

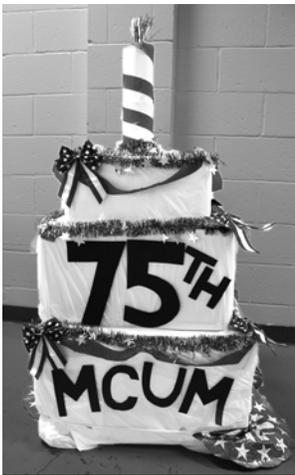


The Newsletter of Monroe County United Ministries

Working Together

October 2014

Celebrate at MCUM's Community Open House



Did you or your child attend MCUM's childcare program? Have you served on the board or made a donation to the organization? Have you volunteered with MCUM or attended one of its special events? Are you new to Bloomington and interested in learning more about the organization's impact in Monroe County? You're invited to attend MCUM's 75th Anniversary Community Open House!

All are welcome to join in the celebration at MCUM on Saturday, October 4, from 3 pm – 5 pm. Reminisce with fellow supporters while watching a MCUM's organizational video and slideshow and treating yourself to

delicious catered food from Food Works. Listen to others' stories about their involvement with the organization and perhaps even share your own. You'll also have the opportunity to tour MCUM's childcare and emergency services facilities and witness the important role the organization plays in improving the lives of community members in need.

For more information on this free event, contact Megan Reece at (812) 339-3429 x 15 or development@mcum.org. We look forward to seeing you there!

Follow the Trail to Self-Sufficiency at Never Grow Up!

Bring your youth group, service club, family, and friends to a re-imagined version of this annual event from 3 pm – 5 pm on Saturday, November 1! The afternoon will feature a poverty simulation modeled after the famous "Oregon Trail" game, during which a team (a.k.a. "family") of up to six people will make the journey toward self-sufficiency.

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Create a Better Tomorrow with the United Way

You pave the way for people in our community to get ahead and build a brighter future for themselves and their families when you give to United Way. Your funds stay local to help member agencies like MCUM create a better tomorrow right here in Bloomington.

Your donation to United Way helps ensure children, youth, and adults achieve their potential through education; hard working people build their earnings; and everyone has access to the essentials, like food, housing, health care, and help during a crisis.

This year, United Way also has special matching grant opportunities. Please give generously today. To see how your donation is hard at work throughout the year at agencies like ours and the organizations we work with, visit www.monroeunitedway.org/MyImpact.

Join us in supporting United Way as we all work together to create long-term solutions that help people in need today and create a better tomorrow for our community.



Food Pantry Needs

MCUM welcomes donations of all non-expired, nonperishable foods for its Emergency Food Pantry, but currently there is a special need for:

- Canned fruit
- Pie crust mix (Jiffy)
- Whole chickens packaged for freezer
- 1-pound packages of ground beef

Cleaning Closet Needs

Cleaning and hygiene supplies can't be purchased with food stamps. The following items are in high demand:

- Adult socks
- Men's underwear - sizes 30-34
- Razors
- Baby wash and shampoo
- Feminine hygiene products

Childcare Needs

The Childcare Program needs all kinds of outdoor supplies, including:

- Baby dolls (preferably plastic)
- Dry erase markers
- Construction paper
- Pine cones
- Unpopped popcorn
- Various types of dry beans

Opp House Needs

Opportunity House can find new homes for your gently used items, with proceeds benefiting MCUM's programs. Please consider donating items such as:

- Paper and plastic bags
- Towels
- Pots and pans
- Fabric and yarn
- Craft materials

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.

Volunteer Opportunities

For more information about these or other volunteer opportunities, visit www.mcum.org, call (812) 339-3429, or email help@mcum.org.

Featured Volunteer Position

Never Grow Up! Volunteers

(Saturday, November 1):

Volunteers are needed to help with this year's Never Grow Up! FUNdraiser, scheduled for Saturday, November 1 from 3-5 pm. Volunteers will help run activity stations during our "Trail to Self-Sufficiency" simulation, and should be at least 18 years of age. Please contact Katie at (812) 339-3429 x18 or fundraising@mcum.org for more information. Additionally, if you know of a teen group who might be interested in participating, please direct them to Katie.

Maintenance Volunteers:

Volunteers are needed to perform basic maintenance tasks of any skill level, from changing light bulbs to basic carpentry. Work is usually performed between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Contact Meri at mcum@mcum.org or (812) 339-3429 x11.

