

Working Together

May 2019

Compass Teachers Honored

Two receive early childhood excellence awards from Monroe Smart Start



Research confirms that high-quality early childhood education is a critical component of K-12 success.

That's why Monroe Smart Start recognizes the exceptional work of our community's early childhood educators.

Every year during the Week of the Young Child, Monroe Smart Start hosts the Early Childhood Excellence Educator Awards.

Awards are given to early childhood educators that demonstrate high-quality care, collaboration, and a commitment to both addressing school readiness and improving the quality of early childhood education in Monroe County.

Both of MCUM's Compass Site Directors submitted nominees for an Early childhood professional at their site who:

- Inspires children, families, and colleagues
- Demonstrates developmentally appropriate practice
- Exemplifies high quality care
- Assists in excellent collaborative efforts
- Serves as an excellent early childhood role model

We are pleased to announce that awards were presented to:

- **Katelyn Deckard**, Compass Downtown
- **Seda Jackson**, Compass North

Both received their awards at a banquet on April 4th, hosted by Monroe Smart Start and WTIU.

**Congratulations,
Katelyn and Seda!!!**



Just Around the Corner! Each One, Feed One

Mark your calendars for MCUM's annual "Each One, Feed One" community food drive!

This year's event will take place Friday, August 9 through Sunday, August 11.

Last year's drive raised over 10,000 pounds of food for the Self-Sufficiency Center. Volunteers contributed hours of their time to help collect, transport and sort food donations, as well as spread the word about MCUM's mission. Such community support is critical to sustain MCUM's Self-Sufficiency Center, as contributions typically decline during the summer months.

Stay tuned for details and information about volunteer opportunities.



Current Needs

Food Pantry

- Canned fruit
- Mac and cheese
- Green beans
- Mixed vegetables
- 1 pound pasta boxes
- Cereal

Cleaning Closet

- Laundry detergent
- Fabric softener
- Dish soap
- Sunscreen
- All purpose cleaner

Child Care

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

- Bubbles
- Dry beans
- Seed packets
- Grass seed
- Magazines

Did you know?

The Monroe County sanitation department is **no longer** recycling plastic bags. We hope this leads to less use of plastic overall. In the meantime if you have plastic bags to get rid of, we'll be happy take them! We use plastic bags to distribute items from our cleaning and hygiene closet (soaps, shampoo, toiletries) and keep them separate from the paper bags we use in our food pantry. You can donate bags anytime during our normal business hours.

Thank You, Boy Scouts!

Boy Scout Pack from Clear Creek Elementary School in Bloomington partnered with us for the Hunger Games challenge. Over the course of about a month, they collected over **2,400 pounds of food, cleaning, and hygiene products** for us. Their goal was to beat their previous year's donation of 1600 pounds, and they beat their goal by 800 pounds!

On April 1st we hosted a volunteer event where the Scouts learned about nutrition and the food pyramid from one of our volunteers. Then the scouts helped unload and sort all of the food they donated. It was really a wonderful event and we are so thankful for all the food they donated!



