



# Working Together

November 2019

## Respect - Security - Dignity - Sustainability - Perseverance



Are these values you would like to see more of in Monroe County? Can you imagine the impact that would have in our lives?

As we read those values, we consider how they resonate for us: MCUM's Self-Sufficiency Center works to meet clients where they are and support

them in their journey to get where they want to be, while Compass Early Learning Center provides their children with a safe and high-quality place to get a great start, educationally, physically, and emotionally.

**What does it take to accomplish that?** The same that it always has – **YOU.**

With your support, we are on track to help more families than ever this year and in a hugely-impactful way. So far this year:

- 1,830 people visited our Self-Sufficiency Center for resources like food, cleaning & hygiene items, and clothing.
- 9 new people joined our Your Path program, and we were excited to celebrate with 3 who enrolled in higher education, 2 of them who purchased homes, 2 who bought cars, 1 who started her own business, and 1 who completed some much-needed home repairs.

At MCUM, people are able to change their lives for the better. And that is thanks to your support. But as we close the year, we need your continued assistance, more than ever, to help people continue changing their lives.

### Can MCUM count on you this year during our end-of-year campaign?

Our campaign goal is **\$250,000**. Your gift is an extension of your belief in the families we serve—your belief that a better life is possible for every member of our community.

**You may give by donating online** at [www.mcum.org/donate](http://www.mcum.org/donate) or by mailing your donation to us at 827 West 14th Court, Bloomington, IN 47404.

### What Your Gift Can Do:

**\$22**

Provide 1 family with a pantry access card, valid for 3 visits to our pantry

**\$63**

One week's fee scale payment to Compass for a low-income family

**\$106**

2 hours of budget coaching and setup of an IDA match account for one family

**\$222**

Two months of early intervention behavioral health treatment for one child at Compass

***What difference will you make?***



## Current Needs

### Food Pantry

- Reusable or cloth bags
- Pasta sauce
- Pasta
- Peanut butter
- Cereal
- Ready to eat soups/chili/ pasta

### Cleaning Closet

- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Razors
- All-purpose cleaners
- Dishsoap

### Your Path Program

- \$5 gas gift cards
- \$10 gas gift cards

### Child Care

- Winter/Christmas wrapping paper
- Christmas and winter themed crafts
- Tissue paper
- Paper plates
- Old calendars with pictures
- Fabric for bulletin boards
- Construction Paper
- Glitter
- Pine cones
- Cotton balls
- Clear plastic ornaments
- Diapers, sizes 5 & 6
- Pull-ups, size 6

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.

## The Gift of Giving Back



Natali Sarraf reading to children at Downtown Compass

Natali Sarraf, an 8th grader at Jackson Creek Middle School, is giving the best gift this holiday season: giving back to her community.

Last November, Natali started volunteering at our downtown Compass childcare center by reading books to the classrooms every Friday.

We asked Natali about her experience volunteering with MCUM:

### How did you get involved with volunteering at MCUM?

I was looking for a Bat Mitzvah service project and all my mentors and parents suggested different things like helping out at a retirement home or doing arts and crafts with children. None of these ideas fit my vision for how I wanted to do my part in helping the world. MCUM was perfect because I wanted to help children through reading and they gave me that opportunity, to do my part in helping the world.

### What is your favorite part about volunteering at MCUM?

I love when I come in and the kids all call me "Miss Natali." And when they find out I'm reading, they all jump up and say "Yay!!!!!!!" which makes me feel so good. The thought that I might be helping the kids one book at a time is very satisfying to me.

### What have you learned by volunteering at MCUM?

I have learned a lot about being patient. Sometimes the kids just don't want to hear a story, so I have learned not to take it personally and to slowly warm them up to the idea of reading a good book.

### Why do you think volunteering, especially at a young age, is important?

Volunteering is always important whatever your age because you can slowly help the world through kindness. And it is especially important for somebody my age to help out because it teaches that there is more to living than just helping ourselves. If we are going to succeed as a community, we need to help each individual succeed as well. The younger we learn that the better.

