MCUM’s Lasting Legacy: A Message Mary Ellen Brown

“MCUM’s continued involvement in improving the quality of life for children, individuals, and families in Monroe County is almost a miracle: devoted staff teaching, guiding, interacting with so many people in the course of a year. Each year there are, at least from my perspective, countless grant applications, juggling with vouchers for the children in our child care, arranging for volunteers to help in giving and gathering food for delivery to those most in need. I marvel at how all these ‘balls’ are kept in the air, how we manage to end the year in the black, see our investments grow, in part insuring our future. And I delight in knowing that in 2014 we will again have Puffins in childcare.”

Mary Ellen Brown has served as board president since January 2012.

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MCUM’S MISSION STATEMENT:

Monroe County United Ministries is a nurturing organization serving working families and those in distress by assisting with emergency needs and subsidized childcare. We provide quality education and a safe place for children, basic needs assistance for the poor and community service opportunities.
MCUM’s Programs

**Affordable Childcare:** Supporters of Monroe County United Ministries believe that quality early childhood education should be accessible to all, regardless of income. MCUM is one of only eight childcare centers accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children in Monroe County, and it is the only center whose primary mission is to serve low-income families. MCUM’s investment in young children benefits not only young preschoolers but the community as a whole. Studies show that literacy-rich care improves a child’s chances of later success in school and in life. Benefits are seen in improved graduation rates, higher earning potential, reduced incarceration rates, and higher rates of civic participation. These are the outcomes your contributions of time, energy, and money support.

In 2013, 111 preschool children benefited from MCUM’s licensed and accredited Childcare Program. These children developed literacy skills, mastered science concepts, learned English as a second language, explored interpersonal relationships, investigated the natural world, developed motor skills, and much more during their time in the program.

In addition to providing care for children, the MCUM Childcare Program strives to provide comprehensive services for families. In 2013, these efforts included flu shots and lead screenings, dental cleanings, Christmas assistance for interested families, and referrals to other services in the community. Your support also impacts preschoolers’ parents and guardians, who are able to maintain steady employment knowing that their children’s care is safe and reliable. They received support in guiding their children’s education and preparing them for life after MCUM. It was a successful year for our program, simply because childcare families had remarkable support from community members like you.

**Emergency Services:** With two caseworkers and meaningful community support, Monroe County United Ministries’ Emergency Services Program provides basic needs assistance to people in financial crisis. A crisis may be brought on by unemployment, illness, injury, or an unexpected expense. Regardless of the cause, MCUM staff work to help people through difficult times.

In 2013, the Emergency Services Program provided essential assistance to 1,032 local families. MCUM provided these families with assistance in the form of food, cleaning supplies, and hygiene items, engaged them in finding solutions to their challenges, and supported them in their return to self-sufficiency.

This program is made possible through the donation of food, cleaning supplies, hygiene items, clothing, and household items to MCUM and Opportunity House. In 2013, the Emergency Food Pantry received 63,866 pounds of donated items. MCUM appreciates the support the pantry receives from individuals, congregations, clubs, schools, and businesses.
The Programs: Affordable Childcare

Taking a closer look at the inner-workings of MCUM’s Childcare Program

- Licensed teachers provide education in 4 classrooms
- Experienced core staff
- 5-Star Facility*
- Accredited curriculum**
- Sliding-scale fee for parents
- Basic health services (flu shots, lead screenings, dental clinics)
- Parent resource room

*Rated by Indiana’s 5 Star Environmental Recognition Program
**Accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

- Fostering social interactions
- Encouraging communication, literacy, and math skills
- Promoting family involvement
- Educating parents
- Providing nutritious meals
- Teaching age-appropriate skills through a play-based curriculum

- 111 unduplicated enrollments representing 96 households
- Capacity to serve 83 children at a time in 2013*
- Level 4 Paths to Quality assessment**
- Provision of daily breakfast, lunch, and snack***

*MCUM is excited to increase the capacity back to 97 children with the re-opening of the Puffin Room
* Level 4 Status from Paths to Quality voluntary assessment program for care providers.
** Awarded “Gold Standard” by Child and Adult Food Care Program
*** Percentages above are based on 2013 Childcare Parent Survey

89% of parents responded that enrolling their child at MCUM improved their employment or educational opportunities
96% of parents said their child showed improved communication skills
86% of parents said they have seen improvement in their child’s basic literacy and math skills

“MCUM is an outstanding facility and we feel so fortunate that my son has been part of this organization!”
- MCUM Parent, 2013

MCUM’s Childcare Program engages young preschoolers in age-appropriate learning that prepares them for success in the school system.
The Programs: Affordable Childcare

In 2013, MCUM staff surveyed parents about the impact MCUM’s Childcare Program had on their children.