Fresh Foods Coordinator:

MCUM seeks an energetic individual to coordinate fresh foods for its emergency services clients. This person will organize and manage the refrigerator, and coordinate pick ups from the food bank. Contact Cliff at help@mcum.org.

Opportunity House Volunteers:

Opportunity House, a resale shop located at 907 W. 11th Street, is MCUM's important partner. Volunteers are needed to sort and price items and serve as cashiers. Call (812) 336-2443 for more information.

Follow the Trail to Self-Sufficiency at This Year's Never Grow Up!

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Other activities will include photo booth modeling of Opportunity House items, giant Jenga, a food pantry scavenger hunt, a grocery bagging challenge, and decorating Thanksgiving cards for children in MCUM's childcare program. Refreshments (made from items on MCUM's three-day food supply list) will be provided. Participants will be able to sample recipes made by MCUM supporters and vote for their favorite.

Best of all, Never Grow Up! will expose community groups to the hardships MCUM clients face and allow them to experience first-hand many of the services MCUM provides to assist with these challenges. For further details and registration information, contact Katie Broadfoot at fundraising@mcum.org or (812) 339-3429 x18. The event will take place at MCUM and costs \$30 per team or \$5 per person. Pre-registration is highly encouraged and available at www.mcum.org/NGU.

Thank you to Young's Plumbing, Mother Bear's Pizza, Opportunity House, Jennifer Titus Photography, and Lazerlite Laser Tag for their generous sponsorship.



Meet the Staff: Denise Garrett



Denise Garrett has served as the cook for MCUM's childcare program for nearly two years. Prior to joining MCUM, she helped run the restaurant her family owns in Shoals, Indiana. Denise also spent several years working for Childcare Resource and Referral, the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF), and the Lily Endowment's Early Impressions kindergarten readiness program in Martin County.

Denise's restaurant and early childhood education background make her a great fit for her position at MCUM. She also likes the fast-paced environment. "As soon as I get here in the morning, I'm off and running," she said. Although it can sometimes be difficult to get everything done before she leaves for the day, she is up for the challenge. "I'm always thinking ahead about what needs to get done tomorrow."

Children in MCUM's childcare program receive two meals and a snack each day. When she first arrived at MCUM, Denise helped develop 16 menus that rotate throughout the year. Although she enjoys all aspects of her job as cook, she especially enjoys baking. Last spring, she made specially decorated cookies for the childcare graduation and more than 300 cupcakes for the Spring Luncheon. This year, Denise will be baking and decorating MCUM's 75th anniversary birthday cake for the Community Open House on Saturday, October 4. Stop by to taste one of her creations yourself!

Thank You!

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

- Jeff Broadfoot for designing and constructing MCUM's Community Gift of a Free Little Library
- Diane Gregory for her support of the development team
- First United Methodist Church & St. Thomas Lutheran Evangelical Church for hosting MCUM information tables in September
- Our partner, the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County, for all of their support this year!

Answer the Call for MCUM

Have you purchased the new iPhone 6? Looking for a way to safely dispose of your old mobile device? Donating it to MCUM is an easy way to help fund our childcare and emergency services programs as well as help protect the environment!

Since 2005, MCUM has raised more than \$1,000 through the Shelter Alliance cell phone recycling program. It was created to provide a fundraising opportunity and socially responsible method of cell phone disposal for nonprofits.

You can support the missions of both the Shelter Alliance and MCUM by bringing your unwanted mobile device to MCUM today! Contact Megan Reece at (812) 339-3429 x15 or development@mcum.org for more information.

Congregation Spotlight: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

By Katie Broadfoot

This month's congregation spotlight is awarded to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (LDS) for their incredible support of MCUM's "Each One, Feed One" Community Food Drive in August. Having never previously volunteered with MCUM as a group, the LDS Church representatives filled the equivalent of nearly one day of our food drive volunteer shifts.

The LDS Church has been working to pursue a closer relationship with MCUM since last fall when Seth Martinez learned about the organization at the first-ever "Ask Me Anything," event, which was sponsored by the LDS Church. The Mormon faith emphasizes family commitment and involvement, falling in alignment with goals of MCUM's programs as well.

We are happy to have the LDS Church on board with us here at MCUM and are excited to see what the relationship between the two organizations will bring. Thanks again, Mormon friends, for your help during the "Each One, Feed One" Community Food Drive. We would not have been able to do it without you!

For information about your congregation's relationship with MCUM, please contact Katie at fundraising@mcum.org or (812) 339-3429 x18.

