

# The Echo

## Letter From the President

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Writing this right after Easter, I am reminded of the rhythms and cycles as one goes through the calendar year. Thanksgiving kicks off the holiday season, which runs through Christmas and New Year's. It seems like nothing ever gets done but at the same time everybody remembers to make their year-end gifts. The first few months of the year are always a low point for charitable giving, particularly to faith-based organizations like the Ecumenical Community Center Foundation and its programs, including Helping Hands Ministry and CompuPlace. Beginning of Lent kicks off the Easter season and interest in giving usually increases. Before long, we get into summer and giving seems to fall off as people are taking vacations and doing other summer activities. Giving typically picks up as we enter the Fall and finishes strong in December. It seems we follow this same rhythm and cycle year after year.

There is no rhythm or cycle for the flow of people coming to Helping Hands for assistance. Learning at CompuPlace continues year-round. We budget on a calendar year basis so we can provide funds consistently through the year. However, Helping Hands always goes through its monthly allocation before the end of the month.

The point of this is to remind everyone that while we go through the rhythms and cycles of the year, each season is a season of need for those we serve.

*Peter Riley, President*

The value of a man resides in what he gives and not in what he is capable of receiving.

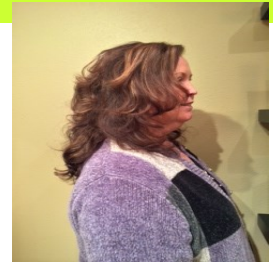
Albert Einstein

## Helping Hands Ministry

### Helping Hands Ministry

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

**Lois Ann Rude,**  
**HHM Director**



So often, approved Strategic Long Range Plans get relegated to some book shelf, collect dust and are eventually reviewed when the five years is nearly over. This is NOT the case at Helping Hands Ministry! The HHM Steering Committee is very active and has accomplished several goals within the first quarter of Year One! We are happy to report the following:

- A total of 146 households/300 persons were assisted at a cost of \$13,402.97.
- Community Impact Night in collaboration with Pizza Ranch on March 31 netted \$333.75
- Echo Hill Presbyterian Church did a Noisy Sunday collection specifically for HHM and donated \$262.93
- The first HHM Progressive Dinner was held at St. Paul's United Methodist, First Lutheran and First Congregational on April 25.
- 16 oz Soy candles continue to be sold (\$14 each); Eight in the first quarter.
- Two new partnerships with Collins and Dupaco Credit Unions were established.
- Staff and volunteers marched in the St. Patrick's Day Parade March 17 and received 20 seconds of TV9 time explaining HHM
- An Employees' Procedure Manual was written and adopted. Jessica received training on the Service Point database and took two MS Excel classes.
- The HHM Facebook is updated periodically and currently has 87 followers. If you haven't done so already, please check out our FB page and "like" us.
- Presentations have been made at one church and one service organization. Please contact us if you would like us to come and speak.

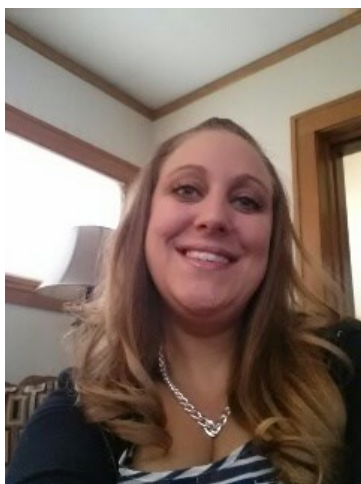
Upcoming events include participation in the Downtown Cedar Rapids Farmer's Market (July 5 & August 16), marching in community parades, speaking at several churches and planning more FUNdraisers. Any one interested in hosting a wine tasting party? Contact us and we will help organize this event to support HHM.

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



## Staff

### Jessica Stamper, HHM Staff Associate



Jessica Stamper started as a volunteer for Helping Hands Ministry in June of 2010. When HHM was able to hire a Receptionist, Jessica accepted the position (July 2011). As her knowledge and skills developed, Jessica was promoted to Staff Associate on 7/1/2013.

Jessica's strengths are organizational ability, relating to diverse populations and directing clients to other available resources. Clients find her to be friendly and empathetic.

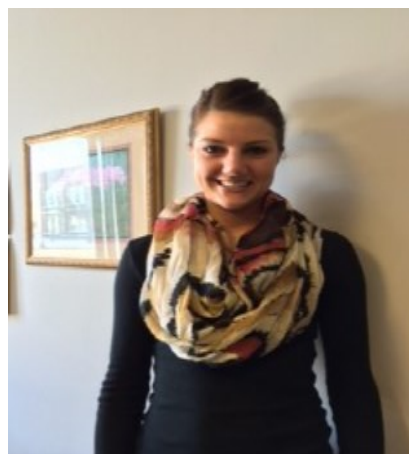
She has a passion for helping others to help themselves.

As of February, Jessica has assumed supervisory responsibilities of the part-time receptionist, intern and volunteers. Jessica is truly an asset to the Ecumenical Community Center and Helping Hands Ministry!

