

The Echo

Letter From the President

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Help us cast a wider net!

In the prior President's Letter I asked for your involvement – discussing ECC with friends and/or neighbors – to let them know about our mission and involvement. I said, “Your help does not need to stop at the door of your church or your home. Talk with others you know about us – encourage them personally or as part of a church to consider active support of us. We are ecumenical, and want more churches to be a part of the Ecumenical Center”.

I would like to revisit that request because

In the early days of August, the Ecumenical Center sent out a letter to all Linn County churches – asking them to pick one Sunday in October (Ecumenical Month) to include an insert in their bulletin. We also asked them to consider designating a collection for the support of the various programs at the ECC.

We contacted all churches in the county, so encouraging participation at your church, or another church through a friend will be timely. Remember:

- Helping Hands Ministry provides counseling and emergency financial help for basic needs to families in Linn County.
- CompuPlace computer program is the only one of its kind in eastern Iowa serving adults with disabilities.
- ECC provides low-cost office space to local, non-profit agencies involved in remarkable variety of services – including Green Square Meals and The Witwer Center.
- ECC is associated with Margaret Bock Housing – a program that provides low cost housing to individuals who desire to become self-sufficient.

The need for services is great and continuing. We hope to increase the number of persons and families helped. We hope to add churches that will commit as long-term supporters – and provide a representative to our Board of Directors. So please, help us cast a wider net – with your compassion and respect for those in need – and we will do our utmost to continue to treat everyone with dignity.

Don Leonhart, President

Helping Hands Ministry

Helping Hands Ministry

601 Second Avenue SE #2
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401
Phone: (319)-366-2651

Lois Ann Rude, HHM Director
Jessica Stamper, HHM Staff Associate



During the first seven months of 2013, Helping Hands Ministry has provided:

| | |
|---|---|
| Rent to <u>131</u> households (\$1,455.50) | Rent deposit to <u>22</u> households (\$2,402) |
| Electric to <u>71</u> households (\$7,796.61) | Electric deposit to <u>3</u> household (\$320.00) |
| Gas to <u>6</u> households (\$529.24) | Identification/Birth Cert for <u>14</u> HH (\$143.00) |
| Water to <u>11</u> households (\$1,137.82) | Water deposit to <u>2</u> household (\$257.10) |
| Shelter Rent to <u>25</u> households (\$584) | 2,900* Local Bus Tickets for <u>463</u> persons (\$1,250) |

*Note: 400 bus tickets were donated to Helping Hands Ministry

For a total of **\$28,875.27 to 282 households** (13 households received both service & bus tickets)
A total of 450 households received local bus tickets only.

Other activities included:

Meeting with the outreach committee of Marion Christian Church to establish an ongoing relationship with this new church partner to help the poor and needy in our community. Establishing a new business partner = M & W Manufacturing, specializes in design and manufacturing of custom hydraulic manifolds and is located at 809 58th Ave Ct SW. Thank you for partnering with HHM!

Staff and Steering Committee members enjoyed participating in the Cedar Rapids Downtown Market in July and August. Come and visit us at the next Farmer's Market we will attend on September 21 from 8 to Noon. Jessica Stamper and Sarah Mason also represented us at Mission of Hope's Hopefest 8/10.

Have you been to our Helping Hands Ministry Facebook page? Please "like" us and share the page with your friends and relatives.

Members of the HHM Steering Committee have been working on a Five Year Strategic Plan. Five key issues have been identified. Sub-committees have been established to develop goals and action steps beginning January 2014. If you have the desire to serve on one of the following committees on a temporary basis, please contact us: Marketing & Recognition; Grant Development; Public Relations; and Fundraising.

If you are aware of any businesses or foundations that may support Helping Hands Ministry, please provide the contact information to HHM. We are only limited by the amount of donations received. Working together we can provide help, hope and dignity to those experiencing temporary financial difficulty. Thank you for your continued support!