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:

- Bloomingfoods
- Church Women United
- Daughters of Isabella
- First Christian Church
- First Presbyterian Church
- First United Church
- Good Neighbors Home Extension Club
- Jef & Pam Davidson
- Opportunity House
- Simpson Chapel United Methodist Church
- St. Thomas Lutheran Evangelical Church

Want to Receive MCUM Newsletters by Email?

Too much mail? You can reduce clutter and save trees by signing up to receive this newsletter online! To make the switch, email Megan at development@mcum.org or call (812) 339-3429 x15.

Holiday Activities at MCUM

It's never too early to start thinking about the holidays! Please consider MCUM in your seasonal giving plans. There are many ways you can help make this time of year special for needy families in our community.

- Organizing a collection for our Winter Food Drive
- Providing a holiday food basket
- Sponsoring a family for Christmas
- Helping Santa distribute goody bags to children in the childcare program

More information will be available in a forthcoming letter, future newsletters, and on our website in the coming weeks.

Did You Know?

MCUM accepts Ensure and other nutritional drinks for our food pantry. Many of our clients face health programs that make it difficult to maintain weight or eat solid food. If you or someone you know has and no longer uses these products, please consider donating them to MCUM.

Have Extra Magazines?

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!

In Memoriam

MCUM recently bid farewell to an enthusiastic former maintenance volunteer. Retired from Ameritech, **Phil Davis** was an active member of St. Paul United Methodist Church, the Hoosier Hills Emmaus Community, and Community Bible Study. Phil was a genius at fixing whatever needed to be fixed and was always willing to take on the next challenge. His sense of humor was as valuable as his handyman skills, and his laugh will be sorely missed. Both Phil and his wife Jan were dedicated volunteers, donors, and overall supporters for more than 20 years. MCUM is grateful to have been touched by their generosity.

Thank You, Volunteers

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

- Loretta Alonso
- Anna Ballard
- Jessica Beckman
- Tracy Bee
- Amanda Behnke
- Kara Birt
- Marti Black
- Louise Blish
- Laura Bond
- Mary Ellen Brown
- John & Judy Bush
- Elaine Carpenter
- Mary Carpenter
- Rachel Case
- Margaret Chittum
- Greg Claretto
- Rachel Colegrove
- Su Cowling
- Andrea Cox
- Laurie Cress
- Randi Crim
- Daisy Day
- Zixuan Feng
- First Presbyterian Church
- Kacey Gilligan
- Kaitlyn Gorman
- Tom & Diane Gregory
- Sarah Griffin
- Lauren Haney
- Sidney Harris
- Madeline Hayford
- Xuanyi He (Maya)
- Duane Hornick
- Pat Hornick
- Larry & Nancy Jacobs
- Aysha Jemison
- Nakia Jones
- LaDawn Joyner
- Nadia Kang
- Andrew & Veronica Lenard
- Jennifer Lloyd
- Sarah Lobien
- Jennifer Anderson Mann
- Melissa Margolis
- Ed McClellan
- Judy & Leon McDougal
- Samantha Mehay
- Valerie Merriam
- Ben Mertz
- Chris Meyer
- Donna Michael
- Leonna Michael
- Kelsey Miklos
- Emily Milnes
- Makenzie Monastro
- North-American Interfraternity Conference
- Joyce Nyakato
- Allie Ohslund
- Cindy Ohslund
- Naomi Orsay
- Norm & Jeanne Overly
- Nicole Percy
- Carol Peterman
- Hannah Pimley
- Jasmyn Powell
- Wesley Ratliff & Mary Burch Ratliff
- Elizabeth Rincon
- Nancy Russell
- Olivia Sanchez-Felix
- Ann Schepper
- Ron Schoknecht
- Paul & Betty Schoonmaker
- John Sgro
- Sibe She
- Mitch Smith
- Melissa Spas
- St. Thomas Lutheran Evangelical Church, Youth
- Paige Stamper
- Jean Summerville
- Murl & Marjorie Summerville
- Susie Trisler
- Erika Twer
- Lee Van Buskirk
- Daniel Versweyveld
- Anna Vittori
- Liuqing Wang
- Manjia Wang
- Joanne Weddle
- Kiana Werner
- Wuchen Yang (Joyce)
- Yajuan Zhao
- John Zilvinskis

Make MCUM Part of Your Legacy

For 75 years, generous community members like you have rallied with MCUM to provide essential services like high-quality, affordable childcare and emergency assistance to Monroe County residents who need a helping hand. Your support has helped thousands of individuals get back on track to self-sufficiency.

