

For Immediate Release

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## MCUM Shifts Focus: Rebranding as Pathways to Combat Intergenerational Poverty for Families

Bloomington, IN - [Date] – Monroe County United Ministries (MCUM) is excited to announce a significant strategic shift in its service delivery model. Beginning in January, 2025, MCUM will become Pathways and will focus its efforts exclusively on supporting families from our Compass Early Learning Center (Compass ELC). This decision is based on extensive research and successful practices from similar agencies nationally, indicating that a whole-family approach is essential for breaking the cycle of intergenerational poverty for those families. We will redirect our provision of essential services (such as food, hygiene products, and financial assistance) to Compass ELC families only.

MCUM's decision to concentrate its resources on Compass ELC families stems from the belief that by supporting the entire family unit, we can create a deeper, more sustainable impact. This targeted approach allows us to deliver comprehensive support tailored to the unique needs of these families, ultimately helping them achieve long-term stability and success.

We are committed to ensuring that all families currently receiving services continue to receive the support they need beyond the transition. Those no longer served after the transition to Pathways will be provided with information on alternative resources. We will collaborate with local agencies to ensure that community members can access similar services and resources from other providers. Our goal is to ensure that no one falls through the cracks during this transition;

Families at the Compass Early Learning Center can expect a more holistic support system, including enhanced basic needs assistance and financial guidance to help them achieve savings goals and asset purchases. Detailed plans and services will be shared in the coming weeks.

Our partnerships with local agencies remain crucial. We will support our partners in preparing for any increased demand due to our shift and continue our collaborative efforts to serve the families in our program. Ongoing conversations with our partners will help ensure seamless service delivery for all community members.

MCUM's Strategic Plan work group has developed a comprehensive communications strategy to ensure transparent and consistent messaging throughout this transition. We will keep our clients, partners, and the community informed through various channels and regular updates. The most recent information will be available at [mcum.org/strategy](http://mcum.org/strategy).

Our staff remains at the heart of our work to combat systemic, intergenerational poverty. The organizational chart of personnel positions and department functions remains largely unchanged. We are committed to supporting our team during this transition, ensuring they have the resources needed to adapt to the new focus.

MCUM's long-term goal is to create a significant and lasting impact on the families we serve by addressing the root causes of poverty through a comprehensive, whole-family approach. By focusing on Compass Early Learning Center families, we aim to break the cycle of poverty and help families achieve long-term stability and success.

For more information or to get involved, please contact Katie Broadfoot at [kbroadfoot@mcum.org](mailto:kbroadfoot@mcum.org) or 812-339-3429 ext. 11. You can also visit our Strategic Plan page at [www.mcum.org/strategy](http://www.mcum.org/strategy) for the latest updates.

**About MCUM:**

Monroe County United Ministries (MCUM) has been dedicated to improving the lives of individuals and families in our community for over 85 years. Our mission is to provide high-quality, affordable early learning and promote economic mobility for families.

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