

The Echo

Letter From the President

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Now that the sports page is filled with football news, we know that Fall is on the horizon. Even after the brutal winter we had, I still enjoy the change of seasons. One thing I've learned in my years on the ECCF Board is that while the seasons change, the need doesn't. The Helping Hands Ministry and CompuPlace do many good things but they can't continue without support.

Everyone should be aware that Helping Hands had a very successful progressive dinner earlier this year and another is scheduled for September 12, 2014. We're beginning at Christ Episcopal Church, continuing at Lovely Lane Methodist Church and concluding at Echo Hill Presbyterian Church.

One ECCF ministry that isn't in the forefront of many people's minds is the service that we provide in the form of low-rent office space for faith-based and other charitable organizations. We presently have one space available, and another that will become available in the near future. If anyone knows of a fledgling organization that is looking for a low-cost facility, keep ECCF in mind.

In the meantime, get ready to cheer for the Hawkeyes, Cyclones and Panthers and your favorite high school teams.

Peter Riley, ECC President

Office Space Available

at Ecumenical Community Center

Space: 15 x 20

Cost: \$400/month

Utility & Internet included
Phone extra

Contact Scott Olson at
319-247-5000

Helping Hands Ministry

Helping Hands Ministry

601 Second Avenue SE #2

Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401

Phone: (319)-366-2651

Email: helpinghands@ecc-cr.net

Lois Ann Rude, HM Director



A highlight for me during the last three months is being asked to serve as lay minister at Hus Memorial Presbyterian Church on June 29 on “A Servant’s Heart”. An update on the Helping Hands Ministry (HHM) program was also given. This photo was taken at Hus Memorial and I thank them again for this opportunity. We would be happy to come to others who invite us. (Hint, hint)

- A total of 322 households/570 persons were assisted at a cost of \$24,861.87 through June 2014. The monthly allocation has been reduced to \$3,500/month for rent, utility, identification and transportation needs. This was necessary as the revenue has decreased. An appeal letter was sent to all Linn County churches asking for increased support.
- 16 oz Soy candles continue to be sold (\$14 each); Eight in the first quarter and four in the second quarter. (Stop by to see the candles and make your selection!)
- Staff and volunteers marched in the Hiawatha Hog Wild Days Parade on June 21 and distributed candy and lip balm.
- Plans have been made to hold a second HHM Progressive Dinner on Friday, Sept 12, from 6:00—8:30 p.m. (See information on next page)
- Plans have also been made for HHM staff and volunteers to serve as table attendants at Pizza Ranch SW Cedar Rapids location on Wednesday, October 22. (See coupon on page 7)
- First Congregational has invited us to come and join a panel of other local missions they support on August 25. We will attend resource fairs, gift markets, holiday bazaars and share our story, just put us on your invitation list.

Your continued prayer support is greatly appreciated. From those needy households already assisted this year, “THANK YOU!” ***Team work is the name of the game!***

If you have questions, please contact us.

Lois Ann Rude, HHM Director

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



Staff



Say “Hello” to Jenna L. Gray, the new Receptionist for Helping Hands Ministry and the Ecumenical Community Center. Jenna is a life-long resident of Cedar Rapids and is the proud Mother of 9 year old Cody. In addition to having excellent communication skills and the ability to develop rapport with the community, Jenna is also a Licensed Massage Therapist. Her volunteer activities include The Tapestry: Furniture Bank, Department of Human Services, Ushers Ferry, Young Parent’s Network and Methwick Retirement Community to name a few. Jenna also loves the performing arts, especially dance.

We are pleased to have Jenna join our team and encourage you to stop in and say “Hello”.
 JENNA L. GRAY, RECEPTIONIST 07/30/2014

SUPPORT HELPING HANDS & ENJOY A NIGHT OUT!

Great Food Fellowship A way to support this local mission!