You can ensure that MCUM's programs have an impact for the next 75 years and beyond by making a gift to MCUM through your estate plan. Numerous giving options and tax incentives allow you to create a lasting legacy in a manner that suits you and benefits the community. Gifts of all sizes boost MCUM's capacity to serve local residents in need of support.

Making a bequest to MCUM is a simple, meaningful way to show your commitment to helping your neighbors in need. Below is sample language for your will or trust to guarantee MCUM's ability to put your gift to its best possible use.

"I hereby leave [specific dollar amount/specific property/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 a manner as the board of directors may elect."

If you would like to find out more about the impact you can have, contact Katie at (812) 339-3429 x18 or fundraising@mcum.org.

Announcements for Parents

Important Dates

Oct 6 Conscious Discipline Session 6
(5:30 - 7:30 p.m.)

Oct 10 Childcare Closed for Training

Oct 31 Halloween Parade/Parties

Spread the Word

Do you know families who may be interested in high-quality, affordable childcare for their young children? Send them our way! MCUM has spaces available for 2 and 2.5 year olds in the newly reopened Puffin classroom. Share your stories about how MCUM's program has contributed to your child's development and prepared him or her for success in school, and let interested parents/guardians know they can contact Traci at (812) 339-3429 x10 or childcare@mcum.org for more information. Thanks for your support!

Creating the MCUM School Family

MCUM Childcare is eager to introduce you to our comprehensive classroom management program called "Conscious Discipline". It is a way of organizing classrooms around the concept of a School Family, where each member learns the skills needed to successfully manage life tasks. Interested in learning more? Contact Tina at (812) 339-3429 x19 or visit www.ConsciousDiscipline.com.

Childcare Staff

Childcare Director: Traci Mehay
Education Coordinator: Tina Burress
Cook: Denise Garrett
Assistant Cook: Derrick Mackie

Childcare Classroom Information

Puffins

2-2.5 year olds

Teacher: Sarah Norzinskey
Aide: Karen May

This month, the Puffins will be working on activities about the fall harvest! We will read books related to apples, leaves, and the changing weather. Some of the books we will read include, "Fall Harvest," "Apple Harvest," and, "Pumpkin Harvest."

The first activities we will work on will be describing what autumn is and what clothes we wear in the fall weather. These would include wearing a jacket when it is windy or wearing boots when it is cold outside. Since it sometimes snows in the fall, we will talk about the variety of weather through books and songs.

Other activities will focus on apples and pumpkins. The children will be comparing apples of differing colors and sizes and making apple prints with them. We will also have felt apples to allow we can manipulate the shapes and colors of apples. We will then talk about pumpkins and how they also have different shapes and colors, including white, yellow, orange, and green. The children will have a chance to touch different textures found on the pumpkins. We will also paint the pumpkins with different fall colors.

Finally, we will continue working on our letters, numbers, colors, and shapes. This month includes the letters g-h, the numbers 7-8, the color orange, and the triangle. The Puffins will continue practicing the other letters and shapes from before, as well.

Seahorses

2.5-3 year olds

Teacher: Jessica Mackie
Aide: Jessica Corbin

This month, the Seahorses will be talking about the fall harvest! We will read and listen to fall-related books and stories. At the end of the month, we will dress up in costumes and have a Halloween parade through the pre-school and main buildings!

As we discuss the changes that occur during the fall season, we will take a nature walk around the playground to observe the leaves, trees, and any other differences we notice. We will also collect items from our walk to bring back to the classroom to study in the science area. In our art center, we will be doing leaf rubbings, painting with reds, oranges, and yellows, and making our own fall art projects.

The Seahorses will also learn about apples, discussing how, where, and when they grow. We will learn how there are names for each variety of apples and even have our very own apple-tasting party! During our party, the children will be given the opportunity to taste a few different types of apples, as well as sample both apple juice and cider, and then share which was their favorite. We will then graph our results and find out which was most popular!

In addition to learning about fall harvest, we will also spend time with:

- The letters g, h, and i
- The numbers 5 & 6
- The color orange
- The triangle
- Our October food experiences - spinach and pomegranate

Childcare Classroom Information (continued)

Penguins

3 year olds

Teacher: LaDawn Joyner

During the month of October, the Penguins will be learning about the fall harvest. We will talk about the fun things we can do in the fall and the changes we see and feel outside. We will read books like “Pooh’s Fall Harvest”, “Apple Picking Time”, and “The Bumpy Little Pumpkin.” We will share our favorite things about fall and draw our own Jack-o-lanterns.

