

The Newsletter of Monroe County United Ministries

Working Together

February 2019

End-of-Year Final Figure: \$115,500

Your support gives MCUM a boost to start strong in 2019

Our 2018 End-of-Year Campaign successfully wrapped up reaching just over \$115,500 – nearly \$10,000 above our ambitious goal. Thank you to all of the individuals, faith community groups, service clubs, businesses, and other entities that participated. We are overwhelmed by your generosity and eager to start 2019 off strong and ready to tackle the tasks in front of us.

Setting our end-of-year goal is a complex process by which we analyze our current year’s budget performance in the contributions

category and see what the “gap” is between what we have currently raised in our annual fundraising campaign and what our goal for the year was. So, from one year to the next, we are not performing against the benchmark of previous performance but rather against our true, budgeted needs for the year, which is why you may notice variation in the goal from year to year.

We are thrilled to have met our goal thanks to your help and are looking forward to another wonderful year

of fundraising this year. Thanks again, MCUM supporters!



What Will These Contributions Support?

In 2018, we received an incredible **\$115,500** in contributions between Nov. 1-Dec. 31! These donations make a collective impact that is equivalent to the combination of:

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| <p>6,000 meals from MCUM’s Client-Choice food pantry.</p> | <p>324 cleaning and hygiene products from our supply closet.</p> | <p>622 Opportunity House vouchers for clothes, shoes, jackets, and small housewares.</p> |
| <p>2,080 meals for the children in MCUM’s Compass Early Learning Center.</p> | <p>208 weeks of high-quality childcare.</p> | <p>24 one-time rent payments to restore stability to families & prevent homelessness.</p> |

Current Needs

Food Pantry

- Baking mixes (Jiffy, Bisquick, etc.)
- Pasta
- Pasta sauce
- Ramen
- Condensed soups
- Cereal (sm/med boxes)

Cleaning Closet

- Laundry soap
- Dish soap
- All-purpose cleaners
- Sponges
- Size 5-6 diapers

Child Care

Please consider helping our Compass Center stock up the following supplies:

- Staplers
- Adult scissors
- MP3 player or iPod to replace one that is broken (each classroom uses them at naptime)
- Paper tissue (all colors)
- Pump to inflate playground balls
- Baby doll clothes and furniture
- Children's books on CD
- Small totes with lids (shoebox size)

Did You Know?

MCUM provides magazines in the Self-Sufficiency Center waiting room. If you're finished with your monthly subscription and it's still in good condition, drop it off at our office. Our clients will appreciate your generosity!



Meet Jennifer Sons, our new Development Associate



We have a new face at MCUM! Please join us in welcoming our new Development Associate, Jennifer Sons!

Jennifer brings over ten years of experience in non-profit fundraising, volunteering, and coordinating.

A Bloomington native, she's also an Indiana University graduate with a degree in non-profit management, along with a non-profit leadership alliance certificate (fundraising focus).

In addition to fundraising, Jennifer's primary responsibilities here at MCUM will include grant writing, special event coordination, and donor relationship-building.

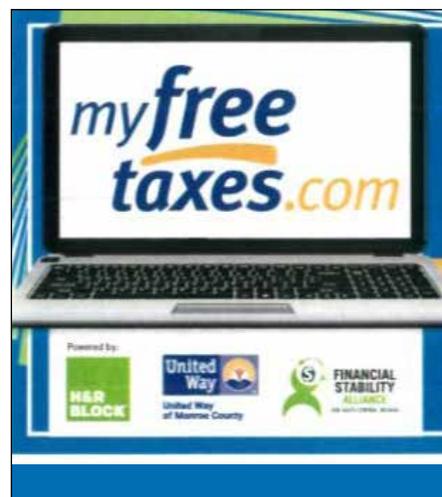
She's most looking forward to working in a direct service organization.

"My office is right by the food pantry – so I get to see the people and how we're helping them. This motivates me that much more to do a great job."

She and her partner have a total of ten children, ages 9-21. They live on five acres north of Bloomington. Her hobbies include gardening, raising chickens, reading, and enjoying their family pets (two cats and two dogs).

