We’ve all felt the pangs of hunger. Most of us are fortunate to know when we will get our next meal. For many of Monroe County’s residents, this is not the case. With nearly a quarter of Monroe County residents living in poverty and one in five children not knowing where their next meal will come from, MCUM’s emergency services program faces an enormous challenge in ensuring our neighbors have enough to eat. This is a challenge we hope YOU can help us tackle.

MCUM plans to raise $40,000 and 8,000 pounds of food in the two-month period between March 1 - April 30. This will provide 5,500 meals and 1,400 household items to needy families, and allow 75 individuals on the verge of homelessness to avoid eviction.

In addition to your individual donations, “districts” (teams) composed of congregations, social groups, students, and local businesses will compete in an exciting food- and fund-raising challenge. As “tributes,” individual community members can go head-to-head to win the title of MCUM Hunger Games Champions, currently held by United Presbyterian Church. Check out the side bar for examples of MCUM Hunger Games challenges - and start planning your team’s strategy now! While the ultimate prize is the ability to help our neighbors in need, our website www.mcum.org/hungergames features incentives that just might catch your eye!

Of course, if you want to eliminate your neighbors’ hunger pangs without participating in any challenges, you may simply send your financial contribution our way or stop by with a load of food. The best part? Food and financial donations during March & April will be proportionately-matched.

Some youth (+ Katie) from United Presbyterian Church pose with their 2015 MCUM Hunger Games food donation display

Are you ready to take the odds out of hunger?

Here are some ways your social group, congregation, business, etc. can earn points for a chance at becoming MCUM’s Hunger Games Champions:

1. **Participate as a:**
   - **Tribute (individual):** mail your donation to MCUM or stop by with food sometime between March 1 and April 30 - that’s it!
   - **District (team):** select a contact person for your District and contact Katie at kbroadfoot@mcum.org or 812-339-3429 x18 - she’ll help navigate your District through the adventure.

2. **Earn Points:**
   - All food, financial, box tops, and hygiene/household items count toward points.
   - Outreach: make a creative display of your food donations, make a video about local hunger, get your campaign into the newspaper, invite a MCUM representative to present, volunteer, and more! These are worth MEGA points.

3. **Win:** the district with the most points will become the MCUM Hunger Games champions and will receive a pizza party for your group, MCUM tshirts, and more!
Meet Our Donors!

Well, some of them...

Earlier this month, we caught up with two of our supporters, each of whom has found a meaningful way to give to MCUM. We asked, “why do you support MCUM?” Here is what they had to say:

“The Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington has a long and cherished relationship with MCUM. We appreciate MCUM’s steadfast collaboration with our staff, lay leaders and social justice task forces to create a better world.”

Rev. Mary Ann Macklin ● UU Church

“I support MCUM because it is one way that I can live out my faith, and love God by loving my neighbors. When we moved to Bloomington I knew that I would need to be intentional about building relationships with people and organizations that would help me to understand this community, and MCUM has certainly helped me to be engaged and know more about Monroe County than I would have on my own.”

Melissa Spas ● Monthly Giving Club

Thank you to all of our wonderful supporters. MCUM would not be able to provide its critical services without you!

Online Shopping:
No Need to Feel Guilty When You’re Giving Back!

Our local partner, FundSponge, will now donate up to 8% of your online purchases to MCUM— including Amazon, 1-800-PetMeds, Best Buy, and thousands of others.

Here’s how it works:
1. Visit: www.fundsponge.com/groups/Monroe_County_United_Ministries
2. Click “Shop Now” and the site will load thousands of online stores
3. Select your store of choice. FundSponge will take you directly to the site.
   Note: The site will look no different than normal, but we promise it went through.
4. Shop!

Current Needs

Food Pantry*
- Muffin mix
- Rice (1 & 2 lb. bags)
- Canned meat (all but stew)
- Canned greens
- Broth
- Syrup
- Flour
- Sugar
- Oil
- Pudding
- Canned potatoes
- Ramen
- Cereal (cold & hot)
- Boxed potatoes
- Baking mix
- Dry beans
- Helper meals

Cleaning Closet*
- All-purpose spray cleaner
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Socks for men and women

Childcare
- Command strips (60), small
- Containers, any size
- AA & AAA Batteries
- Construction paper
- Liquid glue
- Glue sticks
- Crayola markers
- Bingo dobbers, any color

Office
- Refrigerator
- 8.5 x 11 Copy paper
- Pens, blue or black ink
* Will be proportionately matched during March & April!
Are you Ready to Spring Into Action?
May 1, 2016 • Bloomington-Mo. County Convention Center

Spring Into Action

Luncheon ☀ Auction

It’s time to think spring! MCUM’s 10th Annual Spring into Action! Luncheon and Auction is just around the corner. The event will take place on Sunday, May 1, 2016 at the Bloomington/Monroe County Convention Center. Guests will be treated to a delicious hot buffet meal, a silent and live auction, and, most importantly, an opportunity to engage in MCUM’s mission.

Funds raised from this event will provide high-quality childcare for low-income families and basic needs assistance to those in crisis.

We’re currently accepting only gift certificates, gift cards, and experiences (time-share stays, performances, etc.) for our auctions.

Be sure to come ready to bid on a week over the 4th of July in Williamsburg, VA!

Thank You, Pantry Donors

MCUM depends on donations to make a difference for local households in crisis. Some of the groups and individuals who have recently contributed food, cleaning supplies, and/or hygiene products are listed here:

• Priscilla Briggs
• Country View Apartments
• Jef & Pam Davidson
• First Christian Church
• First Presbyterian Church
• First United Church
• Good Neighbors Home Extension Club
• Harold Hickman
• St. Mark’s UMC
• St. Paul UMC
• St. Thomas Lutheran Church
• Trinity Episcopal Church
• John Turner & Catherine Gray
• University Baptist Church
• Jenn Webeck
• Yarns Unlimited

Don’t forget - in March and April, your food and hygiene items will be proportionately-matched for an even greater impact!

Other Ways to Support MCUM

• Join our monthly online giving club: when you enroll, we’ll deduct your donation automatically each month - it’s easy and convenient.

• Donate gently used items to Opportunity House (or shop there)!

• Put your trust in MCUM with a planned gift. Planned giving can offer significant tax benefits - contact Katie to learn more.

• Support MCUM’s future by giving to its endowment through the Community Foundation of Bloomington & Monroe County.

• Recognize a loved one, celebrate a birthday or accomplishment with a MCUM Honor Card. For a minimum donation of $25, we’ll send a card to “gift” to the honoree.

• Text us! All you have to do is type “Gift” to 812-619-9919. Easy as pie!

• Give your time. We are always looking for volunteers in our food pantry, childcare and office. We even offer internships.
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- p2  Meet Our Donors
- p3  Spring Into Action! for MCUM

Save a tree!

Sign up to receive our eNewsletter.
Email kbroadfoot@mcum.org to make the switch!

Opportunity House

Did you know that when you donate to or shop at Opportunity House, you’re also giving back to MCUM? It’s true - Opportunity House has been one of MCUM’s strongest community supporters since 1968.

Opportunity House, located at 907 W. 11th Street, is a volunteer-run resale shop that raises funds to support MCUM’s programs. The store is 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 for more information or to become a volunteer.

Donations of gently used items are always welcome, including: books, clothing, household items, collectibles, toys, and linens.

Opportunity House is also a great place to shop - you can buy gently used, high-quality clothing, household items, craft supplies, books, and more. Here are some examples of recent finds:

- **Left:** Assorted jewelry. $0.25-5.00
- **Right:** Complete board game sets, $0.50-2.00