‘Be the Light’
Reaches $100,000 (and Counting!)

On January 2, MCUM’s *Be the Light* fundraising campaign officially eclipsed the $100,000 mark, surpassing last year’s movement as the greatest outpouring of donor support in MCUM’s 78-year history. Thank you so much for joining hundreds of your neighbors in a historic demonstration of generosity, compassion, and love for our shared community through MCUM.

Right now - and because of you - children are learning to understand their emotions in the Penguin classroom. In the cafeteria across the hall, others nourish their bodies with a complete breakfast and later, a balanced lunch. In the Self-Sufficiency Center, a man meets with a Coach about rent assistance while volunteers bag the groceries a mother has chosen for her daughter in MCUM’s client-choice food pantry. All of this is made possible by your support and by the fundraising campaign you helped to make so successful.

With contributions still arriving daily, the campaign isn’t over yet! Stay tuned for more announcements on MCUM’s Facebook page and for our upcoming Annual Report, which will truly demonstrate the impact of your amazing support.

Compass Expansion Complete!

**MCUM’s childcare capacity climbs to 180 in 2018**

After a year of ceaseless support from donors and tireless effort from staff and volunteers, MCUM’s expansion into its second childcare location is finally complete. *Compass - Downtown* is now not only operational, but running at near-capacity every weekday: All but 5 of the site’s 96 licensed spots are filled, bringing the total number of children enrolled in Compass Early Learning Center sites to a record-high 173!

Completing the expansion has been a dream for MCUM leadership and staff for more than two years. Forging a new partnership with longtime MCUM member church First United Methodist Church (FUMC), MCUM Executive Director Erin Predmore said community need was truly the driving force.

“Looking at demographics, only about a third of preschool-aged children in Monroe County have a spot in a licensed childcare center like MCUM’s,” Predmore said. “We knew we needed to find a way to provide more affordable, high-quality spots to more hardworking families; it was just a matter of bringing people together to make it happen.”

Those people included FUMC’s and MCUM’s incredible leadership teams, boards of directors, and staff, as well as community volunteers who helped to prepare the site before its original open in August and final expansion last month.

New teachers, aides, cooks, and administrators have joined our MCUM family, which has expanded to fill our classrooms. Director of Operations Jen Smallwood is among those new hires and said operations at the new site are firing on all cylinders:

MCUM’s Compass Early Learning Center now serves 173 children ages 6 weeks to 6 years, including 20 infants and 12 kindergarteners.

“Our new staff has been terrific,” Smallwood said. “And so have our new families. Our staff is excited to be here, our families are excited to be here... it’s really a win-win for everyone.”

The final expansion of Compass - Downtown was expedited by months to respond to dire community need and to fully license the site for the new year. Thanks to herculean efforts from staff and supporters, MCUM raised the additional $100,000 needed through private donations and support from the City of Bloomington, the Raymond Foundation, Early Learning Indiana - all in just 4 weeks!

In the end, the Compass expansion more than doubled MCUM’s childcare capacity in 2017. That means more low-income families can continue to work or attend school knowing their children are safe in a nurturing and enriching learning environment. This development makes a difference for scores of families now and hundreds more to come – and so do you.

Thank you for making this expansion possible, for your constant, unwavering support, and for celebrating our shared successes. We did it! Together.
Current Needs

Food Pantry
- Pasta sauce
- Macaroni and cheese
- Ramen noodles
- Cereal (all sizes)
- Biscuit/muffin mixes

Cleaning Closet
- Deodorant (Men's & Women's)
- Conditioner
- All-purpose cleaner
- Laundry soap
- Bar soap
- Tampons and Pads
- Size 5 & 6 diapers
- Underwear (M & W, all sizes)

Childcare
- Paper: lined, construction, graph - any ;)
- Multi-racial Barbies/baby dolls
- Glitter
- Googly eyes
- Yarn/string
- Markers (washable or dry-erase)
- Beads (various, ages 3+)
- Barbasol shaving cream
- Food coloring
- Cotton balls
- Popcorn kernels, dry beans, lentils, macaroni, bow-tie pasta, rice (for sensory tables)

What are our clients saying?
In October 2017, MCUM began issuing an optional, anonymous survey to every client in our client-choice food pantry. This month, we're excited to share some of the ongoing survey's most insightful 2017 findings with you:

93% of survey respondents said they were “very satisfied” with their shopping assistance from our volunteers and staff. The remaining 7% were “somewhat satisfied,” - the next-best option.

