

# Working Together

June 2015

## MCUM Preschool Graduates Ready to Learn

MCUM celebrated the achievements and hard work of its graduating Dolphin and Otter students on Thursday, May 21 in the Tri-North Middle School auditorium. Preschool students donned the traditional cap and gown and walked across the stage, ready to take on the challenges of kindergarten and first grade when they move on to public school. This special celebration marks each student's success in completing a high-quality early childhood education, which is an impressive feat considering **only 30% of children from low-income families in Indiana are enrolled in preschool.**

**“The children are exactly where they need to be.”**

According to Education Coordinator Tina Burress, MCUM's graduating 5- and 6-year-old students are more than prepared for public school. Of the twenty-two students who are graduating from MCUM, thirteen will move on to kindergarten and nine students will start first grade in the public school system this August. “The children are exactly where they need to be. We've seen improvement in each child's confidence levels, problem-solving skills, and motor skills, which are all essential to academic success,” she explained.

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## Each One Feed One Coming August 21-23

Save the date for MCUM's tenth annual “Each One Feed One” community food drive! This year's event will take place Friday through Sunday, August 21-23.

The goal this year is to collect **15,500 pounds of food** over the three-day period. Last year, generous community members contributed 13,400 pounds of food and **more than \$2,000** in cash to the initiative. About 220 volunteers gave 850 hours of time to help collect, transport, and sort food donations.

Community support is critical to the success of the drive, not only for volunteers but also to spread the word about MCUM's need in the community. This food drive restocks MCUM's Food Pantry after summer months, when donations typically decline and the need for services spikes.

Want to help ensure your neighbors have access to food in times of crisis? This community effort will again rely on 200+ volunteers for a variety of tasks, from event planning to distributing flyers and sorting donations on the big weekend.

**Contact Erin Predmore today** at 812-339-3429 x11 or [epredmore@mcum.org](mailto:epredmore@mcum.org) to learn more about the impact you can make by volunteering with us!

## Current Needs

### Food Pantry

- Canned tuna
- Dry beans
- Canned meat
- Canned fruit
- Pudding

### Cleaning Closet

- Diapers (sizes 4-6)
- Baby wash
- Baby lotion
- Baby powder
- Hair conditioner
- Deodorant
- Laundry soap
- All-purpose spray cleaner
- Dilutable cleaner
- Razors
- Socks
- Feminine hygiene products
- Body lotion
- Canvas grocery bags

### Childcare

- Working new or used digital cameras
- Shoe box-sized plastic containers
- 15 quart containers

### Office

- Flat-screen computer monitor

MCUM also gladly accepts **paper grocery sacks** for the food pantry. Paper bags hold more than plastic and stand up nicely. Please ask for paper when you shop and bring them to MCUM to reuse.

## Double Your Money at the Farmer's Market

Do you have an EBT card or know some who does? The Bloomington Parks Foundation has received additional funding to continue to offer Double Market Bucks (DMB) during the 2015 summer season at the Bloomington Community Farmers' Market. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, previously known as Food Stamps) customers can spend up to \$18 in SNAP benefits and get up to \$36 in fresh, locally grown food per visit. That's up to \$18 worth of food for free! Bloomington Community Farmers' Market is open every Saturday from April through November. For more information about this offer, please visit <http://www.doubleupfoodbucks.org>.

MCUM provides **magazines** in the emergency services waiting room. If you are finished with your monthly subscription and it's still in good condition, drop it off at our office. Our clients will appreciate your generosity!

## 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:

- Arlington United Methodist Church
- Daughters of Isabella
- Fairview United Methodist Church
- First Christian Church
- First Presbyterian Church
- First United Methodist Church
- Hoosier Hills Food Bank
- IU Health Center
- Opportunity House
- St. Mark's United Methodist Church
- St. Paul United Methodist Church
- Trinity Episcopal Church
- University Baptist Church
- YES Club from Tri-North Middle School

## Thank You, Volunteers

Volunteers make our programs possible. Thank you to all who shared their valuable time and talent with us recently!

- Amanda Behnke
- Carolyn Bilo
- Katie Frey
- Sidney Harris
- Valerie Merriam
- Solsberry Hill Retreat Center
- Susie Trisler
- John Zilvinskis

## Preschool Graduation

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No one knows the children's academic journey as well as Dolphin classroom teacher Kim Clay, who has been teaching at MCUM for nearly eight years. Clay, along with all of the MCUM preschool staff, has focused on the children's long-term goals by building the necessary academic skills to prepare them for success in the public school system. "Kim has done an amazing job working with her students to boost their academic scores. I am confident that they're ready to learn," Burress said.

