

HARMONY SCHOOL

www.harmonyschool.org

Harmony School is unlike any other school. Harmony's mission is to prepare young people to live in and contribute to a heterogeneous democratic country. This is done by sensitizing young people to the delicate balance between individual growth and community responsibility that is needed in a democracy. The school is dedicated to the development of the whole student, teaching critical thinking and academic skills, nurturing each student's unique voice, all while promoting physical, social, emotional, and creative growth.

Harmony values diversity and creating a safe place for all while acknowledging the worth of every person. Harmony's core values are to teach kids how to respect others, communicate effectively to resolve problems, and take responsibility to solve conflicts in a non-violent way.

Serving 220 children from Pre-K through 12th grade, Harmony does not receive any public funding or vouchers and therefore is very reliant on scholarship funds. Over 40% of the students are economically disadvantaged and 80% receive a scholarship (averaging \$5,000) in order to attend Harmony. Funds raised from UU Bloomington would help make it possible for the school to educate and empower students from *all* backgrounds and incomes. By supporting Harmony, you are supporting the development of future thoughtful democratic citizens.

TEAM FIRST BOOK OF MONROE COUNTY

www.facebook.com/FirstBookMonroeCounty

The mission of Team First Book Monroe County is simple and focused: "To provide the children from low income families in Monroe County with free new books that they can own and take home."

Reading is the key to success in today's world. Research shows that having a personal library of 20 or more books has a profound impact on a child's reading achievement throughout his or her academic career, even when adjusted for income and parental education.

Team First Book of Monroe County raises funds and makes grants to Monroe County Title I schools and other qualified literacy programs who then purchase books from the national First Book Marketplace which carries a wide variety of high quality books with rich content at deeply discounted prices. The teachers incorporate the books in regular reading or other activities to nurture the children's love of reading. The books are for the children to keep.

Funds from the 25% collection plate would be used primarily to fund preschool programs at Headstart, MCUM, and county Title I preschools because we believe that literacy begins at home. All of our funding comes from individual donations and yearly grants.

VOLUNTEERS IN MEDICINE

www.vimmonroecounty.org

Volunteers in Medicine is trying again! VIM is a FREE clinic for low-income medically underserved adults living primarily in Monroe County. VIM is the only source of free dental services in the county.

Last year, a Latino man came to VIM for tooth pain. He worked as a busboy in a busy restaurant at minimum wage with no insurance or other benefits. His teeth were atrocious, rotted stumps or missing. The VIM dentists extracted all of his teeth and VIM paid for his new dentures. Because of his new appearance, this young man was then promoted to the job of waiter, with an increase in salary and health insurance! Dentures improve overall health, increase self-esteem, and enhance employability – all issues related to pulling oneself out of poverty.

Paying for dentures is something that VIM didn't provide in the past. The clinic hopes to continue this service into the future; however they need financial help to do this. If the VIM proposal is selected, UUCB funds will be used to help VIM continue to fund dentures – and support confident smiles, improved health, and enhanced life opportunities.