

# 2023 Annual Report



Monroe County United Ministries

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# Who We Are



Monroe County United Ministries (MCUM) provides assistance with basic and financial needs, economic mobility mentoring, and affordable, high-quality early learning to low-income families in Monroe County.

We were founded in 1939 through the efforts of nine local churches and the Bloomington Council of Church Women as the first early learning center in Bloomington.

Today, our focus is to lift this generation and the next out of poverty, one family at a time.

## **Mission**

MCUM creates lasting solutions to economic, educational, and social injustice in our community through quality programs, collaboration, and innovation.

## **Vision**

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

# Meet Our Team



## MCUM's Director Team, 2023

Directors top left to right: Darcie Casey, Development Director, Erin Vaughn, Self-Sufficiency Director, Stacy Jones, Compass Education Director, Shannon Hampton, Operations Director

Directors bottom left to right: Katie Broadfoot, Executive Director, Brittney Denton, Compass Program Director

At the heart of our mission to end generational poverty are our 29 team members whose passion, dedication, and expertise propel us forward. Through fostering a nurturing company culture, embodying steadfast values, and offering competitive benefits and wages, we have proudly retained an impressive 86% of our employees, a testament to our commitment to cultivating a workplace where every team member feels valued, supported, and empowered to make a difference. Leading our team of directors is an exceptional all-woman leadership team, collectively boasting an astounding 55 years of dedicated service to MCUM. We are not just employees; we are educators, advocates, and thought leaders deeply committed to effecting lasting change in our community.

# A Message from our Board Chair

Dear friends,

I am honored to serve as board chair for a second term for Monroe County United Ministries' Board of Directors. I joined the agency in 2018 as the first representative from the Jewish community, representing Congregation Beth Shalom, and I am so pleased with direction the agency has taken and positive improvements that have been made at MCUM during such a short time. The energy and passion one feels when visiting MCUM is truly infectious.

I feel a deep commitment to MCUM's programs because clients and children are treated with dignity and respect- they're true partners in our programs. I have been thrilled to spend a lot of time at MCUM getting to know staff members and their roles and am confident when I say that our clients are in great hands.

In January, I was excited to lead MCUM's board of directors and leadership staff in a strategic planning retreat. It was inspiring to be in a room full of capable, smart, and creative people all centered on a sincere commitment to bettering the lives of Monroe County families. I can see why clients repeatedly choose us as their source of support!

This year is sure to be another good one here at MCUM. Thank you to all of our supporters, clients, staff, volunteers, and community partners who create the capacity to fulfill our mission!

Best wishes,

*Lesley Levin*

Board Chair



Lesley Levin, Board Chair

## **Board Officers**

Lesley Levin, Chair  
Julie Beasley, Chair Elect  
Lori Blackwell, Treasurer  
Wendy Vanderzee, Secretary

## **At Large**

Bryan Hane  
Ryan Heeb  
Alex Lamb  
Kristin Martindale  
Jessica Merkel  
Brit Moreland  
Sherene Ing  
Joel Schneider  
Tom Schwandt  
Linda Smith

# Our Impact

Our intergenerational programs help families navigate the unique barriers to their stability. Combined, our Self-Sufficiency Center and Compass Early Learning Center work together to build stability, empower families, and create long-term financial security.

As adults set short- and long-term goals in the areas of family stability, well-being, financial management, education, and employment, they improve their financial situation and create a home environment that preserves the cognitive, health, and social-emotional benefits of high-quality early education.

Key Indicator	Activities	Outcomes
1,650 households accessed basic needs assistance in 2023.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1,557 households made 3,044 trips through MCUM’s client-choice food pantry.</li> <li>MCUM provided 4,193 hygiene items &amp; 500 diapers.</li> <li>136 children were in the full-day care of Compass Early Learning Center.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The provision of food saved families up to \$45.50 per month.</li> <li>Hygiene items restored dignity in 847 households.</li> <li>182 parents were able to work or attended their higher education or training programs.</li> </ul>
136 children (100%) made developmental progress at the Compass Early Learning Center.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MCUM provided 48,630 meals &amp; snacks, 107 preventative health exams, and 19 hours of mental health therapy services.</li> <li>90% of Compass families attended at least one family engagement event.</li> <li>Teachers completed 408 assessments &amp; 163 parent-teacher conferences.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100% of parents said MCUM helped their children learn fundamental health &amp; nutrition habits.</li> <li>100% of Compass graduates left the program kindergarten ready.</li> <li>100% of parents agreed that since their child has been enrolled, they are more aware of how to support their child’s development.</li> </ul>
15% of the Self-Sufficiency Center’s budget invested in creating increased economic capital for families.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>66% of Your Path participants saved at least \$1,500 to purchase an asset.</li> <li>MCUM gave \$5,000 in Opportunity Fund grants to resolve a barrier to income.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 families completed their 3-year savings goals, each receiving \$4,500 in matched funding, and purchased assets.</li> <li>100% of Opportunity Fund recipients said the grant solved a major financial issue.</li> </ul>

Last year we made incredible progress in empowering Monroe County families on their journey toward self-sufficiency through economic mobility mentoring and high-quality early learning.