Congratulations, Jennifer, and welcome to the MCUM family!

Free Tax Prep for Low-Income Families



The **United Way** is once again partnering with H&R Block to provide free federal and state tax returns to any household that made less than \$66,000 in 2018.

MCUM's coaches are encouraging eligible households to visit myfreetaxes.com to prepare their tax returns online. Returns can be started and saved to be finished later. A toll-free help line (1-855-My-Tx-Help) provides additional assistance between 10 a.m. and 10 p.m. EST, Monday-Saturday.

The free tax service grants access to H&R Block's Premium Tax Prep product and automatically applies all eligible tax credits to secure a maximum refund for low-income families as early as February 14.

A Compass Family Story

How Kaleigh and Aspen made drop-off time easier



Drop-off time at preschool can be tough for parents and kids. Kaleigh McCoy and her daughter Aspen, 5, have figured out how to make it easier.

Each morning she arrives at Compass Downtown, Aspen says parting words to her mom like *bye-bye, hello, good morning, thank you, and you're welcome*. Kaleigh then echoes these words back to Aspen all the way to the door. They also give air hugs and blow kisses at each other.

Some days drop off is quick and other days this ritual will go on several minutes. Either way, it really works.

Kaleigh says this ritual started with bedtime.

“Aspen hates going to bed. It’s definitely the worst part of her day. She kept getting up to find me and say *goodnight, I love you, see you in the morning*, then another hug or kiss. It was getting out of hand. So I started the echoing ritual when I laid her down so she would have less reasons to get up.”

When Aspen started at Compass in August 2017, it was difficult for her to be on her own. She had never been away from her big brother who had started Kindergarten. “Once we adapted the bedtime ritual for the morning, drop off became much easier,” Kaleigh says.

For parents wanting to create their own way of making drop-off easier, Kaleigh recommends Dr. Ross Greene’s Collaborative and Proactive Solutions approach for kids with behavioral challenges.

“It’s one of the most thoroughly-researched ways to approach behavioral adjustment for kids with challenges. I think talking to Aspen about it helped a lot. I asked her why drop-off was difficult for her, and tried to really listen and help her articulate what she found challenging about saying goodbye.”



Kaleigh also explained (in the simplest way possible) what *she* found challenging about drop off, and why it was important to her for drop off to go well. Then she asked Aspen if she could think of any ways to make it easier.

“It was really important that I be non-judgmental as possible. I wrote all of our suggestions down, then we decided together to try the bedtime ritual at drop off. This sounds like a long process, but it only took about 5 minutes. It was important to come up with a solution that

would make her feel like she was getting what she needed while I also got what I needed. We both promised that if it didn’t work, we’d go back and keep trying to solve this.”

We’re so happy Kaleigh and Aspen found a solution that works!

Thank You!

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

- **Lee VanBuskirk** for his help with maintenance in all of our buildings!
- **Locked Up! Bloomington** for hosting a wonderful staff team-building holiday party
- **Scott Laskowski and Culvers** for their generous “giving back” day, where they raised funds to help a Your Path family
- **Members of First United Methodist Church** for their help with painting projects on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

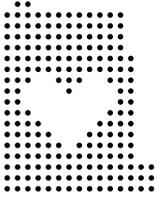
COMING IN MARCH

Monroe County United Ministries’

HUNGER GAMES

JOIN THE FIGHT AGAINST HUNGER

Visit mcum.org/hungergames



Monroe County United Ministries

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Save a tree!

Sign up to receive our new eNewsletter.
Email kevans@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:

Interim Executive Director: Katie Broadfoot

Self-Sufficiency Center Program Director:

Steve Thomas

Development Director: Katie Broadfoot

Office Manager: Shannon Hampton

Site Director - North: Jamie Buck

Site Director - Downtown: Charity Aton

Have you been clutter clearing?

Organizing expert Marie Kondo has a new Netflix series called *Tidying Up* that's inspiring people to go through their closets like never before. If you've jumped on the bandwagon and have a pile of clothing and household items sitting in your home, Opportunity House can help!

Bring your gently-used items to us! Also, donate your unwanted holiday 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!



Please recycle this newsletter or share it with a friend.