Each spring, MCUM’s *Hunger Games* food drive raises food and funds from March 1 to April 30 in support of our client-choice food pantry. In years past, individuals, clubs, schools, businesses, and congregations have competed against one another to collect the most resources and help the most families. This year, we’re concentrating our efforts on the real enemy – hunger.

We want this to be the most successful *Hunger Games* ever, so we’re activating our entire network of supporters to set our most ambitious goals yet. By raising 25,000 lbs of food and $25,000, we can maintain the pantry during our busiest summer months, when children are home from school and families’ budgets are even more strained.

We invite you to join the fight and learn more about the impact of your support at mcum.org/hungergames.

This photo shows the amount and variety of food a family of 3 receives from MCUM’s pantry. If the *Hunger Games* successfully meets its community-wide 25,000 lb goal, it will provide this supply of food to 842 3-person families from MCUM’s client-choice food pantry - and that’s just the food! The $25,000 will provide up to an additional 125,000 lbs of food to feed as many as 4,200 more 3-person families! Now that’s impact!

Visit mcum.org/hungergames to learn more about the event and these simple ways to get involved!
Current Needs

Food Pantry
- Cereal
- Peanut Butter (S/M jars)
- Individually-wrapped snacks (granola bars, fruit snacks, etc.)
- Pasta Sauce
- Canned Tomatoes
- Canned pasta (Chef Boyardee, Spaghetti-Os, etc.)
- Canned fruit
- Dried beans

Cleaning Closet
- Deodorant (M or W)
- Sensitive skin bar soap
- Razors
- Dish soap
- All-purpose cleaners
- Laundry soap
- Trash bags
- Diapers (sizes 4 & 5)
- Baby wipes

Childcare
- Collections of natural items (pine cones, seashells, etc.)
- White paper (for drawing)
- Multi-cultural baby dolls, clothing (various sizes)
- Stickers
- Popsicle sticks
- Googly eyes
- Brown paper lunch bags
- Diversity-themed children’s books

Wanted:

Do you have a shoebox full of unopened, travel-sized toiletries in your bathroom closet? Of course you do!

MCUM’s pantry offers travel-sized bar soap, shampoo, conditioner, lotion, toothpaste, and more!

Donate yours today!

Striving for Self-Sufficiency:

New partnership brings fresh framework, tools, and a new approach to MCUM’s Self-Sufficiency Center

Months ago, MCUM’s staff began researching the science of scarcity and how it affects our client’s daily lives. What we learned is that scarcity affects not only our clients, but all of us.

Poverty, after all, is just one form of scarcity - the economic form. But we’ve all experienced scarcity of some kind. Research shows that when we’re hungry, lonely, or yes, poor, a significant portion of our day is spent worrying about what’s missing. This saps our mental energy and creates chronic stress, which triggers a near-constant survival response. That response hijacks our cognition, causing us to live moment-to-moment and day-by-day.

These are the conditions in which many of MCUM’s clients live. They are strong, capable, and resilient people facing difficult circumstances and stressful conditions – conditions that science shows literally alter our chemistry and inhibit our ability to see and plan for a better future.

Armed with this knowledge – and with a mission to create lasting solutions to economic injustice in our community – MCUM is partnering with Economic Mobility Pathways (EMPath) to further develop our self-sufficiency programming. EMPath has pioneered a proprietary client coaching system called “Mobility Mentoring®,” which utilizes tools like their “Bridge to Self-

Boston-based Economic Mobility Pathways created a framework and tools for effective long-term self-sufficiency coaching - tools that MCUM will adapt and utilize soon.

Sufficiency®” to help clients facing similar circumstances set and achieve their own incremental goals and move closer to long-term economic independence. You can learn more about EMPath at empathways.org.

As a new member of EMPath’s Learning Network, MCUM is in the process of adapting their approach and tools to best serve our clients and address the unique challenges they face in our community. By doing so, we join scores of other agencies across the United States who are already implementing the Mobility Mentoring® model and seeing success. In the months to come, we look forward to sharing our own adapted toolset and approach with you, and eventually, our own successes.

We are energized and excited by this new opportunity to impact our neighbors on an even more foundational level while continuing to meet their immediate needs – all with your help. Thank you for your incredible support, and thank you for allowing MCUM to learn, grown, and innovate to better achieve our mission.