What? HHM PROGRESSIVE DINNER When? Friday, Sept 12, 2014

- Soup & Salads 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
 Location: Christ Episcopal Church – 220 40th St NE
- Dinner (Lasagna) 6:30 – 7:45 p.m.
 Location: Lovely Lane Methodist Church – 2424 42nd St NE
- Dessert (Variety of Desserts & Coffee) 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.
 Location: Echo Hill Presbyterian Church – 9000 C Ave NE

COST: \$15.00 per person \$30.00 per family

Buy your ticket at any of the 3 churches or by calling HHM no later than 09/08.



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

During the first half of 2014 at CompuPlace, a total of **104** individuals came to CompuPlace to build many skills through participation in a variety of computer activities. **999.25** cumulative hours of learning services were provided. A total of 982 hours of paid staff time were required at CompuPlace.

Clients are carrying the ball toward the goal line in many ways. Spelling and word recognition are exceedingly important, especially for those clients who do not communicate easily or with typical speech. We look up information on the internet and strengthen problem-solving and other skills with a variety of games.

Sometimes we drop ten and punt, building confidence with exposure to new ideas and methods of learning. If old phonics methods have not helped someone to read, perhaps we should use their pattern recognition instead. Incorporating a bit of music or rhythm often helps people remember. We find new ways to learn.

We do end runs around stereotypes. Until you work with individuals, you might not guess how much they know and understand. This wealth inside is what we discover, uncover, and help CompuPlace clients use for lifelong learning.

Try the newest game at CompuPlace on your PC or your favorite device: <http://ecc-cr.net/States/>. **Help CompuPlace raise funds: Commission a game for your loved ones or a computer class here for your group!**

What's in Your Inbox? Candy Gram? Walter? Flowers? Plumber? Phishy!

Land Shark! Is an e-mail asking for your pet's name, your mother's maiden name, or where you were born? Is an e-mail requesting you provide your password, your username, other sensitive information, or items which they should already have? Is it asking you to confirm your PIN number, credit card information, or other identifying, tax or banking details? Doo Doot Doo Doot...

Land Shark! Typos or grammatical errors that seem odd? **Land Shark!**

If you are suspicious, don't open up and don't click on anything in the message!

Using your browser is safer than using your e-mail to visit the web sites of legitimate companies. But there are web sites that are "Land Sharks" too. Typing in the correct web address is safer than searching for an organization or a company using a search engine.

When you use a search engine, look at the web address listed along with the name of the search result. Do they match? Do you recognize the domain?

Don't be easy prey. Some "Land Sharks" are pretty clever. Even the savviest techies have been hooked in a weak moment. Phishing scams, spoof or bogus e-mails, or look-alike web sites might be obvious if you are alert. But they may be tricky to distinguish from legitimate messages or the web site you were seeking. Know the name of your **REAL** anti-virus. If you are expecting an order, be especially careful amidst the excitement of anticipation.

CompuPlace receives phishing e-mails almost every day. Saturday Night Live's Not Ready for Prime Time Players' "Land Shark" is still playfully instructive.



PADS (Peer Action Disability Support) is dedicated to the empowerment of people with disabilities by people with disabilities, through peer support, community education, advocacy, and action.

PADS has been a unique group based in Linn County devoted to improving the lives of people with disabilities since its inception in January 2003.

Join Us on last Fridays of each month at 1PM at the new Downtown Cedar Rapids Public Library. Our September 26th meeting will be a picnic at the Duck Pond at Noelridge park.

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!

You can **purchase a coupon booklet for \$10** from staff at 601 2nd Ave SE any time between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday—Friday. This coupon book **has hundreds of dollars worth of savings on items you would normally buy at HyVee.** In fact, if your family buys at least \$100 of groceries, you immediately get your \$10 taken off the bill. It is truly a win-win-win situation! Expire: 12/31/14

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

Our mission is to provide humanitarian care and service with the surrounding neighborhood by providing low income, affordable housing with independent living for single adults, men or women, and to seek local, state and federal funding in support of this mission.