87% of survey respondents were “very satisfied” with the amount of food they received from MCUM’s pantry, with another 12% “somewhat satisfied.”

Top 4 Most Desired Products
1. Meat products
2. Cereal
3. Helper meals (Hamburger Helper, Rice-a-Roni, etc.)
4. Ready-to-Eat Soups, Stews, and Chilis

91% increase in food security

Before visiting MCUM’s pantry, clients rated their own food security (basic food needs met) at an average of 3.9 out of 10.

After visiting the pantry, the same clients averaged a 7.5 out of 10 - an increase of 91% in clients’ self-reported food security.

Thank you for your Food Drives!
Thank you so much to all of our donors who organized or participated in food drives this holiday season! Because of you, MCUM’s pantry collected more than 22,240 pounds of food and cleaning/hygiene supplies in
- Bill C. Brown Associates
- BKD, LLP
- Bloomington Housing Authority
- Bloomington Montessori School
- Burton Woolery American Legion Post 18
- Christina & Franklin Thomas
- Church Women United
- Coghlan Orthodontics
- Community Dodge, Chrysler & Jeep
- Daughters of Isabella
- Fairview United Methodist Church
- First Christian Church
- First Presbyterian Church
- First United Methodist Church
- Friends Meeting House
- Good Neighbors Club
- Harrel-Fish, Inc.
- Highlander Extension Club
- Hoosier Courts Nursery School
- Jill & Duane Minch
- John & Peggy Woodcox
- K. Luke Eades, DDS

November and December — enough to serve the 3,218 people who accessed these services during those months and more. Thank you for feeding your neighbors this season, and we hope you will continue your support in 2018!
- Les Bon Amies Homemaker Club
- McDowell Baptist Church
- Members' Choice Credit Union
- Miriam Northcutt Bohmert
- Office of the Vice Provost for Research
- Oliver Winery
- Olson & Company, P.C.
- Peoples' Star Bank
- Root & Associates
- Sherwood Oaks Christian Church
- Sigma Alpha Sorority
- Simpson Chapel United Methodist Church
- St. Charles Catholic Church & School
- St. Paul Catholic Church
- St. Thomas Lutheran Church
- St. Thomas United Methodist Church
- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
- Trinity Episcopal Church
- Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington
- United Presbyterian Church
- University Baptist Church
- Woodhaven Christian Church

Wanted:
Did you know MCUM’s collects Box Tops for Education to support our Compass Early Learning Center? Each one is worth 10 cents, and we receive thousands of dollars in revenue each year!

Donate yours today!
Another holiday season is in the books at MCUM, and thanks to your support, our programs went off without a hitch! Santa arrived with gifts for every child in our Compass Early Learning Center. Holiday food baskets ensured that 92 low-income families had enough food to host their own holiday celebrations, complete with a full-size ham or turkey! And every Compass family who wished for a sponsor to help provide holiday gifts had their wishes come true.

Thank you to everyone who made these photos and the programs they represent possible! We hope your holiday memories were as special as the ones you helped make for the families we serve at MCUM. Thank you!
Self Sufficiency Center
Monday, Thursday, & Friday
Appointment only: 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Food pantry only: 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Walk-ins: 12:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday:
Appointment only: 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Food pantry only: 12:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Walk-ins: 12:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday: CLOSED

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

Main Office
Monday - Friday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Leadership Staff
Executive Director: Erin Predmore
Director of Operations: Jennifer Smallwood
Development Director: Katie Broadfoot
Office Manager: Shannon Hampton
Compass Business Manager: Traci Mehay
Education Coordinators: Jamie Buck (Compass - North), Tina Burress & Kris Rundell (Compass - Downtown)

Why Re-Gift When You Can Re-Give?
The gift-giving holidays often go one of two ways: You either get that something special you’ve always wanted... or you find yourself the new owner of something that you don’t. Either way, Opportunity House can help!

If you received a beautiful new something, bring your older, gently-used one to Op House! Or donate your unwanted gifts so they can become that something special someone else has always wanted. Who knows? You might even find what you were looking for all along! No matter what you give or buy, your donation directly supports MCUM and our programs: Support MCUM by supporting Op House!

Volunteer in the New Year
Haven’t made a New Year’s Resolution yet? How about spending more time volunteering in your community? Come meet new people, help others, and get lost in a world of organization: Join our volunteer team!

You can fill out an application our new website, OpHouseThrift.org/Volunteer, or call us at (812) 336-2443 for more information.

The Opportunity House 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. Contact us by calling (812) 336-2443, e-mailing ophouse68@gmail.com, or following us on Facebook!