



The Newsletter of Monroe County United Ministries

# Working Together

January 2020

## The 1-year anniversary of the *SSC's Your Path.*

The Self-Sufficiency Center's *Your Path* program is celebrating its 1-year anniversary this month. Since the start of this new program we have hired on an addition coach, reorganized our lobby, and redesigned how we interact with all of our clients, not just those who are in the *Your Path* program. This past year has truly been amazing start to this incredible journey.

The *Your Path* program meets participants where they are to walk along with them towards their chosen goals. Participants examine five related topics that contribute to the household's self-sufficiency: family stability, well-being, financial management, education and training and employment and career and pick one or two areas to focus on. The program is based on the strengths of each participant and their goals, not the goals of the coaches or any other entity. *Your Path* is client-led, client directed, and highly flexible.

Over the past year our coaches have seen clients enjoy some of the following success: receive a well-deserved raise, set aside more time and strengthen their family relationships, work on receiving their college degree (either as a first time or a returning student), apply for (and get an offer) for that job they have been wanting, and many more amazing undertakings. By using SMART goals and Mobility Mentoring, coaches are able to support each participant as they walk down their own unique path.

When asked about the first-year impact of the program, Sherene Ing, Self-Sufficiency Center Program Director, talked about the building of relationships with the local government agencies and other nonprofit organizations in this community. "As a part of MCUM's mission, we want to create lasting solutions to poverty in our community. The *Your Path* program is designed to do this, reaching out to various stakeholders to brainstorm viable options and opportunities for our participants. By collaborating with others, the *Your Path* program has the ability to pull in various community members to be part of the solution to help eliminate social injustices in our community".



From left to right: Sherene Ing (Self-Sufficiency Center Director), Kay Goodman (Coach), & Sandi Clothier (Coach)

**YOU'RE INVITED:** If you are interested in learning more about the *Your Path* program, please join us for lunch on *January 31st from 11:30 to 12:30pm*. Hear from our coaches as they share details about the program and learn from area community members as they discuss ways build relationships and strengthen the *Your Path* program within this community.

**WANT TO HELP?** Help us offer incentives to our *Your Path* clients by donating items such as gas cards, gift certificates to family-fun activities, gift cards to restaurants or area businesses. Contact Madison at [msilvers@mucom.org](mailto:msilvers@mucom.org) to learn more.

# Current Needs

## Food Pantry

- Ramen
- Peanut Butter
- Pasta
- Pasta Sauce
- Condensed Soups
- Crackers
- Ready-to-Eat Soups/Chilis
- Cereal (sm/med boxes)

## Cleaning Closet

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

## Your Path Program

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

## Child Care

- Paper doilies
- Pants (3T-5T)
- Animal or scenery calendars (out dated)
- Yarn
- Sponges
- Cotton balls
- Ribbon
- Velcro
- Tissue paper
- Glue
- Stickers

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.



## Madison Silvers, Development Associate

While not new to MCUM, the Development Team is excited to announce it's newest member, Madison!



*"Hi! My name is Madison Silvers and I am from Bloomington, IN. I graduated from Indiana University in May of 2019 with a B.S. in Human Development and Family Studies. I have been with MCUM for nearly three years which has allowed me to be in many roles, such as a Classroom Aide for the Compass Early Learning Center and the Direct Services Coach and Volunteer Coordinator for the Self-Sufficiency Center. In the upcoming year, I hope to educate our community about MCUM. I feel that it is important that the people in our community know about all of the things that we have to offer, as well as, provide them with more opportunities to be involved in what we are doing for our community. In my free time, I work for Bloomington Parks and Recreation, spend time with friends and family, and try my best to stay active."*

## Erin Vaughn, Social Work Intern

For the first time, Monroe County United Ministries is excited to host it's first ever Social Work intern. Please join us in welcoming Erin!

*"My name is Erin Vaughn. I am a Social Work Intern here at MCUM and I am finishing my bachelor's degree from Indiana Wesleyan University. I am a wife and mother of four, three boys and one girl. I also volunteer with Free Mom Hugs Bloomington and B. Foonz Compassionate Clownz. In my spare time, I like to sew and I have a small business online making clothing and accessories. I really hope to learn and grow here at MCUM, and look forward to the experiences I will have. "*





# Holiday Wishes Come True

Another holiday season is in the books at MCUM, and thanks to your support, our programs went off without a hitch! This year, as we've seen our client numbers increase and Here is what YOU added to the holiday season for so many people in Monroe County:

The Unitarian Universalist's congregation members brought in over 80 food baskets!

These organizations and families sponsored 49 Compass Early Learning Center families for Christmas:

- Oliver Winery
- Bible Study Group
- The Schneider Family
- Head Start
- The McNeely & Delay Family
- BSA Troop 121
- IU Health Bloomington, NICU
- Harrell-Fish, Inc.
- Olson & Co, P.C., CPA's
- The Berggoetz Family
- Cook Medical
- Financial Management Services, IU
- The Hane Family
- IU Office Registration
- The Haugh Family
- The White Family
- The Webb-Stevenson Family
- The Schubert Family
- The Rojahn Family
- First Christ Church
- Vice Provost of Facility-Academic Affairs
- Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce
- IU Health Bloomington, Pediatric Unit
- Bunger & Robertson
- The Mehay Family
- Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, University Division
- Member Choice Federal Credit Union
- Coghlan Orthodontics
- The Humphrey Family
- Long Family Eye Care
- Kelly School of Buiness, Marketing Department
- Exterior Finishes
- First United Church
- The Broadfoot Family
- Office of Vice President for Research
- Club 56, FUMC
- The Hill Family
- Office of Registrar
- Unitarian Universalist Church

These schools, buinesses, & clubs hosted food & clothing drives to help our pantry stocked and clients warm:

- BKD
- Bill C. Brown Associates
- Bloomington Fire Department
- Landmark Dental Office
- Dimension Mill
- Yes Club at Tri-North Middle School
- St. Charles School
- Bloomington Montessori School
- People's State Bank
- Chase Bank
- Good Neighbors Club
- Student Center at IU

A generous sponsorship from **Whole Sun Designs** allowed us to purchase the items off Compass' Amazon Wish list!





Monroe County United Ministries

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US Postage Paid  
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### 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:

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

## Why Re-Gift When You Can Re-Give?

The gift-giving holidays often go one of two ways: You either get that something special you've always wanted... or you find yourself the new owner of something that you don't. Either way, Opportunity House can help!

If you received a beautiful new something, bring your older, gently-used one to Op House! Or donate your unwanted gifts so they can become that something special someone else has always wanted. Who knows? You might even find what you were looking for all along! No matter what you give or buy, your donation directly supports MCUM and our programs: Support MCUM by supporting Op House!

## Volunteer in the New Year

Haven't made a New Year's Resolution yet? How about spending more time volunteering in your community? Come meet new people, help others, and get lost in a world of organization: Join our volunteer team!

You can fill out an application our new website, [OpHouseThrift.org/Volunteer](http://OpHouseThrift.org/Volunteer), or call us at (812) 336-2443 for more information.

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](mailto:ophouse68@gmail.com), or following us on Facebook!



Please recycle this newsletter or share it with a friend.