

Working Together

The Newsletter of Monroe County United Ministries

October 2010

Your Support Makes a Difference

When you support Monroe County United Ministries, the impact of your support can be felt across the community. Your support provides:

- safe, dependable childcare for working parents;
- food to those who can't meet their own basic needs;
- the curriculum and expertise to prepare children for success in school;
- basics such as clothing, hygiene products, cleaning supplies, and diapers;
- financial assistance in the form of rent, mortgage, and utility assistance to prevent homelessness; and
- support to parents who might need help with parenting skills, literacy, or providing basic health services to their children.

Without support from the community in many forms, this work would not be possible. Thank you for your financial support, volunteer time, food donations, and many other forms of support.

CROP Hunger Walk

The annual CROP Hunger Walk will be held on Sunday, October 17. Participants will begin to gather at 1:30 in the Monroe Bank parking lot at Lincoln and Kirkwood in downtown Bloomington. The walk will launch at 2:00. This walk raises money for local and international hunger relief organizations and the walk route includes visits to some of the local agencies that will receive 25% of the funds raised.



Are you affiliated with a place of worship? Join your congregation's team or start your own. Individuals are also welcome. To learn more about CROP, visit www.churchworldservice.org. For more information about Monroe County's walk, contact Roger Heimer at 812-333-5664.

Excerpts from a Letter of Thanks

"I am so very thankful that we discovered MCUM when we moved to Bloomington and that [my son] was there from the first day he was eligible for the program.

...I've been involved in five different childcare organizations and I have no doubt at all that MCUM stands head and shoulders above any of the others."

...Our family was in a better place because of MCUM. Peace of mind is truly priceless and I never was concerned for [my son's] health, safety and welfare at MCUM. I knew he was being well cared for and spent his days engaged in activities that would help him learn and keep him happy."

Food Pantry Needs

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

- canned meats: tuna, chicken, stew, etc.
- canned vegetables: mixed veggies, beets, carrots, greens, potatoes, etc.
- baking mixes: cornbread, pancake mix
- fruit, dried or canned
- canned chili or stew

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:

- household cleaners
- new underwear for men and women
- new socks for men and women

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

Label Stickers: We need thousands of labels stuck on thousands of brochures. This is a great task for a chatty group or folks who want to drop in and work on their own schedule. If you can stick a label on straight, this job is for you!

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.



Rent Assistance Provides Stability

“Ed” earned a good wage as a laborer. He spent a high percentage of his income on housing because he lived in various motels but he hadn’t sought assistance from Monroe County United Ministries for more than ten years and seemed to be able to live paycheck to paycheck. Early in 2010 he was hospitalized for a serious surgery and moved in with friends for his recovery period. He was unable to work for several months.

During this period he was approved for Section 8 housing and found an apartment with rent under \$400 per month. However, because he wasn’t currently working and the landlord had no guarantee of his ability to pay, he was required to pay two months rent up front. With MCUM’s help, and the help of his township trustee, he was able to meet this requirement and secure housing that fit within his budget. By the end of his first two months in his new home, he will be back to work and earning a wage that will pay for his housing and other expenses – and allow him to begin saving his own personal safety net.

Monroe County United Ministries provided rent, mortgage, and utility assistance to 127 families (309 adults and children) in 2009. This form of assistance can prevent homelessness, help the homeless regain their stability, and prevent short-term crises from becoming long-term challenges.

Book Fair has a Happy Ending

MCUM recently wrapped up another successful book fair. Enrolled families and community members purchased \$944 in books during the week-long fair. More than 30 books were donated to the Childcare Program’s classrooms and library and we earned \$586 worth of books through our successful sale. Thank you to everyone who helped to make this event a success and for encouraging children to love books!

Open House With a Healthy Twist

Enrolled families attended MCUM’s Childcare Open House in September. This annual event gives families an opportunity to learn about their child’s classroom, schedule and goals.

This year, we were also able to offer an information fair. With the help of a grant from the Precision Health Fund of the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County, parents were provided with information about childhood obesity, what a child’s “healthy day” looks like, smoking cessation, and how to be active with their kids! They also participated in a presentation on car seat safety provided by representatives of Bloomington Hospital.

Thank you!

We would like to thank...

- First United Church for donating 3,231 pounds of food so far this year.
- the many IU students who share their time and talents with MCUM.
- the Gray Family for bringing in pizza to show their appreciation for the childcare staff.
- Les Bonnes Amies for donating 58 pounds of food so far this year.
- Pam Davidson for sharing her bargain hunting skills with the Emergency Services Program.
- First United Church for donating art supplies to the Childcare Program.
- Patty Ardery for donating toys, games and art supplies.
- the MCUM Childcare Staff for their hard work at our open house and their continued dedication to the families they serve.