**Thank you, Natali, for your continued service to MCUM!**

## Call out for Winter Break volunteers

### Food Pantry needs your help in December and January

Are you looking for a way to volunteer without a long-term commitment?

**We're looking for 6 people** to help us bridge the gap in our Food Pantry while our student volunteers are gone during the months of December and January.

Among other tasks, you'll get to help our self-sufficiency clients with shopping in our Food Pantry. It's rewarding – and important – work!

If you're interested in volunteering, please contact Maddie Spickard, our volunteer coordinator, at [mspickard@mcum.org](mailto:mspickard@mcum.org).



## Thank you!

This month, we would like to express our appreciation for...

- The **Tau Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.** for hosting their annual Pink Print 5k on October 5th. This year's theme was "Outpacing Poverty" and they donated proceeds to MCUM.
- **Mary M's Walnut House Flowers and Gifts** for donating flowers to give to our volunteers during our volunteer appreciation event
- **Aver's Pizza** for donating pizza to our Self Sufficiency Center for our client Halloween Party
- **Baked! of Bloomington** for donating cooking to our Self Sufficiency Center for our client Halloween Party

Thank you ALL.  
We couldn't do it without you!



## Ho-Ho-Holiday Recruitment is Still Ongoing!

Still searching for a way to give back to your community this holiday season? Look no further! MCUM is still recruiting for our many holiday giving opportunities! Visit [MCUM.org/holiday](http://MCUM.org/holiday) or call us at **(812) 339-3429 x 18** for more details on how to:

- Sponsor Christmas morning for one of our Compass childcare families
- Give the gift of a full holiday meal to a family who otherwise would go without
- Ensure Santa has a gift for every child in our Compass Early Learning Center
- Host a food drive that will help feed the 250 families we expect will visit MCUM's pantry between Thanksgiving and Christmas



## Monroe County United Ministries

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

827 West 14th Court  
Bloomington, IN  
47404

812.339.3429 phone [mcum@mcum.org](mailto:mcum@mcum.org)  
812.339.2912 fax [www.mcum.org](http://www.mcum.org)



### Inside This Issue

- p1 Announcing our end-of-year campaign
- p2 A Compass Volunteer Story
- p3 Call out for Winter Break Volunteers

### Save a tree!

Sign up to receive our new eNewsletter.  
Email [mjholwager@mcum.org](mailto:mjholwager@mcum.org) to make the switch!

### Hours of Operation:

#### **Self Sufficiency Center**

##### **Monday & Tuesday:**

Appointment only: 8:00-12:00  
Food pantry only: 12:00-6:00  
Walk-ins: 12:00-4:30

##### **Thursday & Friday:**

Appointment only: 8:00-12:00  
Food pantry only: 12:00-5:00  
Walk-ins: 12:00-4:30

**Wednesday:** CLOSED

#### **Compass Early Learning Center**

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

#### Leadership Staff:

Interim Executive Director: Katie Broadfoot  
Self-Sufficiency Director: Sherene Ing  
Development Director: Katie Broadfoot  
Office Manager: Shannon Hampton  
Compass-Downtown Director: Stacy Jones  
Compass-North Director: Brittney Denton

### Opportunity House

Opportunity House, located at 907 W. 11th Street, 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, with donations accepted 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call us at (812) 336-2443 or follow us on Facebook!

Donations of gently used items are always welcome.

#### A Message from the Store Manager:

Opportunity House will be holding a 50% off sale on Giving Tuesday, December 3rd, so plan to shop that day for your holiday gifts and support MCUM.

More Christmas items will be available soon after Halloween including ornaments, wrapping paper, greeting cards, wreaths, decorations and trees. We also have a great selection of warm sweaters and coats to keep you toasty this winter!

As always, we need towels, fitted sheets, and volunteers!



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