We Want YOU: MCUM Calls in the Cavalry

Hunger Games at halfway mark

As the first half of MCUM's Hunger Games concludes, our supporters are heating up! Food drives are now ongoing in 6 schools, more than 10 congregations, and with almost a dozen other groups, from businesses to student organizations. It's already our biggest Hunger Games event ever!

The Hunger Games continues through April 30, and so far, we've collected $12,216, plus 4,010 lbs of food for MCUM's pantry! That's 49% of our $25,000 and 16% of our 25,000 lb goals, respectively!

We're blown away by the amazing community-wide effort we've seen. And the best part is, we're just getting warmed up: If you haven't yet participated in the Hunger Games, now is your chance to join hundreds of your friends and neighbors as we close in on our shared goals:

MCUM Development Director Katie Broadfoot (left) and Development Intern Aleida Veldman (right) rally support at St. Charles School during the school's Hunger Games kickoff! St. Charles' drive ended on Good Friday.

MCUM's other official Hunger Games partner schools include:
- St. Charles School (March 19-30), Bloomington Montessori School (March 19-30), The Project School (April 2-13), and Edgewood High School's National Honor Society (TBD). Thank you to these amazing schools for showing their students the power of joining forces as a community!

If you'd like to donate non-perishable food, please bring it to MCUM at 827 W 14th Ct, 47404, Monday-Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. It's not too late to host a food drive within your social network, office, or club! Just contact Katie at kibroadfoot@mcum.org or visit mcum.org/hungergames to get materials and get started!

Donating money is even easier. Simply use the pre-addressed envelope included with this newsletter to mail in your contribution or visit mcum.org/donate. $20 buys up to 100 lbs of food for local families! The Hunger Games are bringing everyone together in the battle against hunger: Join the fight today!

Domino's is sponsoring the Hunger Games!

Mark your calendars, and help us spread the word!

From April 23 - April 27, take $5 off any large pizza at menu price when you donate 2 or more nonperishable goods to MCUM via your delivery driver or in-store! Use Code 9069 when ordering.

Valid only at 527 N. Walnut St., Bloomington, 47404
Current Needs

**Food Pantry**
- Peanut butter (S/M jars)
- Condensed soup
- Canned fruit
- Canned tomatoes
- Canned pasta (Chef Boyardee, Spaghetti-Os, etc.)
- Ready-to-eat soups
- Pasta sauce

**Cleaning Closet**
- Shampoo/Conditioner
- Deodorant (M or W)
- Bar soap
- Razors
- Dish soap
- Diapers (size 6)
- Men’s or Women’s Underwear (any size)

**Childcare**
- Popsicle sticks
- Googly eyes
- White paper (for drawing)
- Stickers
- Collections of natural items (pine cones, seashells, etc.)
- Multi-cultural baby dolls, clothing (various sizes)

**Office**
- Computer monitor (19” or larger)
- Projector (for presentations)

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**Compass Babies Coming Soon!**

It’s official: our Compass teachers have baby fever! **Five** of our incredible educators expecting, and we couldn’t be happier for them and their growing families!

On Saturday, March 24, our school family threw a joint baby shower at MCUM for all 5 expecting moms, which included gifts, games, and Eric- Carle-inspired decorations. How cute is that ‘Very Hungry Caterpillar’ cake!? Congratulations to **Karen, Iris, Maddie, Shannon,** and **Tasha**! We are so excited for you all!

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**Pantry Volunteers Nominated for ‘Be More’ Award**

Congratulations to the dedicated team of volunteers behind **First United Methodist Church**’s **Wednesday Food Pantry** for their ‘**Be More**’ Award nomination! The annual ‘Be More’ Awards celebrate excellence in volunteerism in Bloomington and took place on March 27 at the Buskirk-Chumley Theater.

MCUM helps administer the FUMC pantry and nominated FUMC’s team of 20 volunteers, who work tirelessly every Wednesday to transform their chapel into a pantry that serves more than 300 families each month.

**Thank you for your hard work; we are so proud of your efforts!**

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**Local Attorneys Network for MCUM**

On March 8, longtime MCUM sponsor **Bunger & Robertson** hosted a **Hunger Games** kickoff event unlike any other: Instead of focusing their efforts solely on their own office, B&R organizers decided to invite their entire professional network to participate. The result was **Raising the Bar** - a benefit event at the Crazy Horse restaurant to which the entire Monroe County Bar Association was invited.

**Jessica Merkel**, an attorney at B&R, said she was looking for ways to boost her office’s impact. “I was surprised to see that donations to (MCUM’s) pantry were down this year over last, but the number of people served had increased. I thought about how our office could help not only with food donations but also spread the word about the increased need.”

“A food drive within our office would only go so far, so I spoke with some of my other partners, and we decided to reach out to our fellow attorneys and members of the Monroe County Bar Association.”