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.

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!

Mark Your Calendar for Upcoming Events

Sunday, October 17 -
CROP Hunger Walk

Sunday, April 3 -
MCUM's "Spring Into Action!" Luncheon and Auction and the Bloomington-Monroe County Convention Center

Sunday, April 10 -
Homeward Bound Walk (*tentative date*)

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.

Create Opportunity with Your Donation to United Way!

When you donate to the United Way campaign, you are helping create opportunity for people in Monroe County. The entire community wins when children succeed, our neighbors are financially stable, and all families are strengthened. To create that opportunity, United Way focuses resources on the building blocks for a better life – education, earnings, and essentials. With your help, United Way can invest in 24 certified member agencies, including MCUM, and collaborative initiatives that help local residents make lasting improvements in their lives.

Take Action. Create Opportunity. Live United.

Shop with MCUM in Mind

Thank you to our supportive shoppers who help us earn money and supplies for our school. If you'd like to make a big difference for MCUM with your purchases, check out these great programs:

Target

If you have a Target Visa REDCard, up to 1% of your total will be donated to MCUM if you designate us as your rewards recipient. You can enroll online or at your local Target store. So far this year, we've received \$247 from this program!

Marsh

Use your Fresh Idea card when you shop for groceries at Marsh or O'Malia's and earn points for MCUM! All you have to do is go to www.marsh.net and register your card with our school (code 38244). Each time you use your card, points will automatically accumulate, which we will use to buy items from a catalog. Over the past year, your purchases have helped us receive science kits, craft supplies, and office supplies.

Box Tops for Education

Watch out for the Box Tops logo on hundreds of products - not just cereal boxes. Clip the logos and save them up. Your collection can be mailed, dropped off at our offices or donated anywhere that food is collected for MCUM. Each logo you collect brings 10¢ to our programs - and they add up fast! Box Tops brands include: Betty Crocker, Kleenex, Nature Valley, Pillsbury, Avery office supplies, Hefty, Ziploc, Cottonelle, Huggies, and General Mills. We received more than \$500 in 2009 from this program.

Campbell's Labels for Education

Labels for Education are also found on a variety of brands, including Campbell's, V8, Spaghettio's, Prego, Swanson, and Pepperidge Farm. Just clip the logo and the UPC next to it and send it along with your box tops. Collected labels give us points to spend in a catalog of classroom supplies, office supplies, and playground equipment.

In the News: Poverty Stats

The U.S. Census Bureau just released the most recent statistics on poverty in America, noting an increase in overall poverty, child poverty, and individuals without health insurance. These numbers confirm the need for MCUM's services more than ever. With your support, we can do our part in helping families during hard times

The overall poverty rate rose to the highest it has been since 1994, at 14.3 percent, up from 13.2 percent in 2008. Individuals lacking healthcare coverage also jumped, topping out at 50.7 million people, or 16.7% of the population. Perhaps the most alarming statistic was the jump in child poverty from 19 percent in 2008 to 20.7 percent in 2009.

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.

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

October 4-8 - Winnie the Pooh and Friends
This week the Seahorses will talk about some of their favorite characters: Winnie the Pooh, Tigger, and Christopher Robin! We will bounce all over the place like Tigger. We will discuss sharing and read about Christopher Robin giving his toys to Pooh. The Seahorses will play pin-the-tail on Eeyore. We will have a pretend birthday party for Winnie the Pooh at the end of the week.

October 11-15 - Nutrition
This week the Seahorses will learn what makes their bodies healthy. What are fruits and what are vegetables? We will sing "Peanut Butter Jelly" and read *Alexander the Horrible Eater*. What are your favorite foods to eat? The Seahorses will make nutrition collages and taste foods that they like. We will also look at the inside of foods such as apples, cucumbers and oranges. What foods help our bones to stay strong? What foods help us have energy?

October 18-22 - Our World
What do the Seahorses see in their world? What is around them at school, at home and when they drive in the car? The Seahorses will read Dora, Barney and Sesame Street books to see what is in their world. What kinds of science do we see around us? The Seahorses will talk about what they do at home, who they play with and how they get to school.

October 25-29 - Imagination
This week the Seahorses will play a lot of dress up, making all kinds of masks and painting with different utensils. Who is going to the zoo? We will pretend and use our imaginations this week to go to all kinds of places. Who knows, maybe we will even take a trip to the moon!

Announcements For Parents

Important Dates:

October 4 - October 22

Parent Teacher Conferences
These conferences are a vital part of your child's programming at MCUM. In October and May of each year, MCUM teachers evaluate your child's development using the Ages and Stages Questionnaire. This tool assesses motor development, communication skills, and personal/social skills. Your child's teacher then develops an Individual Child Plan that offers ideas for parents to try at home, as well as outlining what the teacher will do at school.