## Compass Early Learning Center increased capacity by 26% in 2023.

Compass achieved accreditation through the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and was recognized as a Paths to Quality Level 4 provider. A Level 4 Paths to Quality is the highest rating garnered by Indiana's Child Care Quality Rating and Improvement System. We opened a 6th classroom, increasing our capacity to 94 children ages 1-5 years old. The program remained full all year.



## MCUM's Self-Sufficiency Center improved economic mobility for 32 families.

MCUM's coaches utilized Mobility Mentoring to collaborate with participants so that over time they may acquire the resources, skills, and sustained behavior changes necessary to attain and preserve their economic independence. We provided Opportunity Funding, savings accounts, and early learning scholarships to families.



## MCUM had an 86% staff retention rate.

We believe in paying staff members living, competitive wages and supporting professional development opportunities. Last year, 24% of staff received or were in pursuit of higher education degrees or certificates. We had 100% retention of directors, all of who are women.

Our Basic Needs Services can save families up to \$5,850 per year. The average fee scale family at Compass Early Learning Center saves \$7,650 per year over market rate for care. Your Path participants add up to \$8,500 in income when they complete an IDA or savings-based goal. Combined, MCUM's services can offset up to \$22,000 of a family's annual income.

## Financial Impact of Whole Family Programs

When combined, MCUM's programs can help local families bridge the gap between their wages and the local cost of living.

Average Per Capita Income in 2023

**\$34,750**

Cost of Living: Single Parent, Preschooler, School-age Child in 2023

**\$53,687**

Income + Funds Freed Up after MCUM's Support

**\$53,688**



**16%** Compass families utilized both of MCUM's centers in 2023.

**99%** Current Your Path clients with children in their households.

**100%**

Of new enrollees to the Compass Early Learning Center in 2024 will be assigned an economic mobility mentor.



# Coming Up Next...

MCUM's Board of Directors held a retreat in January to begin our next three year Strategic Planning process, which will take place throughout 2024. The plan is still coming together but expected priorities include: further defining our target demographic, integrating our programs, strengthening stakeholder relationships, and improving access to high-quality early learning opportunities.

**Each of the priority areas will have objectives that focus on:**



Strengthen stakeholder relations

Integrate Programming

Define MCUM's Purpose

Improve Access to Early Learning

# 2023 Balance Sheet

Each year, MCUM contracts an independent auditor to conduct an audit of business activities. We typically receive the final report in March. This page will be updated with the official audited Statement of Financial Position once our report is returned.

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**ASSETS**  
**\$2,903,858.88**

- Bank Accounts: \$1,178,038.04
- Accounts Receivable: \$298,443.84
- Other Current: \$17,373.18
- Fixed: \$1,072,488.23
- Other: \$337,515.59

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**LIABILITIES**  
**\$122,933.90**

- Accounts Payable: \$17,095.86
- Credit Cards: \$168.00
- Taxes Payable: \$4,406.75
- IDA: \$19,300.06
- Other: \$105,670.04

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**EQUITY**  
**\$2,780,924.96**



# Our Supporters

Each path towards prosperity is paved with your generosity!

**While it is MCUM's policy not to publish our individual donor lists, we would like to thank everyone who gave the gift of time and/or treasure in 2023.**

We were fortunate to receive grant funding from the following organizations:

- Bloomington Health Foundation
- Bloomington Sunrise Rotary
- Bloomington Township
- Braveheart Foundation
- City of Bloomington
- Early Years Initiative - Early Learning Indiana
- Glick Foundation
- Indiana Member's Credit Union
- Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority
- Old National Bank
- South Central Indiana REMC
- Smithville Foundation
- Monroe County Council
- United Way of South Central Indiana
- Union Savings Bank

## We are proud of our affiliations with... :



### Thank you to our...

- 56 corporate partners
- 28 faith community partners
- 19 service organizations partners

### Top-Utilized Service Provision Partners in 2023:

- The Bishop Storehouse
- Hoosier Hills Food Bank
- Opportunity House

95 unique volunteers gave nearly 2,000 hours combined in 2023:

- 31 volunteered at the Compass Early Learning Center
- 47 volunteered in our client-choice food pantry
- 4 completed special projects (landscaping, maintenance, etc.)
- 13 were board members not mentioned in above categories
- \_\_\_ hours My First Library

We received 70,665 pounds of donated food for our client-choice food pantry in 2023:

- Businesses raised 6,105 pounds
- Clubs/Organizations raised 2,347 pounds
- Food Banks – HHFB & Bishop Storehouse: 30,459 pounds
- The faith community raised 11,318 pounds
- Education (school drives) raised 6,821 pounds
- 6,069 pounds came from individuals

We had 373 distinct donor households in 2023, consisting of:

- 60 first-time donors
- 87 recaptured from 2020 or prior
- 84 upgraded from 2022
- 65 gave at same level as 2022
- 140 Prosperity Pavers (\$500+)



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