific property/specific percentage/rest and remainder, etc.] of my estate to Monroe County United Ministries, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation in Bloomington, Indiana, to be used for the benefit of the organization in such manner as the board of directors may elect.

Looking for Quality Childcare?

Check out www.in.gov/fssa/carefinder. This website provides a list of licensed childcare options in your area and explains the differences among licensed childcare centers (such as MCUM), licensed childcare homes and registered ministries. This site also shows the results of recent licensing inspections. Visit www.naeyc.org for a list of childcare programs accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children or more information about accredited programs.

Childcare Classroom Calendars

Staff

Childcare Director: Traci Mehay
Educ. Coordinator: Tina Pender
Admin. Assist.: Jill Edie
Cook: Cynthia Powers
Assistant Cook: Derrick Mackie

Puffins: 2 - 2.5 year olds

Room currently closed.

Seahorses: 2.6 - 3 year olds

Teacher: Marycarole Matlock
Aide: Melissa Chambers

Penguins: 3 year olds

Teacher: Mary Ellen Pierce
Aide: Laura Baker

Otters: 4 year olds

Teacher: Jessica Smith
Aide: LaDawn Joyner

Dolphins: 5-6 year olds

Teacher: Kim Clay
Aide: Brock Singleton

Floater: Susan Williams

Puffins

The Puffin Room closed in August due to several funding losses. Thanks to careful planning, the closing was delayed long enough to graduate the Puffins into the Seahorse Room so none of our families lost care. However, MCUM's waiting list will continue to grow as families search for affordable care for their two year olds. We will re-assess our financial position soon to determine if the room can be re-opened in the near future.

Seahorses

November 1-5 - Harvest

This week the Seahorses will talk about fall harvest and discuss its meaning. What food grows on trees, what food grows in the garden? We will make scarecrows and stuffed pumpkins. We will read the book *Bottoms and Tops*.

November 8-12 - Wild Animals

This week the Seahorses will discover new things about wild animals. Would wild animals make good pets? What are good places for a lion, giraffe, or monkey to live? We will do the animal dance, make all kinds of masks, and chart our favorite animals.

November 15-19 - Experimenting

Seahorses love to experiment! This whole week will concentrate on experimenting and what makes things work. We will make our favorite volcanoes, see what happens when we mix colors and experiment with the air around us. What will happen when we mix milk, oil and food coloring? If you have some neat kid-friendly experiments, please let us know!

November 22-26 - Opposites

Up, down, off, on, front, and back! This week the Seahorses will talk about opposites. We will read books from Sesame Street on opposites and see if we can make a book of our own. The Seahorses will sort items into opposite categories. Which is hard, smooth, soft, or rough?

Parents: Please feel free to join us in the classroom at anytime! The children love to read, make shapes with play dough, and eat lunch with adult visitors. It gives a child tremendous excitement to share their world with their family! Also please remember to sign the red notebooks and bring in extra clothes for your child.

Announcements For Parents

Employment Assistance:

Rose Johnson, a representative from WorkOne, is available one Thursday afternoon a month to assist with resumes, cover letters, and job search tips. Visit Rose in the Parent Resource Room.

Visitors Welcome:

Family members are welcome in our classrooms. Feel free to visit - and play - anytime. If you would like to stay for a meal, please let the staff know so we can help the kitchen plan.

Important Dates:

November 23 - Thanksgiving Luncheon
Your family is invited to join us for a lunch of turkey with all the trimmings! Please sign up in advance.

December 14 - Winter Program
Join us at 6:30pm at Tri-North Middle School (next door to MCUM) for a show full of music and fun. Refreshments will be served after the performance.

December 23 - Limited Hours
The center will be open 6:30am-1:30pm.

December 27 - 30 - Limited Hours
The center will be open 8:00am-5:30pm.

Penguins

November 1-5 - The Senses

How do we perceive the world around us? The Penguins will learn that we have five senses that help us to experience our environment. It promises to be a fun week as we pay attention to the sights, sounds, tastes, smells and textures around us. At the end of the week, we will take a poll to discover which sense is the Penguins' favorite.

November 8-12 - Early Settlers

Now the Penguins will learn about our great country and its earliest inhabitants. We will begin with the Pilgrims and move along through time to the settlers that moved west helped shape our country. The Penguins are surely going to find it hard to believe that once upon a time there were no lights, cars, or computer games!

