

Monroe County United Ministries –

A Nominee for the 25% of Sunday Plate Fund for 2020-21

Monroe County United Ministries (MCUM) serves Monroe County's low-income population through its Compass Early Learning Center and Self-Sufficiency Center. Funding from the Sunday Plate Non-pledge Funds will subsidize the average gap between the cost of care and what low-income parents on Compass' fee scale can afford to pay.

Compass is a licensed, high-quality, full-time childcare center in Monroe County that targets low-income families by offering a sliding fee scale for parents who are ineligible for or are waiting to receive Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) or On My Way Pre-K vouchers. These programs reimburse childcare for most of the cost of care for eligible children.

Typically, more than 90% of Compass' enrollees qualify for CCDF, but the application process can take up to one year. Most of the families applying for the CCDF program cannot afford high-quality care (which costs between \$230 to \$285 per child per week) while their applications process. These families are placed on Compass' sliding fee scale, whereby their weekly costs are determined by family size and income, which ensures families pay no more than 10% of their household income for childcare. The average cost to parents on MCUM's fee scale is \$65 per week.

Nominated by Sandy Clothier