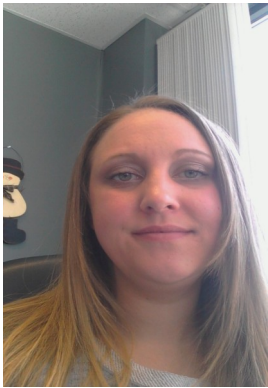
Lois Ann Rude, Director

Helping Hands Ministry = providing assistance & support to persons in Linn County through collaboration with the faith community and local agencies.

STAFF PROMOTION:

Jessica Stamper was promoted from ECC/HHM Office Manager to Staff Associate as of 07/01/13 upon the resignation of Kristin Moore. We wish both Kristin (who has obtained full time employment in her field of social work) and Jessica congratulations and best wishes in your new positions.

Jessica began as a volunteer receptionist in 2009. When the Office Manager position was developed, Jessica became a 30-hour per week employee (July of 2011). Clients see her as an outgoing, pleasant and informative person who gives them her full attention. Jessica's

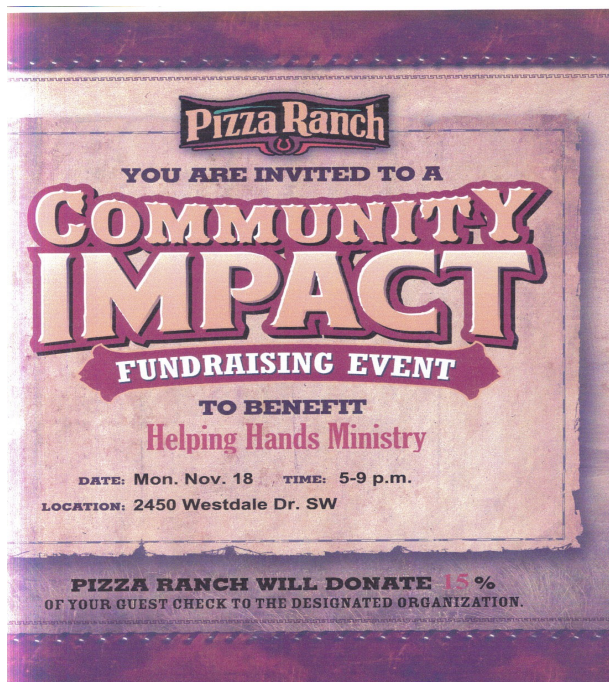


strengths are organizational ability, relating to diverse populations and directing clients to other available resources. She treats each person with dignity and respect. She has a passion for helping others to help themselves. The HHM Steering Committee recommended that she fill the position of Staff Associate due to her abilities and years of service. Welcome to this position with Helping Hands!

SAVE THE DATE:

Pizza Ranch Fundraiser—**Monday, November 18, 2013**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR & Copy this coupon to present that evening!



YUMMY FOOD

FOR A GOOD CAUSE

Helping Hands Ministry

**thanks you for your
participation!**



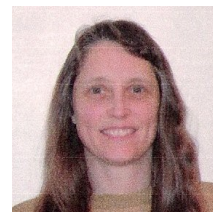
CompuPlace

601 Second Avenue SE #3

Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401

Phone: (319)-362-4284

Email: compuplace@ecc-cr.net



**Robin Switzer Brunner,
Director**

COMPUPLACE: A Specialized Computer Learning Lab for People with Intellectual Disabilities and / or Needs for Assistive Technology

From April 1 through June 30 of 2013, 54 individuals worked for almost 500 total hours to improve their skills at CompuPlace. The net we cast grows wider as we add new selections to our repertoire of HTML-based learning games made especially for CompuPlace clients. The net grows wider still as we improve each game. The internet and other ready-made games also open doors to learning.

We now have over 130 words in our main spelling game. We use photos of basic reading words taken by young members of New Life Community Church. Many Ongoing Thanks! We also make personal spelling lists for individuals including their family members, and their typical grocery list items, favorite activities, and collected treasures. Because we can adjust how obviously the “clue” appears, we can tailor the difficulty of the spelling game to match an individual’s needs. In this way, a task that might have been frustrating can be made into one that is eagerly anticipated with joy in self-improvement. Our clients often choose spelling games over more typical playfulness.