A six member volunteer Board of Directors consisting of Jim Federer, Mike Williams, David Jiruska, Amy Sigler, Martin Dwyer and Donna Jiruska meets monthly and is active between meetings as well. This is our 15th year as a 501(C)3 non-profit organization.

Our facility has 34 rooms for single adult men/women with low incomes. Tenants pay \$280 - \$300 per month including utilities. A deposit of one month’s rent is required and applicants are screened for any criminal record within the State of Iowa. All the social service agencies in Cedar Rapids know about Margaret Bock Housing.

Contributions for day-to-day operations to help cover mortgage payments, property insurance, utilities, property manager Mike William’s salary and other expenses are always welcome and needed since no grants provide this help.

Please consider supporting MBH and join us as we strive to continue operating and improving Margaret Bock Housing.



ECCF Board of Directors

Executive Committee

Peter Riley, President, At-Large

David Jiruska, Vice-President,
Westminster Presbyterian

Conrad Baumler, Treasurer, At-Large

Jim Kennedy, Secretary, 1st Lutheran

Don Leonhart, Past President, St. Pius X
Parish

Scott Olson, Development & At-Large

Board Members

J.D. Combellick, Peoples Unitarian
Universalist

Ed Holstrom, St. Paul’s United Methodist

Mark Minger, Salem United Methodist

Jean Oxley, First Congregational

Darlene Schrimper, Echo Hill Presbyterian

Maryann Stewart, Lovely Lane United
Methodist

John vonLackum, First Presbyterian,
Cedar Rapids

Don Boland, At-Large

Dale Crosier, At-Large

Jim Federer, At-Large

Donna Fernandes Jiruska, At-Large

Vacancy, First Christian

Vacancy, At-Large

Vacancy, Christ Episcopal Church

Vacancy, Immaculate Conception Catholic

Vacancy, Wellington Heights
Neighborhood Association

Vacancy, Mound View
Neighborhood Association

Meet: 4th Thursday/mo @ 7:00 pm at
Ecumenical Community Center
Conference Room

ECC News:

CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED JANUARY THROUGH JUNE, 2014

Echo Hill Presbyterian

Echo Hill Presbyterian Deacons

First Lutheran

Immaculate Conception Catholic

Living Water United Methodist

Lovely Lane United Methodist (UMC)

Lovely Lane UMC Women

Marion Christian

Oakland Church of the Nazarene

Our Savior's Lutheran

St. Andrew Lutheran

St. Mark Lutheran

St. Paul's United Methodist

St. Paul's UMC Women

St. Pius X

Salem United Methodist

Unity Center

Veronica's House

Westminster Presbyterian

Buffalo United Methodist

First Presbyterian

Gloria Dei Lutheran

Hus Memorial Presbyterian

Peace Christian

Peoples Unitarian Universalists

St. Joseph Catholic—Marion

St. Paul's Lutheran—Marion

Thanks for your support!

If you have supported the Ecumenical Community Center and/or one of its programs and are not listed above, please contact the office at 366-2651 so we may update our records. We would not be able to achieve our mission without your help.

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WEDNESDAY, October 22, 2014

YUMMY FOOD FOR A GOOD CAUSE

Pizza Ranch at 2450 Westdale Dr SW, Cedar Rapids will donate 15% of meals ordered with this coupon and tips will be given to Helping Hands Ministry.

BRING YOURSELF, FAMILY AND FRIENDS! Remember: bring this coupon with you. Thanks!



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
- Deodorant
- Hy-Vee gift cards (special dietary needs)
- Laundry soap & quarters
- \$ 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 copy paper (any weight)
- A-2 (invitation sized) envelopes for quarter-fold greeting cards
- Photos of animals, vehicles, produce, farm equipment, and more— for our games
- Internet hubs (maybe 4 port?)
- Volunteers to help teach clients, or 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.