October 21

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.

October (day to be determined)

A Halloween Party for the whole family! This party is being hosted by IU students in HPER R367: Event Planning & Program Development.

Penguins

October 4-8 - Apples

This week Penguins will discover that fall is the perfect time to visit an orchard and find apples. We will taste a variety of apples to discover which are our favorites, talk about the many different ways that we can prepare apples for eating and we will also use them in the art area for making pictures with apple prints, apple seeds, etc.

October 11-15 - Trees & Leaves

We can now feel a slight chill in the air and hear the sound of leaves crunching under our feet as we enjoy the autumn days. Penguins will discuss the changes they notice in the world around them as this new season unfolds. We will venture out on walks around the neighborhood to see firsthand the transformation that is taking place. We will then gather the beautiful leaves for decorations, art projects, and pile them high for jumping!

October 18-22 - Pumpkins

October is the time of year to enjoy one of our favorite autumn fruits, pumpkins. We will spend time talking about this fruit and the wonderful treats we can make with it. We will look for pumpkins on display around us and make jack-o'-lanterns of our own. We may even find some very interesting and fun things to do with these big orange fruits.

October 26-30 - Autumn Celebrations

Summer is over and winter has yet to blow its cold winds, so it is time to celebrate! While there are many traditional autumn celebrations we will focus mainly on the most famous one, Halloween. The children will dress-up, trick-or-treat around the building and have a little party on Friday.

Otters

October 4-8 - Apples & Pumpkins

The Otters will spend this week talking about two of our favorite fall things, apples & pumpkins! We will cut into these tasty fruits and explore what is inside. Seeds will be counted, apples will be turned into stamps, pumpkins will be painted and carved, and at the end of our week we will have our very own apple tasting party! Come join us and tell us which is your favorite apple!



October 11-15 - Trees & Leaves

With fall among us, we will be discussing trees and their leaves. Otters will learn why leaves change color and fall from their branches. We will also take a nature walk around our neighborhood to collect different leaves for our classroom.

October 18-22 - Shapes

Look out-shapes are all around us! This week the Otters will hunt for shapes all over the place. We will look for shapes in our classroom, around the school, and even venture outdoors as we search for shapes on a nature walk. Feel free to come in and check out our shapes display!

October 25-29 - Halloween

This week the Otter room will transform into a den of ghosts, witches and all things creepy as we talk about Halloween. We will tell scary stories, dig for spiders, bones, and other eerie things in our sensory table, and even make our own spooky snacks and witches brew to enjoy! If you are brave enough, feel free to come see what is bubbling in our cauldron!

Dolphins

October 4-8 - Safety

At work or play, the Dolphins will learn why safety is always important. We will learn why safety rules are essential and who our community's safety providers are. We will look forward to a visit from a police officer and a fire fighter.

October 11-15 - Food & Nutrition

This week the Dolphins will learn about nutritious food and the importance of eating healthy. We will discuss the food pyramid and categorize different types of food. We will also take a look at our lunch menu and see if it covers all the food groups.

October 18-22 - The Five Senses

This week the Dolphins will learn about the five senses. We will do a taste testing and a touch tunnel. The children will get a sense of what it is like to be visually impaired or blind. We will also learn about the deaf culture and introduce some sign language.



October 25-29 - Halloween & Pumpkins

Ghosts, witches, and spiders~ oh my! Between spooky stories, pumpkin carving, and decorating our classroom, the Dolphins will learn all about the history of Halloween. On Friday we will have our annual Halloween celebration, so don't forget your costume! If you send your child to school in costume, please send a change of clothes.

Monroe County United Ministries

827 West 14th Court
Bloomington, Indiana 47404
Phone (812) 339-3429
Fax (812) 339-2912
mcum@bloomington.in.us
www.mcum.org

Non-Profit Organization
US Postage Paid
Bloomington, IN 47404
Permit #186

Inside this issue:



**CROP
Walk**

Page 1

**Current
Needs**

Page 2

**Rent
Assistance**

Page 3

**Upcoming
Events**

Page 4

**Shopping for
MCUM**

Page 5

**Childcare
Calendar**

Pages 6-7

Return Service
Requested

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

Just a reminder that we have Halloween costumes available for both children and adults. The price is right, starting at \$1.00. In the past, stores would never display Christmas items until the day after Thanksgiving but times have changed. This year we have lots of Christmas items for you to choose from, starting the first of October - yes, October!

Some of our volunteers are retiring so we love to see new faces. Volunteer cashiers, pricers, and sorters are needed. Call me at 336-2443 (Mondays) or 334-1312 (other days) for more information.