More than 40 people attended the event, which included remarks from MCUM’s Executive Director Erin Predmore, and each attendee brought at least $10 or the same amount of non-perishable food items for MCUM’s pantry. “It was amazing to reach new audiences,” Predmore said, “but to have it organized by an existing supporter was truly special.”

**Thank you, Bunger & Robertson!**

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*Follow MCUM on Facebook!*

If you’re not following us on Facebook, you’re missing out on even more news, links, and photos of cute kids! Hear from our clients on #TestimonialTuesdays and share MCUM with your network!

Visit facebook.com/MCUMorg and click the ‘Like’ button today!
Thank You!

This month, we want to extend a special thank you to a number of our supporters:

- Thank you to the Bloomington Montessori School for hosting MCUM for a Hunger Games kickoff event! We had a blast presenting to the kids and hearing what they learned from our poverty scenarios!

- Thank you to the St. Charles School for allowing our development team to speak to the entire school! We are so grateful for your support!

- Thank you Betty Rose Nagle for her beautiful auction donations for this year’s Spring Luncheon! It was a thrill to see your collection!

- Thank you to First Christian Church for hosting your Hunger Games food drive again this year. Your neighbors are already receiving your donations!

- Thank you to the Opportunity House for placing a Hunger Games food collection barrel on the salesfloor! This will make it even easier for people to participate in the drive!

- Thank you to Cub Scout Pack 123 for your amazing food drive! 1,619 lbs!? You all are incredible!

Keynote Speaker Announcement: Dr. Matthew Baggetta

With only one month to go until MCUM’s annual Spring Luncheon, we’re thrilled to announce this year’s keynote speaker, Dr. Matthew Baggetta! Dr. Baggetta received his Ph.D in Sociology from Harvard University in 2009, and he now teaches at Indiana University’s School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA). His research centers on civic engagement and the power of social movements, and his presentation at the luncheon will help you to feel empowered as an advocate for MCUM! Dr. Baggetta is an incredible speaker who injects his presentations with charisma and energy; we can’t wait to have him speak at the luncheon on May 6!

Build-a-Basket Opportunities Still Available!

We’ve seen a tremendous response to our ‘Build-a-Basket’ initiative this spring, but several themed baskets remain unclaimed! If you’re feeling creative, please consider assembling your own gift package for the luncheon’s Silent Auction!

Your basket can retail for as little as $25. You’ll enjoy putting it together, but you’ll really enjoy watching your peers compete for it in the auction!

Available baskets include themes like:

- Mothers’ Day - A special basket for a special someone; the possibilities are endless!
- Fathers’ Day - From golf to whiskey, someone’s dad is sure to have a hobby!
- Baking - Specialty tools, gourmet mixes, or maybe a gift card to Goods for Cooks?
- Reading - Candles, throws, booklights, or bookmarks are starter ideas for this set!
- Kids’ Activities - Quick! What keeps your kids busy on summer road trips?!
- Gardening - Seeds, starts, tools, or even planting pots! Build your own starter kit!

You can learn more or sign up to build your basket at mcum.org/springluncheon, or by contacting Katie at (812) 339-3429 x 14 or kbrooadfoot@mcum.org.

Don't Wait! Early-Bird Prices End April 8!

Buy your Luncheon tickets now and take advantage of our best deal! Prices will increase after Sunday, April 8, so get yours today!

To purchase tickets, visit mcum.org/springluncheon or mail a check to MCUM (827 W 14th Ct, Bloomington, IN 47404) with "Luncheon Tickets" in the memo line. You can call Katie at 812-339-3429 x 14 for more details.
Save a tree!
Sign up to receive our new eNewsletter.
Email kbroadfoot@mcum.org to make the switch!

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
Education Coordinators:
Jamie Buck (Compass - North)
Kris Rundell (Compass - Downtown)

Spring Styles Coming Soon to Op House!
With winter in its final throes, warm weather is here, at last! That means amazing spring and summer wear is coming soon to the Op House sales floor! Throughout April, Opportunity House volunteers will be storing all winter gear to make room for shorts, skirts, t-shirts, polo shirts, sun dresses, and much more. And don’t forget household decorations! Liven up your space with spring-themed pieces, in stock now!

Did your spring cleaning uncover your own buried treasures? Donate your gently used items to the Opportunity House! We gladly accept all donations, and proceeds support MCUM programs; we accept donations 6 days per week. See our hours below, or visit ophousethrift.org.

Volunteer Positions Available Now!
Looking for a reason to get out of the house this spring? Opportunity House welcomes new volunteers with open arms, and we would love to see YOU this season! The snow has melted, the sun is shining, and there’s no better time to start volunteering in your community!

For more information about becoming a volunteer, call us at (812) 336-2443 or sign up at OpHouseThrift.org/Volunteer.

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!