We will also use fall-related objects to practice counting and measuring. We will make a leaf number line to work on counting to 20 and stack pumpkins to see how many tall we are. We will even find out how many apples can fit into a pumpkin.

In the science area, we will experiment with leaves, apples, pumpkins, and acorns to see what floats and what sinks. To learn about size, shape, and texture, we will be talking about and feeling our pumpkin and then draw what we think the pumpkin looks like.

We will be doing a lot of painting with natural objects like apples, leaves, and Indian corn. We will see how the different items make different marks on the paper. We will focus on painting with the color orange and make a fall collage with leaves and other natural items we find outside.

To celebrate Halloween, we will be making a Jack-o-lantern from our pumpkins and then play with the guts and seeds inside! We will also make orange pumpkin pie spice play dough from scratch to make more fun shapes. Overall, we will enjoy the fall weather and all the cool things that take place this season.

Otters

4 year olds

Teacher: Brittney Denton

Aide: Sarah Landrum

The month of October is all about the fall harvest. We will be learning about autumn and what happens to the trees and plants during this season. We will also be carving pumpkins this month to create Jack-o-lanterns! After we remove the goo and clean the seeds, we will use them for our art activities.

The Otters will be creating many fun crafts this month, including paper sunflowers and tissue paper leaves. We will be collecting colorful leaves falling from trees outside and use them in our art center. We will also dye corn kernels the same way Easter eggs are dyed to put in our sensory table.

This month brings one of the children’s favorite holidays! Every Halloween, the children go on a school-wide trick-or-treat parade, so the children are encouraged to bring or wear their Halloween costumes on Friday, October 31st.

As promised, this month brings more Conscious Discipline routines, structures, and rituals. This month, we will be introducing visual routines. The new structures include Ways to be Helpful and the We Care Center.

In addition to all of these fun activities, we will continue to work on:

- Writing our names
- Letter and number recognition
- Patterns
- Counting and sorting
- Fine motor practice with scissors, puzzles, buttons, and zippers
- Using our words to identify and express our emotions

Dolphins

5–6 year olds

Teacher: Kim Clay

Aide: Vanessa Schultz

The Dolphins are ready to celebrate the new fall season! We welcome the cool weather, the crisp air, and the leaves changing colors. As summer comes to a close and the weather begins to change, the Dolphins will be talking about the changes occurring outside. We will discover the colors of autumn by painting with red, orange and yellow, and making crafts with fall items, such as leaves, apples, and pumpkins.

We also will talk about our health and how the cold weather makes it easier for illnesses to spread. To combat this, we will learn how to practice good hygiene, like washing our hands and using tissues when we sneeze. Promoting these healthy habits now can help everyone stay healthy during the cold seasons.

October is also fire safety month. We will discuss what to do in case of fire as well as the stop, drop, and roll technique. Along with learning about firefighters, we will cover other topics related to safety. We will talk about how to handle strangers, poisons, and the safety concerns involved with playing outside.

Of course, we cannot end the month without discussing Halloween and the history behind it. We will celebrate the holiday by coming to school in our favorite costume and parading around the pre-school and main building offices. Overall, the Dolphins are looking forward to an exciting month celebrating fall!



Monroe County United Ministries

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Permit #186

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Member Agency

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Save a tree! Sign up to receive this newsletter online. Email development@mcum.org, or call (812) 339-3429 x15 to make the switch.

Staff:

Executive Director: Meri Reinhold
 Development Associate: Katie Broadfoot
 Development Associate: Megan Reece
 Emergency Services Coordinator: Cliff Edens
 Emergency Services Caseworker: Justin Smith
 Office Manager: Shannon Hampton
 Childcare Director: Traci Mehay
 Education Coordinator: Tina Burress

Hours of Operation:

Office

Monday - Friday: 8 a.m. - noon 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 1-3:30* 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.

Opportunity House

Opportunity House, located at 907 W. 11th Street, is a volunteer-run resale shop that raises funds to support MCUM's programs. Our **new store hours** are 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!

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

A Message from the Store Manager:

Opportunity House is well stocked for your fall needs. In addition, we have great sales! We put out new items on a daily basis, so visit us often during our new hours!

We have lots of clothes for your children to wear to school. There is truly something for everyone! Come shop with us or spend a couple hours a week with our wonderful volunteers. Proceeds go to MCUM's valuable programs!