Thank You, Corporate Sponsors! (Part I)

Please join us in thanking the first batch of our 2018 corporate sponsors in the community! MCUM’s sponsors help support our annual special events, such as our Spring Luncheon, Each One, Feed One food drive, and more. Thank you for your incredible support!
Thank You!

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

- Thank you to Jill & Duane Minch, who have single-handedly donated more than 1,000 loaves of bread to MCUM’s food pantry since September 2017. Thank you for ensuring all of our clients have access to this dietary staple!

- Thank you to the Monroe County Youth Council for inviting MCUM to give a presentation about our programs at your monthly meeting - and extra thanks to those who felt inspired to get involved afterwards!

- Thank you to Chris & Frank Thomas, who secured and delivered an anonymous donation of more than 12,000 trial-size shampoo/conditioner packets! WOW!

- Thank you to former MCUM board member Jo Weddle for inviting MCUM to inspire the Sunday School children at First Christian Church!

- Thank you to the Project School’s Brownies for welcoming us to their meeting to raise awareness about need in our community!

How to attend, contribute, and much more!

We’re so excited to be in the midst of planning MCUM’s annual Spring Luncheon event, and if you’re reading this, you’re invited!

Please join us for the ticketed event on May 6 from 12-2 p.m. at the Bloomington-Monroe County Convention Center. Doors will open at 12 p.m. for silent auction browsing and bidding and to mingle with friends and fellow supporters. Lunch will be served around 12:30 p.m. with a short program and live auction to follow.

Event tickets can be purchased online at mcum.org/springluncheon, by mailing a check to MCUM with “Luncheon Tickets” in the memo line, or by visiting us in-person at 827 W 14th Ct. Tickets are $28 for adults, $15 for children 12 and under, or $200 for a table of 8.

The Spring Luncheon is MCUM’s biggest fundraising event of the year, hosting 300-350 attendees each year. The event raises upwards of $30,000 for MCUM’s programs and is funded by corporate sponsorships and a portion of ticket sales. This means that all contributions made during the event go directly to MCUM’s programs.

The most exciting part? This year, we’re inviting you to help make the silent auction truly unique: For the first time, we’re encouraging our creative, fun-loving supporters to build their own gift baskets for the event! Follow the link at mcum.org/springluncheon to see some of our themed ideas or come up with your own! It’s a great project for a family, club, or office, and can start at just $25 in value.

We also welcome other in-kind donations for the auction, such as art, artisan crafts, handmade pottery, and more. Your imagination is the only limit! To submit a donation, simply complete the form found at (you guessed it!) mcum.org/springluncheon.

Please do join us on May 6, and consider bringing a friend! The luncheon is a great way to introduce MCUM to your network and share your passion for our programs. Just don’t wait! Ticket prices will increase after April 8, so get yours today!

Looking for a NEW way to give?

Donate your own gift basket to the auction!

Assemble a gift package and watch your peers bid to win it in our silent auction! Get your basket idea approved for a chance to have your gift be the talk of the event!

Have a great idea for a basket?
Contact Katie at kbroadfoot@mcum.org to claim your place in the auction.
Save a tree!
Sign up to receive our new eNewsletter.
Email kbroadfoot@mcum.org to make the switch!

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**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), Kris Rundell (Compass - Downtown)

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**Spring Clearing, er, Cleaning!**
The sun is shining, the birds are chirping, and that can only mean one thing: spring is just around the corner. As you start your spring cleaning, keep your eyes peeled for buried treasure! We both know it’s hiding in those closets, basements, and back bedrooms: That Christmas exchange gift you already forgot you received; that extra pair of jeans you made it a whole winter without wearing; those really cute shoes that are just a half-size too small...

Start a donation box while you clean, then consider bringing your gently-used wares to the Opportunity House! We accept donations 6 days per week, and our proceeds are passed along to MCUM to help fund their programs! See our info below for hours or visit [ophousethrift.org](http://ophousethrift.org).

**Donation to Distribution: Our Volunteers See It All**
Ever wondered what happens to your donations after you drop them off? Come find out as a volunteer! Help us process your items, price them, put them on the sales floor and sell them to our clients!

To sign up, visit [OpHouseThrift.org/Volunteer](http://OpHouseThrift.org/Volunteer), or call us at (812) 336-2443 for more information about joining our volunteer team.

*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!*