

The Newsletter of Monroe County United Ministries

Working Together

March 2019

THE MCUM HUNGER GAMES: Join the fight

The goal: 25,000 lbs and \$25,000 to aid local families

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 2019 to be the most successful *Hunger Games* ever, so we're activating our entire network of supporters to set ambitious goals. 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 5,500 meals and 1,400 household items to families in need and will help 75 individuals on the verge of homelessness stay in their homes. Now that's impact!

JOIN OUR COMMUNITY-WIDE BATTLE AGAINST HUNGER IN THREE EASY WAYS:

1. **Collect & Donate Food**
2. **Make a Contribution**
3. **Activate Your Network**

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

Hunger Games Spotlight: High School Senior Organizes Food Drive

Grace Manning is a senior from Bloomington High School North. She has chosen to lead a food drive as part of her senior project. Lucky for us, her project corresponds with the Hunger Games! In addition to leading the food drive at her school, Grace currently volunteers each morning in the MCUM food pantry stocking shelves. She ultimately wants to become a psychiatrist who works with the homeless population. Thanks, Grace, for leading the way for our scholastic partners!



Current Needs

Food Pantry

- Peanut butter
- Rice (1- or 2-lb bags)
- Canned tomatoes
- Pasta sauce
- Cereal
- “Helper” meals (Knorr’s Sides, Hamburger Helper, Rice-a-Roni, etc.)

Cleaning Closet

- Diapers (size 5 & 6)
- Pull-Ups
- Men’s Deodorant
- Lotion
- Conditioner
- Laundry Soap
- Fabric Softener

Child Care

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

- Gold coins
- Corn starch
- Jumbo crayons
- Animal and food magazines or calendars
- Board books
- Small slide
- Kinetic sand
- Small paper cups for experiments
- Paper plates

Did You Know?

MCUM gladly accepts paper bags for the food pantry. Paper bags hold more than plastic and stand up nicely. Please ask for paper when you shop and bring them to MCUM to reuse.

Hygiene Bucket How-To

Want to team up with MCUM this year to support the families we serve in our Compass Early Learning Center and Self-Sufficiency Center?

Wondering if there is a simple way to lend a hand? Try making a cleaning and hygiene bucket! There three easy steps.

1. Purchase a bucket/container with any six (or more) of the products in the graphic below.
2. Put the items in the bucket.
3. Drop your bucket off at MCUM’s Self Sufficiency Center!

That’s all it takes to do some good and make a difference in one family’s life.



Thank You, Corporate Sponsors! (Part I)

Please join us in thanking the first batch of our 2019 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!



We’re just starting our search for 2019 special event sponsors. If your business or club wants to join in, please contact Katie Broadfoot at kbroadfoot@mcum.org.



Spring Into Action!

Spring Luncheon Preview

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 **Sunday, April 28 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. Guests will enjoy a "picnic lunch" during a short program and will have more opportunities to bid on an exciting array of items and meet programmatic needs!

Event tickets can be purchased in the following ways:

1. Online at mcum.org/springluncheon
2. By mailing a check to MCUM with "Luncheon Tickets" in the memo line
3. By visiting us in-person at 827 W 14th Ct.

Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$10 for children 12 and under, or \$175 for a table of 8.

The Spring Luncheon is MCUM's biggest fundraising event of the year, hosting 300-350 attendees

annually. Our goal this year is to raise \$20,000 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.

To help make the silent auction truly unique, 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 April 28, 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 1, so get yours today!

Thank You!

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

- **Orion Day** for joining MCUM's Board of Directors.
- **Our Cliff Effects team** for working to find ways to help us ensure our SSC clients are aware of changes to their assistance and benefits as their financial circumstances change.
- **Bloomington Recycling Center** for their partnership with our Compass teaching staff for classroom craft supplies - we're fully stocked!
- **Jackie Bond**, our Paths to Quality coach, for her helping creating a Science Cart at Compass-Downtown.

And last but not least...

We'd like to thank **Steve Thomas** for his service to this agency. Steve has served MCUM in many roles over the past



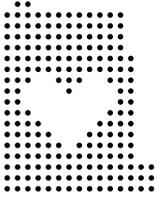
three-and-a-half years, as volunteer coordinator, development associate, and program director. Steve also championed our new *Your Path* program which just launched and is set to make a big difference in the lives of our clients. We are so thankful for Steve's contributions, and we will miss his positive and collegial spirit.

Please join us in wishing Steve well as he moves to Massachusetts to start the next chapter of his life.

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. Get your basket idea approved for a chance to have your gift be the talk of the event! Contact Katie at kbroadfoot@mcum.org to claim your place in the auction.



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

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.

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.

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, 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!



Please recycle this newsletter or share it with a friend.