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Monroe County United Ministries



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For Immediate Release

MCUM Celebrates 75 Years in Service to the Community

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Monroe County United Ministries (MCUM) celebrates a significant milestone in 2014: its 75th anniversary of service to the community. To help commemorate this achievement, the agency is planning special events and activities throughout the year to reaffirm its mission and thank the community for its long-standing support.

Activities include a Community Voices Gallery exhibit at the Monroe County Historical Society from April through June, a display case in the Shower's Building in July, and a community open house at MCUM in early fall. MCUM's signature event, the *Spring Into Action!* Luncheon and Auction, will take place on Sunday, April 6.

“For 75 years, we have been dedicated to the success of individuals who are committed to making their lives and the lives of their children better,” Meri Reinhold, MCUM's executive director, said. “Only the individual can affect change in his or her life, and it can be a major struggle to achieve those changes. MCUM makes the journey a little easier by serving as a catalyst. We facilitate the distribution of food, clothing, and other goods to families who need them, linking community members with resources to those who have none.”

MCUM is a secular nonprofit organization that has worked with local congregations and individual community members since 1939 to provide childcare and basic needs assistance to low-income families in Monroe County. Last year alone, MCUM served 118 preschool-age children through its licensed and accredited childcare center. The agency also provided more than 1,000 local families in financial crisis with thousands of cleaning and hygiene products, emergency supplies of food to make more than 35,000 meals, and guidance from trained caseworkers to get back on track to self-sufficiency.

“MCUM stimulates families to improve their circumstances and economic conditions by providing short-term aid and long-range planning to avoid future crises and by providing quality childcare while parents pursue their goals of employment or education. MCUM sparks a thirst for knowledge in children to help them succeed in school and become lifelong learners,” Reinhold added. “This is something worth celebrating. Please join us.”

Community members with stories or tangible materials, like historical documents or photos, from MCUM's early days are asked to contact the agency at development@mcum.org or 812-339-3429 x15 to share their memories. With permission, stories and materials will be included in celebratory events.

Activities and events in honor of MCUM's 75th anniversary are made possible thanks to generous sponsorship from CFC Properties, Inc., Old National Bank, and Ivy Tech Community College.