

**Monroe County United Ministries creates lasting solutions to economic, educational, and social injustice in our community through quality programs, collaboration and innovation.**

**Our vision is to eliminate generational poverty for the people we serve.**



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# ANNUAL REPORT

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MONROE COUNTY UNITED MINISTRIES

**2019**

# A NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Dear friends,

It is an honor to introduce myself as MCUM's new Executive Director. I am humbled and excited to lead such a fantastic organization with a longstanding history of doing good for our community.

Although I have worked at MCUM for over six years, I am eager to meet new people and explore new challenges in this different role. As someone who values diverse voices and perspectives, I welcome the opportunity to get to know many more of you this year as we work together toward our goal of eliminating generational poverty for the families we serve.

Here at MCUM, we stayed very busy in 2019 in between launching our brand-new Your Path program and running two Compass Early Learning Centers. The year has not been without its challenges, including a long interim phase. However, we are eager to begin 2020 strong, with a great staff, Board of Directors, and supporters committed to helping Monroe County households thrive through their challenges to become self-sufficient.

MCUM has experienced a great deal of programmatic change over the past several years and I am inspired by the potential of this agency. I hope as you read this report, you will be inspired, too.

Please stop by and say "Hi," sometime. I would love to see you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Katie".

Katie Broadfoot  
Executive Director

**Monroe County United Ministries**

827 West 14th Court  
Bloomington, IN 47404

(812) 339-3429 ext. 11  
kbroadfoot@mcum.org



# CHILDCARE: A CRISIS OF SCARCITY, QUALITY, & 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 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. We believe that a high-quality, safe early learning environment should be accessible to all local families.

Compass provides an important safety net, 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.



**\$218**

The average weekly gap between what parents pay and what it costs Compass to care for their child.

**87%**

of Compass families are on or qualify for subsidized childcare.

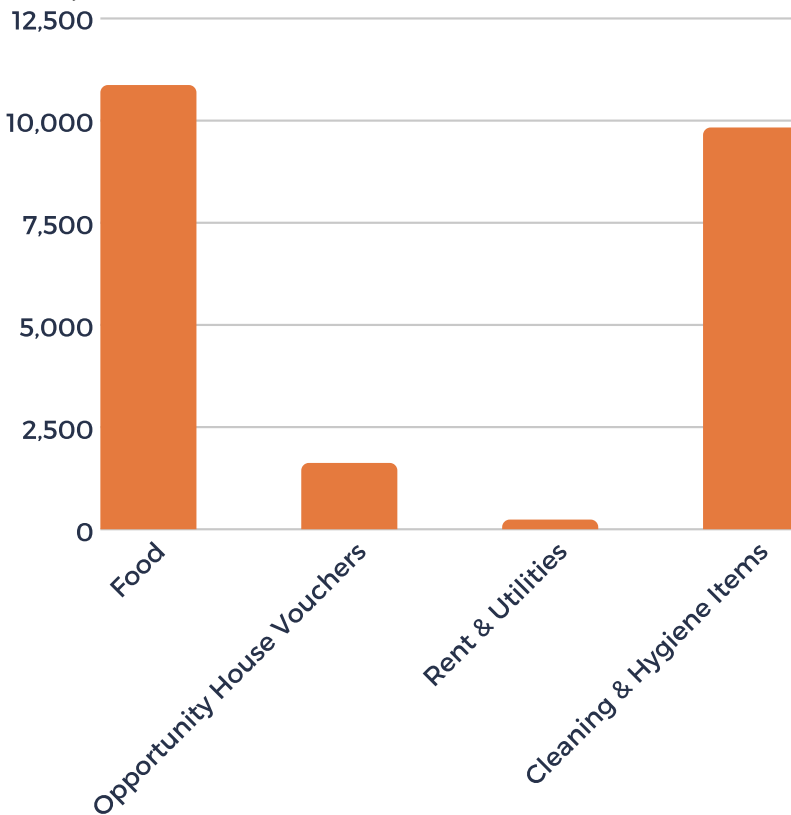
## SELF SUFFICIENCY & THE CLIFF EFFECTS

Earlier this year, Sharon, one of our Your Path clients worked hard to earn a \$2/hour raise at work. Her food stamps were immediately reduced and her rent went up to market value - all before she received her first new paycheck. Her 3-year old got the flu, but Sharon had already used her PTO time. After taking one unpaid day, her supervisor told her she would be terminated if she missed work again. Sharon had to choose letting her supervisor fire her because she couldn't leave her child but also quitting would forfeit her eligibility for assistance she needed to pay for groceries and rent. Like more than 1/3 of Monroe County's adult population, Sharon is experiencing a scenario called the Cliff Effects.