Parents responded that they saw improvements in:

- The quality of family time at home
- Their child’s understanding of basic literacy & math
- Their (parents’) employment or education opportunities*

* A lack of affordable childcare options can be a major barrier to parents’ employment

Percentage of Parents Who Saw Improved Behaviors in Their Child

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Behavior at Home</th>
<th>Communication</th>
<th>Sharing</th>
<th>Cooperation</th>
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<tr>
<td>A lot</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>57</td>
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<tr>
<td>Some</td>
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<td>39</td>
<td>29</td>
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<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>14</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Outcomes of High-Quality, Affordable Childcare

(1) Creates successful students: increases high-school graduation rates, helps children do better on standardized tests, reduces grade repetition, and reduces the number of children placed in special education programs.

(2) Creates responsible adults: reduces crime, lowers rate of teen pregnancy, leads to better employment as adults, increases family stability.

(3) Allows for improved employment of parents: removes a major barrier to employment, allows parents to continue their education and improve their employment prospects.

(4) Creates stronger communities: reduces demand on welfare services, reduces rate of incarceration, increases rate of civic participation and voting.
The Programs: Emergency Services

Monroe County United Ministries provides basic needs assistance for Monroe County residents in crisis. Assistance may come in the form of food, clothing, household items, cleaning supplies, hygiene items, bus tickets, new socks and underwear, diapers, financial assistance to prevent utility shut-off or eviction, and referrals to other services.

**EMERGENCY SERVICES**

*MCUM’s Food Pantry distributed enough food in 2013 to provide 35,217 meals to vulnerable families. Last year, MCUM received 58,642 pounds of food donations.*

*In 2013, MCUM distributed 1,171 cleaning supply items and 3,671 personal care items from the Household Items Closet.*

*MCUM distributed $18,845 in rent assistance and $1,951 in utilities assistance in 2013, preventing homelessness or utility shut-off for 68 families.*

**Did you know? A Closer Look at MCUM’s Food Pantry!**

In Monroe County, demand for this type of service has increased greatly in recent years. In 2004, MCUM received 1,887 requests for assistance. In 2013, that number was 2,673. For years, the Emergency Food Pantry distributed a five-day supply of food (three meals a day for each person in the household for five days) to households seeking assistance. A few years ago, the demand for food assistance had grown so significantly that the pantry had to reduce the amount of food given to each family or face running out of food. Today, the pantry distributes a three-day supply of food to those in need. This reduction has impacted MCUM’s ability to assist people financially and nutritionally, but the agency is still able to fill a short-term need for food and prevent hunger in a crisis. **Your loyal, consistent support helps MCUM move toward the goal of once again distributing five-day supplies of food.**

**Emergency Services Outputs in 2013:**

- 35,217 meals
- 3,671 personal care items
- 1,171 cleaning supply items
- 2,367 Opportunity House vouchers
- 47 bus tickets
- $18,845 in rent assistance
- $1,951 in utilities assistance
The Programs: Emergency Services

Emergency Services clients were asked to complete a survey of their experience with MCUM’s program. In 2013, survey results indicated that MCUM’s Emergency Services Program had a profound impact on clients’ ability to get back on their feet after a crisis threatened their financial security. Of those who completed the survey, 93% of clients said MCUM’s services met their needs. The majority of clients ranked MCUM as their first choice food source and first choice for clothing.

In a Client’s Shoes: Perspective on MCUM’s Impact

Ariel got off the bus and arrived at MCUM on time for her appointment to discuss rent assistance. Originally from Texas, Ariel moved to Bloomington two years ago to assist her twin girls with school and other needs. Ariel has cared for the girls since her husband passed away in the line of duty. The girls now both attend college, and Ariel is also pursuing further education.

In addition to going to school, Ariel works 30 hours per week at a retail job to support her family. Still, meeting monthly needs is difficult. Last month, a major health concern meant that Ariel spent more than $1,000 out-of-pocket for medical expenses. With an already-tight budget and unexpected illness, Ariel missed paying a month’s rent and faced a negative bank balance. She owed additional late fees and her landlord was going to file for eviction by the end of the month.

