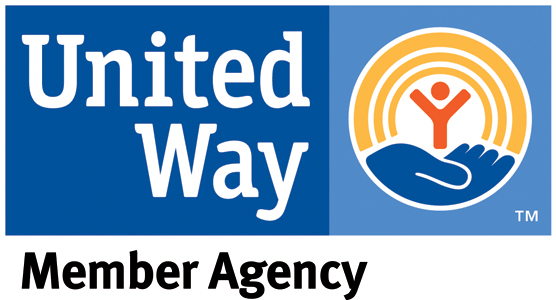
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**For Immediate Release**

MCUM to Expand Downtown Childcare Facility

**Bloomington, IN – November 9, 2017**

Monroe County United Ministries (MCUM) is expanding the capacity of its Compass Early Learning Center – Downtown site. The expansion is a direct response to the immediate and critical community need for high-quality, affordable childcare, especially for low-income families.

The expansion will allow MCUM to offer full-time, year-round childcare to an additional 48 children aged 6 weeks to 6 years beginning January 2, 2018, boosting Compass’ capacity by nearly 40 percent.

Brian Drummy, President of MCUM’s Board of Directors, said that the board was eager to address an immediate need in the community. “We feel truly blessed to be in a position to respond quickly to rapidly-developing community needs,” Drummy said. “We believe the expansion will provide a significant benefit to the community during this direct time of need and for many years into the future.”

MCUM is accepting program applications for parents seeking care. Applications can be picked up from the Compass – Downtown site (219 E 4th St, Bloomington, IN 47408) or printed from MCUM’s website, mcum.org/compass.

MCUM is also hiring full- and part-time staff to serve as teachers and teacher’s aides. These jobs are posted on indeed.com.

Drummy said MCUM owes its ability to expand to its many donors and supporters. “This expansion is only possible because of the commitments, sacrifices, and donations made to MCUM through the years from its donors, founding and member church congregations, volunteers, and dedicated staff,” he said. “First United Methodist Church has played a key role in not only helping to establish the Compass – Downtown site, but also in facilitating this expansion.”

Still, more financial support is needed to assist the expansion and maintain the agency’s growth. Community members wishing to help meet this extreme need are encouraged to make a gift to MCUM via mail (827 W 14th Ct, Bloomington, IN 47404) or online at mcum.org/donate.

Monroe County United Ministries is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization providing childcare in two nationally-accredited facilities and basic needs assistance to low-income residents of Monroe County for nearly 80 years.