Three-year old Rob is a student at Compass Early Learning Center who was recently taken in by his uncle after his mother’s sudden absence. Under this “kinship” placement, Rob is able to stay with his family during this difficult time, rather than be placed in the foster system. However, as his uncle receives no foster subsidy and since he doesn’t yet have legal custody, he is ineligible for assistance to help with the cost to care for Rob. At Compass, Rob is enrolled on our own sliding scale, keeping fees at just $65 a week when the cost of care is $235.

My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (your name) and I am \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_( role) at Monroe County United Ministries. MCUM serves Monroe County’s low-income population through two programs: the Compass Early Learning Center, which offers high quality childcare, and Self-Sufficiency Center, which offers basic needs assistance and long-term asset building support. Our programs aim to eliminate generational poverty in Monroe County.

Like many counties, Monroe County is facing a childcare crisis. It’s a crisis of scarcity, quality, and affordability.

There are only enough spots in a licensed center for 30% of Monroe County children. Families with young children choose between spending a significant portion of their income on childcare, finding a cheaper and potentially lower-quality option, or leaving the workforce to care for their children. Lower-income families are often further forced to sacrifice other needs and opportunities to make things work.

Compass provides an important safety net for local families like Rob’s, offering around 100 spots for 1-5 year olds. 83% of our kids are from low-income families, and they are most susceptible to the lifelong achievement gap that begins as early as age five and negatively-influences one’s self-sufficiency as an adult. Compass emphasizes age-appropriate development with a focus on kindergarten readiness, ensuring children leave our center ready for their first days of kindergarten.

Compass is the only licensed, high-quality center in Monroe County to provide its own sliding fee scale in addition to federal and state assistance programs, catching so many families like Rob’s. We believe that a high-quality, safe early learning environment should be accessible to *all* local families.

You can show your agreement to this belief today/tonight by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(request).

**Level 1 (under $10k):**

Your support will sponsor 1 child like Rob at Compass Early Learning Center for one year. By making up the gap between the sliding fee scale payment from Rob’s uncle and the true cost of care, you make it possible for us to continue to serve the families who need us most.

**Level 2 (under $20k):**

Your support will sponsor a classroom of kids like Rob at Compass Early Learning Center for one year. By making up the gap between the sliding fee scale payment from Rob’s uncle and the true cost of care, you make it possible for us to continue to serve the families who need us most.

**Level 3 (above $20k):**

Your support will sponsor all of the families like Rob’s who use Compass’ fee scale over the course of one year. By making up the gap between the sliding fee scale payment from Rob’s uncle and the true cost of care, you make it possible for us to continue to serve the families who need us most.

Regardless of whether you have been directly impacted by a need for childcare, these families are our neighbors, our co-workers, our friends. They’re our nurses, our cooks, our teachers, our lawyers. We want them to do well. And we need them to do well.

Please consider MCUM as the recipient of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I am happy to answer questions about the impact of your generosity with any remaining time.