

The Newsletter of Monroe County United Ministries

Working Together

March 2020

THE MCUM HUNGER GAMES: JOIN THE FIGHT

The goal: 14,000 lbs and \$40,000 to aid local families against hunger

Did you know that Monroe County has the 4th highest poverty rank in Indiana?

→ 89% of residents have at least some difficulty affording food

→ about 10,750 people are receiving SNAP benefits (food stamps)

→ 19% of children in Monroe County are considered food insecure

→ 35% of children receive free or reduced school lunch

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Each spring, MCUM's Hunger Games food drive raises food and funds from March 1 to April 30 in support of our programs.

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.

This year our goal is to raise 14,000 lbs and \$40,000 to maintain our food pantry through our busy 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.



We accept all forms on non-perishable food items and cleaning/hygiene products. Here are our most needed items:

- | | | |
|---|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Cereal | Rice, 1 pound packages | General cleaner |
| Canned fruit | Pasta | Laundry detergent |
| Meat: canned tuna, salmon, chicken, chili, hash, spam | Pudding | Toilet paper |
| Boxed sides | Crackers | Paper towels |
| Corn bread mix | Condensed soup | Deodorant |
| Canned vegetables | Ramen Noodles | Razors |
| Baking mix | Flour | Shampoo and Conditioner |
| Mac and cheese | Sugar | Dish Soap |
| Tomato sauce | Oil | Kleenex |
| Canned pasta | Nut butters | Toothpaste |
| | Beans | |

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!

Current Needs

Food Pantry

- Mac & Cheese
- Pasta Sauce
- Jiffy Mix
- Peanut Butter
- Ramen
- Cereal
- Canned Meat

Cleaning Closet

- Lotion
- Dish soap
- All-purpose cleaners
- Paper Towels
- Razors
- Facial Tissues
- Shampoo
- Conditioner

Your Path Program

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

Child Care

- Markers
- Dry erase markers
- Glue (sticks and liquid)
- Composition notebooks
- Construction paper
- Plastic beads

Office Supplies

- Blue & Black Pens
- Glue Sticks
- AAA & AA Batteries

We need your paper bags!

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.

SAVE THE DATE! MCUM Spring Tea



This annual event is a fun afternoon where more than 250 community members get together for tea and snacks, listen to stories from our clients, and participate in a silent auction to support MCUM's programs.

Last year, silent auction donors helped us to raise about \$20,000 which is the equivalent of :

→ supporting 6 children in MCUM's Compass Early Learning Center for one year, including the cost of flu shots for children and parents, parent workshops, and over 600 meals

→ OR the equivalent of providing 426 households with basic needs assistance and self-sufficiency coaching, including food, cleaning & hygiene items, & basic household needs.

JOIN US on April 26th from 2:00-3:30pm for this year's Spring Tea & Auction, located at the new Switchyard Park Pavilion.

Tickets are \$10/person or a table of 8 for \$75.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit mcum.org/springtea

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.

Dine & Donate on March 25th!

Buccetos: Pizza and Pasta



Eat pizza or pasta and feel good about it! Mention MCUM when you Dine-In, Carry Out, or Order Delivery with Buccetos on March 25th and MCUM will receive 20% of all proceeds!

Becoming Self-Sufficient: Homemade Laundry Soap

Make your own laundry soap!

At the beginning of April, the Self-Sufficiency Center is going to be hosting a laundry detergent workshop for our clients and their families.

We are currently looking for donations of empty laundry detergent containers (like the Tide Pods and plastic containers you see below).

Between now and the first of April, if you have empty containers, please bring them to MCUM. We promise to put them to good use!

Thank you!



You'll need: Washing soda (Arm & Hammer Brand found in most grocery stores), Borax, and Bar Soap (natural, unscented works best).

1. Grate one bar of soap with cheese grater or food processor.
2. Put grated soap in pan with 2 quarts water and gradually heat, stirring constantly until soap is completely dissolved.
3. Put 4.5 gallons of really hot tap water in a 5-gallon bucket (available for free in bakeries at grocery stores, just ask them) and stir in 2 cups of borax and 2 cups of Washing Soda until completely dissolved.
4. Pour soap mixture from pan into 5-gallon bucket. Stir well.
5. Cover and leave overnight.
6. Shake or stir until smooth and pour into gallon jugs or other containers.
7. Use 1/2 to 1 cup per load.

Thank You, Newsletter team!

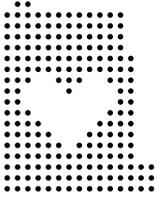
We appreciate your hard work and commitment to ensuring our newsletter gets mailed out! Our newsletter team volunteers their time to help fold and mail over 1,000 copies of our newsletter each month.



MCUM T-shirts for sale!

MCUM is long overdue for some newer t-shirts and gear. In June 2019, we sketched out a drawing of a potential design for our t-shirts. We reached out to a local artist who graciously volunteered her time to create this image. There are three color options in the Gildan Softstyle shirts: Yellow Haze, Indigo Blue, and Kiwi (Green). The shirts will be \$10 each. If you are interested in purchasing a t-shirt or two (they make great gifts!) email Madison at msilvers@mcum.org





Monroe County United Ministries

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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:

Executive Director: Katie Broadfoot
Development Associate: Mary Jean Holwager
Self-Sufficiency Director: Sherene Ing
Compass Business Manager: Kayla Delaplane
Compass-Downtown Director: Stacy Jones
Compass-North Director: Brittney Denton
Office Manager: Shannon Hampton

A Message from the Opportunity House...

Spring Sale! 50% off Storewide!

Spring is just around the corner! Make sure to stop by the Opportunity House on March 26th for a 50% off Storewide Clearance Sale. Keep an eye out for new spring & summer clothing that week as well.

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.