Say "Goodbye" to Ali Suntken as she completes her Spring Term with HHM. She was an exemplary Social Work Intern and we are pleased to say

"Welcome Ali" as our Temporary Receptionist for the summer! As of May 14, she will fill the position previously held by Sarah Mason.

We are pleased to have her during this transitional time.





## CompuPlace

601 Second Avenue SE #3

Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401

**Phone:** (319)-362-4284

**Email:** [compuplace@ecc-cr.net](mailto: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**

**The past few months at CompuPlace have been especially exciting!** March was one of the busiest months ever. We served 65 individuals, and provided over 217 client-hours of service. In addition, we have undergone a considerable upgrade in the lab, including three new Windows 8 computers, several Windows 7 and several Vista machines. We also maintain some XP and even older operating systems. Help from the REACT Center was crucial to this upgrade. Barb, Basil, Dale, Doug, Kay, Isaac, Jack, Jan, Jeremiah, Joe, Kay, Mark, Richelle, Rick, Sharish and Steve.—MANY THANKS!

We are now better able to match operating systems our clients may access at home or work, or elsewhere. Many of our clients embrace new technology and are increasingly adept at finding news, information, music, and other interesting things on an ever-evolving internet. Yet many continue to work on reading, spelling, problem-solving, math, money and communication, and demonstrate progress with many skills in a variety of ways. Some individuals have “old favorites.” We resolve compatibility issues whenever possible to keep these comfy old learning games going even as operating systems change.

We also have several new copies of Microsoft Office 2010 in the lab. Now we can offer either organized classes or one-on-one training for Word, Excel, PowerPoint and some other Office components.

Watch or call for classes we offer as fundraisers!

## Accessibility in the Information Age – Updates

Windows 7 and 8 have good built-in screen magnifiers and screen readers. These can be accessed in a number of ways. Key combinations can be quite handy.

**Windows Key + U**                      **Opens Ease of Access Center**

After opening the Ease of Access Center

Tap the **Tab Key** once **and** then tap the **Enter Key** to open the **Magnifier**.

You can also hold down the **Alt Key and** press the **N Key** to open the **Narrator**.

Android Accessibility Apps like TalkBack and Explore by Touch can help people with vision or other print disabilities, or those who find reading difficult for any number of reasons.

The number of accessible apps is increasing. Here are some interesting free apps:

**Cozy Magnifier and Microscope** by Hantor, free and 99 cent versions are great!

You can take close-up photos and use its bright LED flashlight as well!

**ColorNote Notepad Notes** by Notes for Chores, Grocery and other checklists

**Google Play Books** and **Amazon Kindle** apps will read books out loud!

**Podcast Addict** by Xavier Guillemane, and **AllTheCooks Recipes** by Allthecooks

**Volume Zone** by Daedelus Solutions, **Hourly Chime** by Caynax

**Jellybean Keyboard** by VLLWP with arrow keys!

**Radar Express** by Appd Lab and **Quick Weather** by Newman Apps

## Continue the Rhythms and Cycles of Lifelong Learning

Learn from TED! [www.ted.com](http://www.ted.com) Ideas worth sharing. Short lectures on many varied topics.

Take classes from Future Learn! [www.futurelearn.org](http://www.futurelearn.org) Many online international courses.

# Order Soy Candles



Looking for a gift for a special teacher, Mother's Day ...

**Order your White Lights Soy Candles from  
Helping Hands Ministry today!**

**Choose from 15 scents in a 16-ounce glass jar  
for just \$14 each...what a great gift idea  
(for yourself or others).**

**Raspberry Almond    Hot Apple Pie**

**Pumpkin Spice    Buttercream Frosting    et cetera**

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



## **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 neighborhoods by providing low income housing, and to seek local, state, and federal funding in support of this mission. Our facility has 34 rooms for single adult men or 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.**

**A six member volunteer Board of Directors meets monthly and is active between meetings as well. This is our 15th year as a 501(C)3 non-profit organization near the corner of Third Avenue and 10th Street SE.**

**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.**

**Margaret Bock was surprised on April Fool’s day with a serious fire mainly contained to one upstairs room, plus the soot that circulated in the hallway and among rooms through the air ducts. Cleaning is still in process and restoration in the burn room should begin in early May. We are thankful that the firemen came quickly and the ServiceMaster 380 crew did a great job cleaning and some of the restoration. Except for \$1000 deductible, insurance will cover the expenses.**

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

**Jim Federer, MBH President**

## **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

Vacancy, Mound View  
Neighborhood Association

Mark Minger, 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

J.D. Combellick, Peoples Unitarian  
Universalist

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

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

# ECC News:

## CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED JANUARY THROUGH MARCH 31, 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	

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.*

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. Buy many books as they are good all year long!

Thank you, HyVee, for partnering with us!



## The Ecumenical Community Center

601 Second Avenue SE #1  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401

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

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

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.



