



The Newsletter of Monroe County United Ministries

Working Together

June 2018

Splash Into Summer: Sponsor a Swimmer

One of the best things about summers at Compass-North is access for our three oldest classrooms to Mills Pool, thanks to a long-standing partnership between MCUM and The City of Bloomington.



Our Otters, Dolphins, & Penguins will be visiting the pool again this summer! Parents pay an additional fee for their children to participate. Your gift of \$28 can provide a “swimmership” for a child.

If you're ready to dive in and bring the benefits of swimming and the joy of being able to participate in a staple summer activity to our preschoolers, kindly mail your donation to MCUM (827 West 14th Court, Bloomington IN 47404) or donate online at www.mcum.org/donate.



Spring Luncheon a Success!

Thanks to all who attended and supported our annual Spring Into Action! Luncheon & Auction, held Sunday, May 6 at the Convention Center.

Our silent auction this year set a record, raising more than \$3,500 through donated items from local businesses, individuals, and groups!

The keynote speaker, Dr. Matt Baggetta from Indiana University's top-ranked School of Public & Environmental Affairs spoke to guests about the importance and logistics of mobilizing our networks in order to have a positive impact.

MCUM's Erin Predmore followed Dr. Baggetta with a challenge. Each table discussed the challenges a lack of transportation could present for families struggling to maintain their financial self-sufficiency and each guest was tasked with discussing this with at least 3 additional people in the 30 days following the event. In June, Erin will assemble all who are interested to discuss next steps in our “transportation justice” project.

If you missed the event but would like to be involved, contact Erin by email: epredmore@mcum.org

Current Needs

Food Pantry

- Canned meat
- Condensed soups
- Canned vegetables
- Baking mix
- Tomato products
- Pasta

Cleaning Closet

- Diapers (sizes 4-6)
- Baby wash
- Baby powder
- **Hair shampoo & conditioner**
- Deodorant (men and women)
- **Laundry soap**
- **All-purpose spray cleaner**
- **Dilutable cleaner**
- Razors
- Socks
- Feminine hygiene products
- Body lotion
- Canvas grocery bags

Compass Early Learning Center

- Art supplies
- Shoe box-sized plastic containers
- 15 quart containers

We are looking for summer volunteers who can commit to a weekly shift to help in our food pantry. Responsibilities will include assisting clients as they shop, unloading and tracking food donations, sorting donated food, and other duties. Please contact Katie (kbroadfoot@mcum.org) for available times.

Happy Birthday, Opportunity House



Pictured above Diana, Steve, & Katie modeling Opportunity House outfits. You can read the writeup online at www.magbloom.com/2018/04.

This year marks the 50th year of Opportunity House's services to the community and support to MCUM's programs. What began as a pile of rummage sold to benefit MCUM is today a booming resale shop made possible by the efforts of an army of volunteers.

We recommend checking out the wonderful article in Bloom Magazine's spring publication detailing their history and showcasing a few items recently donated - along with their retail prices versus what Opportunity House shoppers can expect to pay.

Opportunity House is located at 907 W. 11th Street and is open from 10am-3pm Mondays-Saturdays. They're always looking for donations, volunteers, and, of course, shoppers - so if you're interested in any of those things, it could just be the place for you!

Planned Giving: Easier than you Think!

Did you know that almost ALL (that's right - all!) Americans have the capacity to make a planned gift? We're talking about more than just real estate, here, too. When assessing the value of our estates, many of us forget to think beyond our cash assets. Yep - things like insurance policies, automobiles, stocks, bonds, and property often found in wills like art and antiques all have a part to play in your planned giving wishes.

The value of these things add up. And taxes can consume 40-50% of this value - leaving your loved ones with less than you intended. Bequests allow you to designate even a small portion of the value of your estate to MCUM, reducing the total assessed value (and therefore taxes!) of your possessions, which helps your loved ones as well as the people MCUM serves.

Most of us do not review our beneficiaries, wills, and plans once we have set them up - but we often set them up without knowledge of nonprofits' planned giving opportunities. It is very simple to make a planned gift to MCUM - and we'd like to talk to you about what legacy you would like to leave. If you're ready to talk about your options, please call Katie at 812.339.3428 ext. 18 to set up an appointment.

Access to Proper Hygiene is a Basic Need

MCUM's cleaning and hygiene closet is one of only four in the county to distribute this type of products to families in need. However, MCUM is the only agency to offer this service five days a week.