We offer a word recognition game that allows clients to match the words they see. Our Question and Answer games can help clients prove that they can answer hard questions and make smart guesses even when they don’t know the answers. Our Letter Recognition games encourage practice with letters using touch screen, mouse or keyboard.

Your contributions help support our activities. And please allow us to use your photos. Photos of wildlife, vehicles, and landmarks could help make many fascinating games!

Order your White Lights Soy Candles from Helping Hands today! Choose from many scents in a 16 ounce glass jar for just \$14.00 each...what a great gift idea (for yourself or others). Send a check to Helping Hands along with how many/what scent (Buttercream Frosting, Cinnamon Buns, Fresh Laundry, Honey Pear Cider, Hot Apple Pie, Pomegranate, Pumpkin Spice, White Tea, and Tangerine & Lemongrass). Soon the holiday scents will arrive as well. Consider these candles as gifts for teachers, church staff, gift exchanges, family and friends.

Stop by the office to see the candles and make your selection!



HyVee, Shop HyVee...

We are pleased to announce that

All 13 HyVee locations in Cedar Rapids and Marion are supporting the Ecumenical Community Center in its mission of sharing ministries and service with the surrounding neighborhood!

Organized in 1995 and located today at 601 2nd Ave SE; Cedar Rapids, Iowa, the Ecumenical Community Center provides

Helping Hands Ministry

CompuPlace

Agency Housing

... all of which will benefit from this HyVee sponsorship! Plans are being made for the month of October when you can purchase a booklet for \$10 from ECC staff and Board Members or when you enter various HyVee locations any Saturday in October. This coupon book will have a hundred dollars worth of savings on items you would normally buy at HyVee. It is truly a win-win-win situation.

See you at HyVee in October!

Thank you for supporting the Ecumenical Community Center!

Margaret Bock Housing Update

“A Home on Third” = **Margaret Bock Housing**
1021 Third Avenue SE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52403

Margaret Bock Housing at a Glance

Margaret Bock Housing (MBH) continues to have a variety of activities in it's everyday management of the building and tenants. We have been able to maintain almost full capacity for the 34 rooms we have available for single adults, men or women. Rent continues at or below \$300 per month depending on the size of the room. All our income to cover the many costs of operation comes from tenant rent. We hope and expect the four HVAC (Heating, Ventilation and Air-Conditioning) units on the roof to continue to work well for another 4-5 years. We can only afford a half-time property manager, but we are thankful Mike does a great job for us. Our well operating board of seven active members is dedicated to maintaining effective policy.

For example, in this and future ECHO articles, we want to feature one of our board members. The second board member to volunteer is ***Martin Dwyer***. “Martin is a recent addition to the Margaret Bock Housing Board of Directors. While Martin has been a banking officer in Iowa for over 10 years, his heart lies in the Lord’s service. Currently, in addition to the Margaret Bock Board, he serves as Treasurer and Director at the Mission of Hope, as well as providing Bible study, worship, and mentoring for inmates at the Linn County Correctional Center through the Linn County Chaplaincy programs. Martin has completed his Masters in Theology and Master Divinity degrees, and he is pursuing ordination in the American Baptist Churches. He, his wife Rose, and four children enjoy camping, hiking, and fishing whenever they can. On their outdoor adventures he is most likely to be found wandering with Rose – both of them, cameras in hand, attempting to capture the beauty and power of God’s creation.”

If providing housing to prevent homelessness is your passion, please donate to MBH. Any financial help from the community is much appreciated. A request for a tour of MBH should be addressed to our mail station: Margaret Bock Housing, 601 Second Ave SE, #9, Cedar Rapids IA 52401, or call 366-2651 and speak with Mike Williams, property manager.

