

## UMOS is up and running!

Staff arrived on June 29th and spent a busy week preparing for the arrival of students setting up classrooms and attending training sessions. Recruiting of students is an ongoing process, and on Tuesday July 7th the first 9 students (5 infants and 4 toddlers) arrived in the early morning to spend their day with the UMOs staff. UMOs' license allows them to have 29 students at full capacity, and Joaquin Sanchez (program director) has set that number as their goal in the next few weeks. They already have more students signed up and will grow quickly. They are still in need of a teacher for the preschool aged group and until that is hired they will be limited in their recruiting. Their ideal would be to hire a bilingual preschool teacher or a teacher for the infants (bilingual not needed) and then move one of the infant teachers to the preschool aged group. The kitchen is up and running and UMOs serves three meals each day, beginning with breakfast, a noon lunch and an afternoon snack at 2:00. The school aged program, ages 5 to 12, has yet to arrive as that program will not start until later in the month.

There are some rules, regulations, and courtesies that we all need to observe while UMOs is in operation over the next three months. They are monitored during their stay with us by The Office of Head Start, other funding entities, and the Health Department to see that they are following guidelines. Once their staff has left the building for the day those rules no longer apply.

- Anyone entering the kitchen when UMOs is present must wear a hairnet, even if just dropping off food. We will see that hairnets are available as needed.
- We should not leave food in the kitchen after Sunday, and the kitchen should be left clean with everything put away for Monday morning.
- We can use the large refrigerator in the kitchen and the freezer in the store room that houses the sprinkler system. UMOs will need to see how much space they need for their food as we move forward and we will label some space for our use. The refrigerator that was in the kitchen is temporarily up and running in the furnace room behind the kitchen.
- UMOs kitchen staff should be cleaned up and done in the kitchen by 3:00 daily and if we need the kitchen for food prep, it is available for our use after 3:00. Remember to clean the kitchen and put away any food, dishes, and other items that were taken out while working in the kitchen.
- All outside doors must be locked while UMOs has students in the building.
  - We can still access the building as we have in the past.
  - Only visitors to the UMOs program must sign in as visitors at their office (copy room). If you are in to work at the church, you are not visiting UMOs and do not need to sign in.
  - UMOs will have a doorbell on the front door for deliveries. We should not use the doorbell for access as their staff would leave their duties to answer the door.

Their infant program, currently housed in the middle room on the west wall, is a "clean room" and UMOs staff must wear covers on their shoes whenever in the room. We should try to stay out of that room, or wear the covers on our shoes if access is needed. The entire room needs to be cleaned by regulation if shoes are on the floor. Covers are just inside the first door.

What a joy it is to see and hear the buzz in the building and for us to be a part of providing a great opportunity for these children and families. While in the hall on the first day I heard lots of infants crying looking for their moms and bright eyed smiles from the toddlers that have the process down pat.

### **UMOS volunteering**

Baby-rockers welcome! UMOs would love to have volunteers come to rock babies! Story-readers for older kids are also welcome. Come in and knock on the baby-room door (first room after the nursery). Remember to put on your shoe covers before entering the baby room. UMOs will get reimbursed for the time volunteers spend here.

**UMOS phone number: 715-268-5550**