Why is this important? Well, first of all, imagine your life without products like shampoo, laundry detergent, or soap. It would make things difficult, right? When people don't have access to cleaning and hygiene items, there can be serious consequences ranging from employment challenges to health issues. On a human level, we can agree that establishing proper hygiene is also critical to a positive sense of self.

As you know, cleaning products and hygiene items are *expensive!* According to Statista, the average American household spends about \$40 each month on cleaning and hygiene supplies. What you may not know, however, is that hygiene and cleaning supplies cannot be purchased using SNAP benefits (food stamps).

While MCUM's clients all face unique circumstances, most have very little freedom to make choices when it comes to most areas of their lives: housing, transportation, clothing. MCUM's Self-Sufficiency Center currently allows visitors to choose six items from our supply of cleaning and hygiene products every six months. Challenges in keeping our closet stocked prevent us from being able to offer the service more frequently.

Last year, our coaches gave 10,135 items to 8,089 people. Through April, we have already distributed over 6,000 items to households in need - and our closet stock is low. Check out the list below for some ideas about how you can help us stock up on these items.



These cleaning buckets are easy to put together and will store all the supplies in one spot. You can make a complete family cleaning bucket for about \$15 if you buy in bulk and/or from the dollar store.

Build a family cleaning bucket: Gather some common household cleaning items - general cleaner, sponges, toilet bowl cleaner, and other items that are critical to maintaining a clean house free of germs likely to spread sickness. Place them into a bucket or tub. Bring to MCUM. Voila!

Buy in bulk & donate what you can: If you're a Sam's Club shopper or like to stretch your dollars as far as possible, you'll like this one! Items like toilet paper, clorox wipes, and dish detergent are common bulk package finds and are always needed here at MCUM.

Host a "dignity drive": Think food drive - but with personal care products instead! Give your audience specific items to look for (like toothpaste, razors, shampoo, etc.) and send them out for them.

When you travel, save your complimentary toiletries: In our food pantry, we distribute travel-sized shampoo, individually-wrapped soap bars, & other mini hygiene items. So, if you're not going to use them or don't need them - please collect them and bring them in.

Interested in financially supporting this project!?

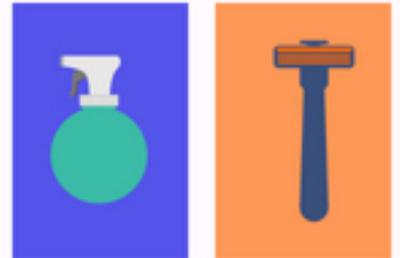
You can donate online at www.mcum.org/donate

Cleaning & Hygiene Consumption Fast Facts:

Each year, the average American uses:

- 13 (50 oz.) containers of laundry detergent
- 100 rolls of toilet paper
- 24 (4 oz) bars of soap
- 3 sticks of deodorant
- 5.5 bottles of shampoo

Without these items, it can be a challenge not only maintain one's dignity, but also hygiene standards most employers require.



Most-requested items:

- all-purpose spray cleaner
- deodorant
- bar soap
- laundry detergent



Monroe County United Ministries

Non-Profit Organization
US Postage Paid
Bloomington, IN 47404
Permit #186

827 West 14th Court
Bloomington, IN 47404

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Save a tree!

Sign up to receive our new eNewsletter.
Email kbroadfoot@mcum.org to make the switch!

Hours of Operation:

Self Sufficiency Center

Monday, Thursday, & Friday

Appointment only: 8:00-12:00

Food pantry only: 12:00-5:00

Walk-ins: 12:00-4:30

Tuesday:

Appointment only: 8:00-12:00

Food pantry only: 12:00-7:00

Walk-ins: 12:00-6:30

Wednesday: CLOSED

Compass Early Learning Center

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

Leadership Staff:

Executive Director: Erin Predmore

Director of Operations: Jen Smallwood

Assistant Director of Operations: Steve Thomas

Development Director: Katie Broadfoot

Office Manager: Shannon Hampton

Education Coordinator - North: Jamie Buck

SAVE THE DATE: August 10-12

Our annual Each One, Feed One Community Food Drive will take place August 10-12 at local grocery stores.

We will begin recruiting volunteers (more than 200 are needed!) to help us collect donations at the stores, drive food from stores to MCUM, and sort food once it arrives at MCUM later this month. Please “like” us on Facebook to be sure you’re among the first to know when our sign-up goes live.

Want to help us raise more food than ever? Share our food drive dates with your network, organize your own EOFO drive to culminate the same weekend, and *mark your calendar!*



Please recycle this newsletter or share it with a friend.