Jim Federer, MBH President

ECCF Board of Directors

Executive Committee

Don Leonhart, President, St. Pius X Parish

David Jiruska, Vice-President,
Westminster Presbyterian

J.D. Combellick, Secretary,
Peoples Unitarian Universalist

Conrad Baumler, Treasurer, At-Large

Jim Kennedy, Past President, 1st Lutheran

Scott Olson, Development & At-Large

Board Members

Peter Riley, At-Large

Vacancy, Mound View
Neighborhood Association

Mark Mintzer, Salem United Methodist

Dale Crosier, At-Large

Jim Federer, At-Large

Don Boland, At-Large

Vacancy, Immaculate Conception Catholic

Ed Holstrom, St. Paul’s United Methodist

Vacancy, Wellington Heights
Neighborhood Association

Jean Oxley, First Congregational

Darlene Schrimper, Echo Hill Presbyterian

Donna Fernandes Jiruska, At-Large

John vonLackum, First Presbyterian,
Cedar Rapids

Vacancy, First Christian

Mary Ann Stewart, Lovely Lane United
Methodist

Vacancy, Christ Episcopal Church

Vacancy, At-Large

ECC News:

**Contributions received between January 1 & June 30, 2013
(not including private donations and agency rent)**

| | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| Christ Episcopal | Echo Hill Presbyterian |
| First Lutheran | First Presbyterian |
| Gloria Dei Lutheran | Living Water United Methodist |
| Lovely Lane United Methodist | Mission of Hope |
| Oakland Church of the Nazarene | Peace Christian Reformed |
| Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist | Salem United Methodist |
| St. Paul's United Methodist | King of Kings Lutheran |
| St. Stephen's Lutheran | Our Savior's Lutheran |
| The Mother Mosque of America | Unity Center |
| Westminster Presbyterian | Buffalo United Methodist |
| Immaculate Conception | Grace Episcopal |
| Marion Christian | St. Matthew's Catholic |
| St. Joseph's Catholic | |

If your church or organization has donated and is not listed here, please call the office at 366-2651. We do not want to miss recognizing anyone!

A special thanks to M & W Manufacturing for becoming a business partner with HHM. A big thanks goes out to all of you! We could not do it without you!!! Thank you for partnering with ECC!

The Ecumenical Community Center provides low-cost office space to nearly a dozen other non-profit agencies.

These agencies in turn provide a variety of services to the Cedar Rapids community. The reduced rent offered by the ECC allows these agencies to focus more of their precious dollars on direct help to the groups they serve. If your agency / business is interested in renting space at the Ecumenical Community Center, please contact us. All spaces for rent have full access to our break room, conference rooms (as available) and bathrooms.



The Ecumenical Community Center

601 Second Avenue SE #1
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401

To receive **The Echo** electronically, go to
www.ecc-cr.net or call (319) 366-2651

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage PAID
Cedar Rapids, IA
Permit No. 1017

Return Service Requested

HHM Wish List

For distribution to clients:

- Shampoo/Conditioner
- 4-roll packages toilet paper
- Feminine hygiene products
- Laundry Soap
- Hy-Vee gift cards (special dietary needs)
- Quarters for laundry needs
- \$ for local bus tickets

For office:

- Postage Stamps
- Colored 8-1/2 x 11 copier paper
- White 8-1/2 x 11 copier paper

CompuPlace Wish List

- White Card or Cover stock (for clients to make nice greeting cards); White copy paper (any weight)
- Apple Pro Mouse & Internet hubs
- Photos of animals, vehicles, farm equipment for game development
- A-2 (invitation sized) envelopes for quarter-fold greeting cards
- Volunteers for PowerPoint and/or Photo projects making learning games for clients
- \$ for software specially designed for adults with disabilities
- Postage Stamps (just a few each month)
- Financial donations for general support

Printing of the quarterly publication of **The Echo** is graciously provided by First Lutheran Church; Cedar Rapids, IA. Articles may be submitted to Lois Rude, Editor.