This is a very difficult situation to deal with and that is where MCUM can step in to help. MCUM's Self-Sufficiency Center offers comprehensive basic needs assistance to households experiencing financial hardship, as well as personalized coaching to help address long-term self-sufficiency. Through our Your Path program, MCUM works with clients like Sharon, who are ready to think about making a change in areas of their lives that focus on their household's ability to become and remain self-sufficient. We believe that the people of Monroe County should be celebrating their success, not made worse off by it – and we want to keep encouraging them to thrive.

# 2019 Program Outcomes

# People Served



## Basic Needs Assistance

MCUM's Self-Sufficiency Center provided basic needs assistance to 23,574 people throughout the year. From July-November, we saw a dramatic increase in families requesting our services for the first time, extending our program's reach by 1,079 families.

Our partnership with Opportunity House has been instrumental. Together, we provided the equivalent of \$30,000 in clothing and household items in 2019.

## High-Quality Childcare

Last year, Compass Early Learning Center provided care for 252 Monroe County children. Highlights of the year included providing Christmas assistance to a record-breaking 47 families, implementing our new family outreach events (Trunk or Treat, Family Movie Nights, Milk & Cookies with Santa), and passing our annual Paths to Quality re-assessment.



74% of graduating 5-year olds were deemed "kindergarten ready," in contrast to 33% county-wide.

**100% of Compass parents would recommend our program to their friends or family.**

# 10

households applied for and enrolled in MCUM's new Your Path program, where they worked all year on asset-building goals.

# 306

volunteers generously gave their time in our Compass classrooms, food pantry, and Compass kitchen.

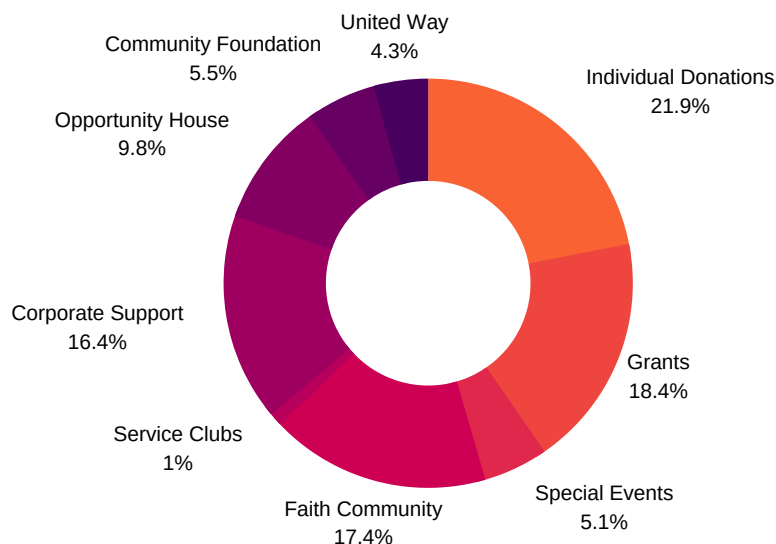
# 652

of the families we served across both programs were single female head of households.

# CHARITABLE GIVING

The ability of our Self-Sufficiency Center and Compass Early Learning Center to provide services is dependent on the generosity of a variety of individuals, groups, businesses, the faith community, and other organizations. The chart to the right shows where our support in 2019 came from.

MCUM relies on about \$28,000 in financial donations and 7,000 pounds of food, cleaning, & hygiene products each month in order to provide our services.



## Who gave in 2019?

28



congregations

27



clubs & service organizations

31



businesses

324



individuals

## 2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Elizabeth Johnson, Chair
- Jessica Merkel, Vice Chair
- Steve Schechter, Secretary
- Bryan Hane, Treasurer
- Jill Argenbright
- Orion Day
- Tom Gardner
- Jackie Hall
- Helen Ingersoll
- Sarah LaGrange
- Lesley Levin
- Lisa Miller-Maidi
- Judith Olmsted
- Diana Rojahn
- Joel Schneider

## 2019 LEADERSHIP STAFF

- Charity Aton
- Katie Broadfoot
- Jamie Buck
- Tina Burress
- Kayla Delaplane
- Brittney Denton
- Shannon Hampton
- Mary Jean Holwager
- Sherene Ing
- Seda Jackson
- Stacy Jones
- Steve Thomas



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**Thank you for supporting our vision to eliminate  
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