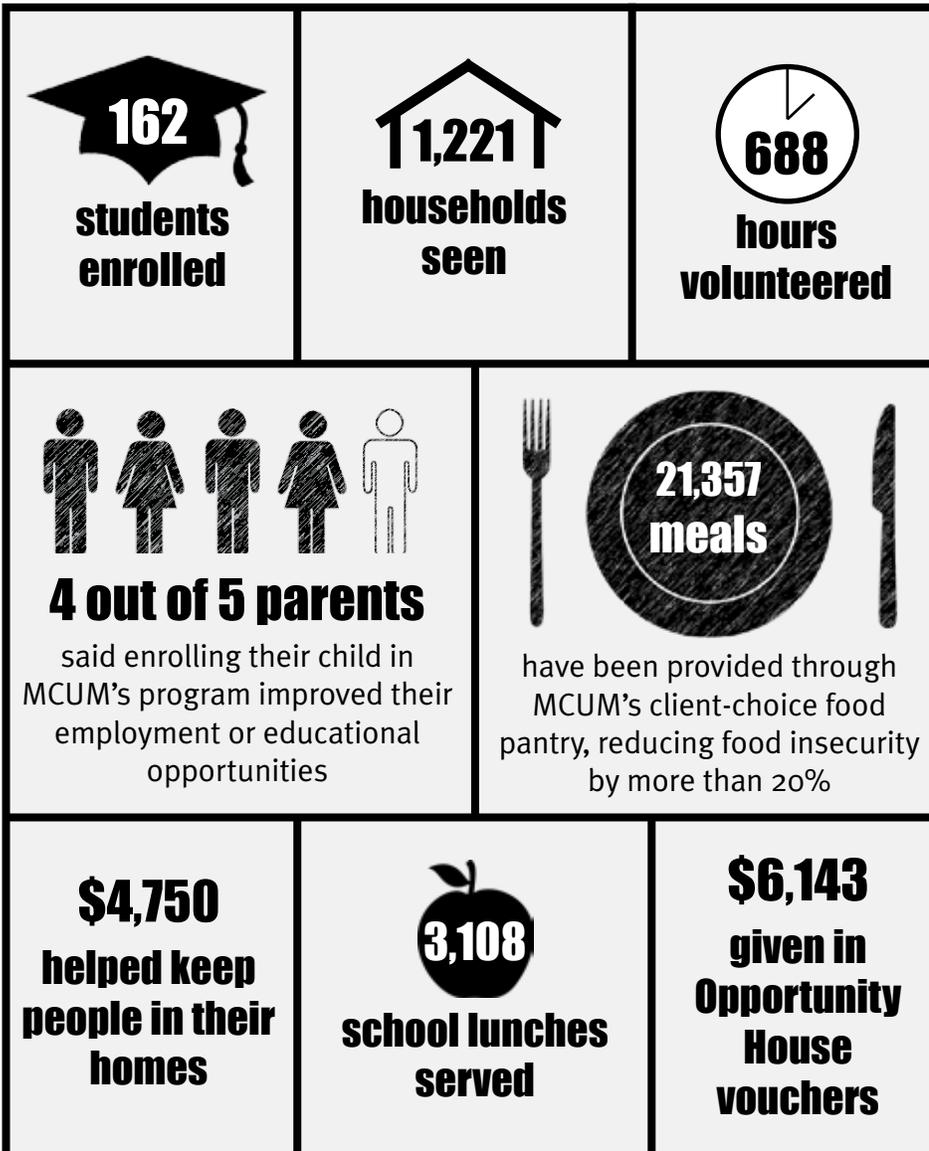
Compass Downtown partners with Hoosier Hills Food Bank

Last week, our Compass Early Learning Center Downtown started a partnership with the Hoosier Hill Food Bank. The Food Bank has a variety of items to choose from, which will help Compass cut costs and add variety to meals for children in the classrooms. We're so thankful we're able to purchase fresh produce, canned goods, and dry goods that are donated from various agencies, schools, and restaurants for a low fee. According to Charity Aton, site director, for the first order, "we picked up fresh mushrooms, watermelons, and bricks of cheese. It was nice to fill the fridge."

First Quarter Outcomes Report

Thank You!

Here's what you helped us achieve in the first quarter of 2019:



This month, we want to extend a special thank you to the following supporters who went the extra mile this month:

- **Kennedy Meyer**, who went out of her way to help us with our Boy Scouts volunteer event and use her dietetics degree to teach the kiddos about the important of the food pyramid.
- Those who donated silent auction baskets for our Spring Luncheon: **Constance Ferrari, Kate Burch, Diane Daily, Charity Aton, Diana Hoffman, Kathleen Broadfoot, Rahgene Hoard-Jackson, Katie Broadfoot, and Tina Burress.**
- Those who volunteered their time to help make our Spring Luncheon a success: **Katie Broadfoot, Orion Day, Michaela Barber, Jill Argenbright, Diane Daily, Sarah LaGrange, and Kayla Delaplane.**

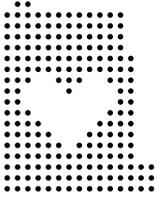


Best Wishes, Alex!



The time has come for us to say good bye to Alex Dowland, who has served as our Advocate for Community Engagement (ACE) for the past four years. Alex has been integral in helping build up and cement the service-learning program at MCUM as an integral part of the agency. He's also crafted a training handbook from scratch for our new ACE Paige Kotecki (and leaving the ACE program to her, an "absolutely amazing person who has already stepped into the role.") Alex also created a capstone project analyzing the mark of a criminal conviction on individuals and relating that to our clients and how we can best advocate for them.

Alex is graduating this Spring with a B.S. in Economic Consulting, Public Policy Analysis, and Sustainable Business. Then he'll be attending the Maurer School of Law here in Bloomington. Please join us in thanking Alex and wishing him the best of luck with his future plans!



Monroe County United Ministries

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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:

Interim Executive Director: Katie Broadfoot

Self-Sufficiency Center Program Director:

Sherene Ing

Development Director: Katie Broadfoot

Office Manager: Shannon Hampton

Site Director - North: Charity Aton

Site Director - Downtown: Stacy Jones

Spring Styles Coming Soon to Op House!

Warmer weather is here, at last! That means amazing spring and summer wear is on the Op House sales floor! Throughout May, Opportunity House volunteers will be making 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!](#)



Please recycle this newsletter or share it with a friend.