Ariel came to her appointment with a plan: she would work to save money between her new paychecks and VA benefits so she could pay the rest of her bills at the end of the month and get her family back on track. In the meantime, she needed help with her overdue rent to avoid additional charges (filing fees, court costs, attorney fees) if her landlord filed for eviction. MCUM was able to offer temporary financial assistance to get Ariel’s family through the month and prevent expenses from snowballing out of control.
2013 Financial Summary (Audited)

Statement of Activities

Revenue for year ending in December 31, 2013:
Contributions $549,133
Childcare vouchers $273,915
Grants $195,610
Childcare fees $113,230

Return on investments $3,350
Gain on sale/disposal of assets and other miscellaneous income ($364)

Total Revenue $1,134,874

Expenses for year ending in December 31, 2013:
Childcare program $590,540
Emergency services program $146,271
Management and general expenses $81,165
Fundraising $152,069

Total Expenses $970,045

Change in Operating Net Assets: $164,829

Statement of Financial Position

Assets as of December 31, 2013:
Cash and cash equivalents $454,949
Vouchers, fees, and grants receivable $36,090
Pledges receivable $55,850
Investments used in operations $478,668
Prepaid expenses $3,528
Land, buildings, and equipment, net $1,031,630
Endowment assets $742,587

Total Assets $2,803,302

Liabilities as of December 31, 2013
Accounts payable $4,494
Accrued expenses $50,401

Total Liabilities $54,895

Net Assets as of December 31, 2013
Unrestricted net $2,427,407
Temporarily restricted net assets $110,654
Permanently restricted net assets $210,346

Total Net Assets $2,748,407

“[MCUM] helps in so many ways without making a person feel bad about themselves. MCUM helped my family so we can meet our needs.”

2013 MCUM Client
Monroe County United Ministries strives to use community financial support as efficiently as possible, without sacrificing program quality. MCUM undergoes an independent financial audit annually and our audited financial statements and 990s are available online at www.mcum.org and www.guidestar.org as they are completed.

Corporate sponsors help ensure MCUM’s special events activities are successful. Some of MCUM’s sponsoring organizations include:

Presenting: Puffin Classroom Sponsors

In 2013, MCUM announced the Puffin Classroom, which had been closed since August 2011, will re-open in 2014.

MCUM thanks ALL who have contributed to the Puffin Campaign, but especially those who made 3-year commitments in the form of multiple pledges to the Puffin Room:

Gary & Marcia Bishop
Ben & Cynthia Brabson
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Tom & Jill Bunger
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Ralph Voelkel
Jim Williams & Deb Allmayer
Paul & Charlotte Zietlow

Mary Lou Miller Fellows

Thank you to the 519 donors who contributed more than $1.8 million toward the Preschool Expansion Project (1997-2000). The children MCUM serves today continue to benefit from your generosity.
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Gabe & Marlene Wilmes
Willard & Victoria Witte
… continued on next page

Your support helped keep 68 families from becoming homeless in 2013.
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Amy Young
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John & Kate Zilvinskis

Faith Community
Supporters
Monroe County United Ministries has a long and rich history of support from local faith congregations. The Bloomington Council of Church Women, now called Church Women United, was the driving force behind the formation of MCUM’s earliest incarnation, the Bloomington Day Nursery, and many of our founding congregations still support MCUM’s programs today.
All Saints Orthodox Church
Arlington United Methodist Church
Baha’i Faith of Bloomington
Bloomington Monthly Meeting of Friends
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MCUM’s Annual Gift Clubs:

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<th>Category</th>
<th>Donation Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Benefactors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friends</td>
<td>$1 - $99</td>
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Other Community Supporters

Support from the community comes in many forms, including financial support, food donations, volunteer time, and other donations.

Wal-Mart Store #1991
4th Tuesday Bridge Group
America's Best Value Inn
American Legion, Post 18
CarDon & Associates, Inc.
Ketcham Cemetery Association
Hoosier Hills Food Bank
Baxter Pharmaceutical Solutions
Bell Trace
Bicycle Garage
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Company, Inc.
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Bunger & Robertson, Attorneys at Law
CFC Properties, Inc.
City of Bloomington, Community Development Block Grant
City of Bloomington, Jack Hopkins Social Service Fund
City of Bloomington, Office of the Mayor
Community Foundation of Bloomington & Monroe County
Conversation Club
Cook Medical, AI Marketing Dept.
Country View Apartments
Crate Federal Credit Union - Bloomington Branch
Cub Scout Troop 123
Culver Family Foundation
Delta Tau Delta, Zeta Chapter
Delta Zeta Alumnae
Dollar General
Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP)
Evening Glories
Extension Club of Ellettsville
Feinstein Family Foundation
First Capital Investment Group, Inc.
First Insurance Group
Good Neighbors Home Extension Club
The Harvey Foundation
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Hilliard - Lyons
Hoosier Floor Covering, Inc.
IACCRR
Indiana Institute of Disability & Community
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Orescheln Farm & Home
Paths to Quality, Indiana
Raymond Foundation, Inc.
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Social Security Administration
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St. John Associates
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Tri-North Middle School
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