Opportunity House

Opportunity House, located at 907 W. 11th Street, is a volunteer-run resale shop that raises funds to support MCUM’s programs. We are 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!

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 getting ready to stock its shelves for the fall season - light coats, Christmas candy, gifts, holiday decorations, cornucopias, and more!

We are in need of new volunteers! We offer a variety of positions including sorting, pricing, and cashiering and would love to have you join us. Call Nicola at (812) 336-2443 to learn more about becoming a volunteer.

Please follow us on Facebook to stay up-to-date on our sales.

The Newsletter of Monroe County United Ministries

WorkingTogether

November 2016

The end of the year is known for countdowns: How much longer until the turkey comes out of the oven? How many days left until Christmas? How many seconds until the ball drops? Here at MCUM, we’re counting, too. We count the weight of the cans in our food pantry, the percentage of our childcare kids who leave ready for kindergarten – and everything in between! And now, we’re counting on you to renew your support of the people we serve.

We’re on cloud nine about what you’ve already helped us achieve this year, including:

- early childhood therapy for 18 enrollee preschoolers, supporting children at risk for developing mental illness;
- rent payments to keep 38 families in their own homes, rather than face eviction; and,
- transforming the formerly-known emergency services program into our Self Sufficiency Center, which empowers households to build financial stability.

We still have $86,123 left to raise and the countdown to 2017 has begun. I assure you, the individuals and families MCUM serves would be the first to tell you that your support is invaluable. Here are a few ways your donations over the next two months can help:

- $51 = coaching, referrals, and ongoing food support for two households.
- $63 = subsidize one week of high quality childcare for one child.

Donating is easy as 1-2-3:
1. Mail your donation: 827 West 14th Court Bloomington, IN 47404
2. Donate online www.mcum.org/donate
3. Give over the phone: 812-339-3429 x20

Give in someone’s honor:
For every $25 in donations, you’re eligible for one MCUM Honor Card, which you can “gift” to someone else. These are perfect for those hard-to-shop-for relatives or friends and are an excellent way to make an impact in their honor!

If you have any questions about making a donation, please contact Katie at 812-339-3429 x14 or kbroadfoot@mcum.org.
MCUM in Action

Joan, a single mom struggling to make ends meet, came to MCUM for help. We placed her son into a preschool class in our childcare program so she did not have to worry about finding someone affordable and reliable to take care of him, and could stay focused on her goals. With this childcare help, Joan finally found the time she needed to start making progress on her goals. She recently completed her GED and plans to start school at Ivy Tech next month. MCUM not only helped her by providing childcare services, but also by giving her diapers, food, vouchers to find clothing and household items for her and her son at Opportunity House, wipes, laundry detergent, and dish soap to get her back on her feet while she works toward her degree.

The infographics on this page reflect year-to-date outcomes of our Self-Sufficiency Center.

FINANCIAL AID

RENT: $12,929.78
UTILITY: $2,034.90
TOTAL: $14,964.68

MCUM’S FINANCIAL AID PROGRAM HAS HELPED OVER 100 PEOPLE AND 38 DIFFERENT FAMILIES SO FAR THIS YEAR.

Volunteer Help

From childcare to maintenance, all the help MCUM has received is extremely appreciated. So far this year 239 people have dedicated over 2,323 hours to continuing MCUM’s success.

239 people
2323 hours

MCUM 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.

One Extra Click for MCUM

Are you an avid online shopper during the holiday season? Have you heard about Fundspage? Similar to Ebates, Fundspage is an organization that will give cash back based on a percentage of online purchases (up to 8% at some stores). The difference? It goes directly to a charity of your choice! We hope you’ll choose MCUM. If you’re wondering whether it really works, it does; last year, supporters who made one extra click for MCUM earned MCUM a bonus $1,000 – the equivalent of more than one year of childcare costs for one child!

The best part is that you do not need to subscribe for anything – all it takes is one extra click. Here’s what to do:

1. Visit: fundsponge.com/groups/Monroe_County_United_Ministries
2. Hit: “Shop Now.” The site will load its partner sites like Amazon, Expedia, Best Buy, and more than 2,000 others.
3. Choose your store.
4. Do your shopping (the site will load automatically).
5. Repeat steps 1-4 as many stores as you like.

Extraordinary People Making a Difference in our Community!

Special thanks to...

• St. Mark’s United Methodist Church for leading our Santa Bags project this year
• American Legion Post #18 for donating 40 hams
• MCUM’s Board of Directors for conducting surveys of our new Self Sufficiency Center guests
• Dr. Nathan Schmeltz for providing our leadership staff with training on volunteer management