November 15-19 - Native Americans

This week Penguins will focus on the Native Americans. We will discover that the Native Americans were here long before other people and they taught the early settlers how to survive in this land. We will learn about their life and customs and how their traditions have had an impact on our lives. You will also find us in the art area creating early Native American artwork and costumes.

November 22-26 - Thanksgiving

Now it is time to take into consideration all that we have learned this month and celebrate Thanksgiving. We will think about people less fortunate than ourselves and discuss ways in which we can help them. We will then read the story of "Stone Soup" and learn how people can share what they have to make a feast for everyone. On Wednesday we will create a feast of our own in our dramatic play area.

Otters

November 1-5 - Homes

House, log cabin, apartment, trailer, teepee, igloo; the Otters will learn about them all. We will spend time reading about, looking at pictures of, and even building all sorts of homes in our classroom. Our learning will not be limited to human homes; we will also discuss some animal homes as well!

November 8-12 - Numbers

How many steps does it take to get across the classroom? How many of our Otters are boys or girls? These are questions the Otters will be able to answer as we surround ourselves with numbers and do some serious counting! Our week will be dedicated to recognizing, counting, writing, and playing games involving numbers! Come count with us!

November 15-19 - Fruits & Vegetables

Not everyone enjoys eating them, but this week the Otters will talk about all the different fruits and vegetables. We will learn how they grow, what they are used for, and even have a tasting party to determine which fruits and vegetables are our favorites!



November 22-26 - Thanksgiving

The Otters will learn all the different ways that people celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday. We will talk about the way the Native Americans and Pilgrims celebrated as well as share some of the ways our own families commemorate this holiday.

Dolphins

November 1-5 - Dentist

What better time to learn about the dentist than after eating all that candy from Halloween? We will learn that although going to the dentist can be scary, it keeps our teeth healthy. We will learn the right way to brush our teeth and how often we should do so. We will work on brushing by using the giant teeth and learning the Raffi song "Brush your Teeth."



November 8-12 - Friends

We will spend this week reflecting on friendships with each other. We will learn why friendships are necessary and good to have. We will also learn that you can make new friends and still keep your old friends. The children will have the opportunity to tell us about their closest friends and why they are special.

November 15-19 - Family

This week the Dolphins will talk about what makes a family and why family is important. We will discuss who is in our family and what role we play. We will graph how many siblings everyone has in our fun math experiment. At the end of the week, we will learn that while families might be different, they are extremely important in our lives.

November 22-26 - Being Thankful

What are you thankful for? This week the Dolphins will discover and discuss what we are thankful for in our lives. We will have a discussion about the first Thanksgiving and why it was so special. We will learn fun songs and games about Thanksgiving and create many turkey art projects.

Monroe County United Ministries

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Bloomington, Indiana 47404
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Staff:

Executive Director: Meri Reinhold
Development Coordinator: Rebecca Stanze
Emergency Services Coordinator: Cliff Edens
Emerg. Services Caseworker: Justin Smith
Office Manager: Shannon Hampton
Childcare Director: Traci Mehay
Education Coordinator: Tina Pender
Administrative Assistant: Jill Edie

Hours of Operation:

Office and Emergency Services:	Monday - Friday 8:00am - noon 1:00pm - 4:00pm
Childcare:	Monday - Friday 6:30am - 5:30pm

Please recycle this newsletter or share it with a friend.

Opportunity House, located at 907 W. 11th Street, is a resale shop that raises funds to support MCUM's programs by finding new homes for used items. Store hours are 9:00-2:00, Monday-Saturday, with donations accepted 8:30-3:00. Call 336-2443 for more information. "Like" Opp House on Facebook and get updates on sales, interesting items and volunteer opportunities!

Opportunity House Update

by Janet Donham, Opportunity House Board President

Christmas is already in full swing at Opp House! Our shelves are stocked full with festive holiday wreaths, silk arrangements, knick knacks, and tableware. If you've downsized this holiday season, please consider donating your small tabletop Christmas tree to Opp House. We will "re-do" them to showcase our collection of beautiful ornaments.

We also have a great Facebook promotion going on right now. When our page reaches 250 fans, we will randomly choose a fan to receive a \$10 gift certificate to Opp House!

Opp House will be closed only one day this month: Thanksgiving Day on November 25th. Have a wonderful holiday!