



The Newsletter of Monroe County United Ministries



Working Together

October 2019

Fall at Compass Early Learning Center Trunk-or-Treat

Join us for our first ever Trunk-or-Treat

On October 18th, from 6 to 8pm, the Compass North parking lot will be transformed into a fun Halloween world, where kids can play games and get candy. Cars will be decorated in various themes (Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, Coco, Candyland, The Magic School Bus, and others). We'll also have pumpkin decorating tables, an area for arts and crafts, a face painter, and other fun activities.

Families are encouraged to come in costume, staff members will be dressed-up. There will also be hot dogs, chips, and drinks served for all of our Compass families. If you are interested in helping, Compass is still looking for donations of candy for the kids. If you are able, drop off a bag at the MCUM Administration building.



Compass Kids Decorate Pumpkins

Compass kids get into the Halloween spirit!



Thanks to Jessica Merkel's generous donation, we have been able to order 120 pumpkins for the Compass kids to decorate and explore. These pumpkins will go to all of our Compass classrooms, where the kiddos will decorate their own gourds with their friends and teachers and then take them home for Halloween.

This fun fall tradition is something that would otherwise not be possible for many of the families enrolled in Compass-THANK YOU!



Current Needs

Please consider helping MCUM stock up on the following supplies:

Food Pantry

- Crackers (Ritz or Saltines)
- Pasta
- Pasta Sauce
- Peanut Butter
- Helper Meals

Cleaning Closet

- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Lotion
- Kleenex
- Baby wipes

Your Path Program

- \$10 Speedway Gas Cards
- \$5 Speedway Gas Cards

Child Care

- Baby wipes
- Diapers, sizes 5 & 6
- Pull-ups, size 6
- Markers (thin and thick)
- Big crayons
- Batteries (all kinds)
- Uncoated Paper Plates
- Construction Paper
- Cotton Balls
- Kid Scissors
- Glue Sticks
- Googly Eyes
- Watercolors
- Paintbrushes
- Wooden Beads
- Big Plastic Beads

MCUM also 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.



Brittney Denton, Compass-North Site Director



“My name is Brittney Denton. I am the new site director at the Compass Early Learning Center North. I have been in the education field for about 10 years. I have worked for MCUM before as a lead teacher, and I am extremely excited to be back in this new position. I left MCUM in 2016 and accepted a lead teacher position with Head Start, where I worked until I came back to MCUM at the beginning of September.

I am married and have a 10 year old daughter. I fully believe in the MCUM mission, and I am so excited to play a part in that mission.”



Meet Miche Andre, our new XPLOR fellow!

“Hi! My name is Miche Andre. I am originally from Port-Au-Prince, Haiti but call Naples, Florida home. I just graduated from Hope College in Holland, Michigan with a bachelor’s degree in Spanish. I am looking forward to joining MCUM so that I can put my passion for engaging with people to work. I love learning about various cultures and the individual things that make each person unique.

I hope to get to know Bloomington in this capacity through MCUM. In addition to connecting with others, I find joy in spending time with God in meditation and prayer, making a variety of art, travelling, and learning languages. As a matter of fact, one of my current goals is to become fluent in Welsh! In the future, I hope to inspire positive change in my community back home through my art and my ability to connect with people.”



Sneak Peek: Holiday Giving Opportunities

Although fall has just begun, the holiday season is right around the corner.

Check out some of the holiday giving activities we are offering this year.



mcum

DONATE A HAM OR TURKEY

Brighten the holiday for a family who receives a holiday food basket with their choice of a ham or turkey.

SPONSOR A COMPASS FAMILY FOR CHRISTMAS

We'll pair you with one of our Compass families. Using their wish-list, you'll purchase and wrap 3-5 gifts for each family member and deliver them to MCUM.

BUILD A FOOD BASKET

Using a list we provide, you'll create a bundle of food to be distributed to hungry families. We can mail you the list or you can view it online at:

www.mcum.org/holiday.

HOST A FOOD DRIVE

MCUM's client-choice pantry feeds about 250 people each week! We distribute non-perishable food items. For tips on hosting a successful food drive, check-out: www.mcum.org/fooddrive.



National Community Action Partnership Conference

The Community Action Partnership is a national organization that provides technical assistance, training, and other resources to Community Action Agencies, nonprofit and public groups funded by the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), a federal program that allocates funding to states to connect Americans to greater opportunity.

At this year's annual conference, MCUM's own Kay Goodman (Self-Sufficiency Coach) was invited to attend and speak in Chicago during the last week of August. Kay sat on a four person panel, where each person took turns talking about their own experiences with poverty and their work on the front lines of community action. By the end of the session, there was standing room only. Way to go Kay!

With well over 1500 people in attendance and 80 different break-out sessions, this was an amazing opportunity for agencies across the country to get together and share their ideas and experiences with others. Kay summarized the conference, "By planting seeds of hope, we can be part of the solution".



Thank you!

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

- Our **returning volunteers** and **new student volunteers** from IU. Our food pantry is now staffed by more than two dozen volunteers every single week!
- **Jessica Merkel** for sponsoring all 120 pumpkins needed for the Halloween festivities at Compass.
- **Rick Foley** and **Bloomington Economy Cleaners, Inc** for the donation and installation of 10 new preschool sized toilet seats at our Compass North location.
- **Ansley Fender** for donating 4 tablets and charging stations to each Compass site.
- **Opportunity House** for their ongoing food drive.
- **The Excel Center** for speaking and donating lunch at September's *MCUM's Meet & Eat*.
- **Blondies' Cookies** for delicious cookies and **Pizza X** for amazing pizza at August's *MCUM's Meet & Eat* event.
- **Adam Deckard**, a Compass Parent, for mowing our lawns while our regular lawn guy's mower was broken.



For our Bloomingfoods Members!

If you are a Bloomingfoods member, don't forget to cast your vote (voting open to October 10th) for the 2020 Positive Change roster. Monroe County United Ministries is one of the possible agency choices!

Members can vote in store or online at www.votebloomingfoods.com!



Monroe County United Ministries

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Member Agency

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Save a tree!

Sign up to receive our new eNewsletter.
Email 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
Compass Business Manager: Kayla Delaplaine
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 has a large variety of household and kitchen items right now including dishes, glasses and linens. We also have many pictures and beautiful artwork for your walls. More cool weather coats are in the store and we have a range of sizes, styles and prices.

We have an ongoing food drive for MCUM. Shoppers are welcome to bring in a few nonperishable items and place them in our collection bin.

Also, we always need more volunteers. If you can spare 2-3 hours once a month, or once a week, we can find a spot for you and it would be a great help.



Please recycle this newsletter or share it with a friend.