This class of graduating students has shown exemplary academic work. Students are tested throughout the year on their language and math skills, such as writing their name, recognizing their address, counting money, recognizing colors, naming shapes, letter-sound correspondence, and reading high-frequency words. This test measures the student's ability to learn at the next grade level. One of the graduating students began with a 19% score on this test and is now heading off to the first grade with an impressive 92% score. Burress is happy to have such a talented member on the MCUM staff, saying, "Kim is a superb teacher, always patient and understanding with every child."

**"I know they will be prepared to cope with the transition to First Grade."**

Instructor Kim Clay with graduating MCUM student Miles Predmore



Clay, along with all of the MCUM preschool staff, has been using new techniques to resolve behavioral issues through the Conscious Discipline program. This is the first graduating class to experience the new behavioral curriculum at MCUM, which focuses on building students' social and emotional capacities and helps parents to be more involved at home.

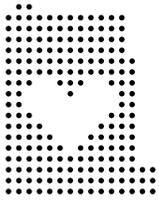
MCUM parent Marlise Blackburn explains the importance of Conscious Discipline, saying, "I've been especially touched when my boys suggest we use it at home." Blackburn is grateful to all of MCUM's staff for the positive impact they've had on her children's lives. "Of course the children have always had loving and effective teachers at MCUM, and I feel like Conscious Discipline has been a continuation of that. I know they will be well prepared to cope with the transition to first grade," she said.



## Thank You!

This month, we would like to express our appreciation for...

- First Presbyterian Church for committing to fund the renovation of MCUM's childcare classrooms and installation of a shade structure over our new playground!
- The YES Club at Tri-North Middle School and the Bloomington North Rotary Club for building, donating, and installing MCUM's first Free Little Library and stocking it with books. Come by the MCUM playground to leave or borrow a book!
- The Monroe County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) for donating copies of a locally-authored book, "Nessie's New Home," to MCUM's childcare classrooms and Free Little Library.
- Tessa Skidmore for her hard work over the past two years as MCUM's Service Corp Fellow. Thank you for putting in the extra effort and spending so much time with us, Tessa!
- Carmen Diaz for joining the MCUM staff this summer as our development assistant.
- Monroe County History Center for recognizing MCUM's work in the community at its Pigeon Hill exhibit.
- Student volunteers from the Undergraduate Interfraternity Institute (UIFI) for helping with various projects around the agency.



## Monroe County United Ministries

Non-Profit Organization  
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Bloomington, IN 47404  
Permit #186

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Member Agency

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### **Save a tree!**

Sign up to receive our new eNewsletter.  
Email [mreece@mcum.org](mailto:mreece@mcum.org) to make the switch!

## Staff

Executive Director: Erin Predmore  
 Development Associate: Katie Broadfoot  
 Development Associate: Megan Reece  
 Emergency Services Coordinator: Cliff Edens  
 Emergency Services Caseworker: Liz Lopez  
 Office Manager: Shannon Hampton  
 Childcare Director: Traci Mehay  
 Education Coordinator: Tina Burress

## Hours of Operation

**Office**  
 Monday - Friday: 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 1-4 p.m.

**Childcare**  
 Monday - Friday: 7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

**Emergency Services**  
 Monday - Friday: 8 - 11:30\* a.m. and 1-3:15\* p.m.

\*On days of high demand for services, MCUM may stop taking applications earlier than posted hours.

Please recycle this newsletter or share it with a friend.

## Look for our eNewsletter

MCUM is making the switch to an updated eNewsletter to cut down on administrative costs. The funds saved by going paperless will be diverted to our childcare and emergency services programs, providing much-needed assistance to low-income residents of Monroe County. Please contact Megan Reece at [mreece@mcum.org](mailto:mreece@mcum.org) or sign up on our website at [mcum.org/newsletter](http://mcum.org/newsletter) to make the switch!

## Will you help your neighbor?

MCUM's annual Each One Feed One community food cannot function without its 200+ dedicated volunteers. On August 21-23, we need your help to collect food donations at your local grocery store, deliver them to MCUM, or sort donated items into the food pantry. If you're ready to help your neighbors in need, please contact Erin Predmore at (812) 339-3429 x11 or [epredmore@mcum.org](mailto:epredmore@mcum.org) to learn more about the impact you can make with just a couple hours of your time!