

The Echo

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Please consider becoming a **sustaining partner of the ECC by pledging a monthly donation.**

Let us know if and how you would like a reminder.

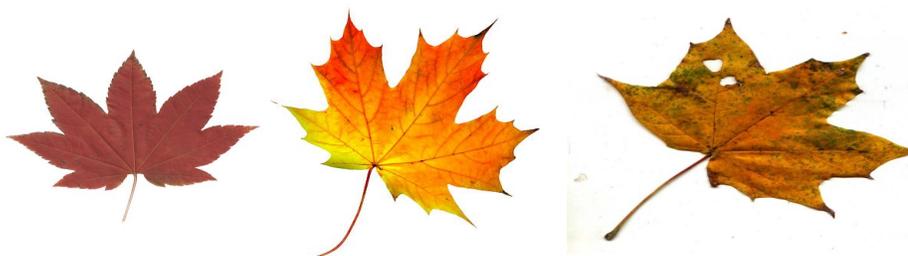
Go to ecc-cr.net and click on our contact form to send us your information.

Letter From the President

Even if you are not a fan of the game of golf, almost everyone in Eastern Iowa was thrilled to see Zack Johnson's play-off victory in The Open at St. Andrews. Oddly, the media coverage seemed to focus more on the golfers that didn't win, such as Masters and U.S Open Champion Jordan Spieth, than on the tournament winner. Poor Zach doesn't seem to get the respect and attention that his accomplishments deserved. Maybe that's because he is a Midwestern boy who is not flashy, but has achieved substantial accomplishments in the field of golf through hard work and steady, determined effort.

In some ways, the Ecumenical Community Center is like that. We're not flashy, and we don't get a lot of attention, but we do our job day after day to help the community through the CompuPlace and Helping Hands programs and by providing below market space for faith-based and other non-profits. However, we can't do this without your help. If you are not in a position to make a financial contribution, you can always consider volunteering.

Peter Riley, ECC Board President



Helping Hands Ministry

601 Second Avenue SE #2

Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401

Phone: (319)-366-2651

Jessica Stamper , HHM Program Coordinator

Email: helpinghands@ecc-cr.net

The following services were approved in the second quarter of 2015:

Rent	\$ 8,283.00 (34 HH)	Rent Deposit	\$ 0 (0 HH)
Electric	\$ 1,721.84 (14 HH)	Electric Deposit	\$ 0 (0 HH)
Gas	\$ 853.03 (5 HH)	Gas Deposit	\$ 0 (0 HH)
Water	\$ 380.05 (3 HH)	Water Deposit	\$ 150.00(1 HH)

Identification/Birth Certificate \$ 161.00 (11 HH)

Shelter Rent \$ 0(0) Auto Gas \$ 600.00 (30)

Local bus tickets \$ 787.00 (132)

“A total of 200 HH/ 190 persons were assisted finically at the cost of \$ 12,936.42 .”

Volunteers are an integral part of providing services through Helping Hands Ministry. A total of **12** volunteers contributed **83** hours of office support this quarter.

The HHM Steering Committee meets monthly to provide guidance and support to the program. Ten volunteer members and two agency representatives contributed a total of **16** hours of volunteer time.

Volunteer Opportunities

Helping Hands Ministry is in need of Volunteers to help in the office. Here is a brief description of some of the office work that needs to be done: Cleaning the office such as dusting, vacuuming , cleaning glass doors, bathrooms and kitchen. Other office duties : Answering phones, returning messages, filing, data entry, greeting clients as they walk in for services, and taking Margaret Bock applications. Helping Hands hours of operation are 10am-4pm. We need volunteers mostly on Wednesday-Friday due to having appointments on those days. If interested please call Jessica Stamper at 319-366-2651 or come in to talk.

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

“Little Dogs vrs Big Dogs”

The Tapestry Time Bank has found the true home at the ECC. You might even say we're running in a good pack, and as “little dogs” have learned how to run together collaboratively and efficiently to the betterment of the whole community.

Finding funds has always been a challenge especially for the little dogs. It appears the “big dogs”, who already have a substantial budget, are more appealing to funding sources based on a concept called sustainability. Unfortunately, most service based organization do not have a product to “sell.” The Tapestry Furniture Bank is in such a predicament. We don't charge for membership because that changes who we are as an all-inclusive organization. We don't pick out our best furniture to sell expecting our members to make do with the left-overs. We wanted to build a community that valued people, talents, gifts, and entrepreneurship over things. However, we have real cost so that we can provide a place for a diverse population to experience that type of community ownership and we have grown in numbers to the point that we need a paid staff to help keep us moving forward. Our board is dedicated to keep our cost as low as possible, staying true to our time dollar system as much as possible, but we still have hard cost.

If we aren't valued by the community at large, we are in danger of losing the furniture bank (which has been a blessing for so many individuals and organizations who depend upon us.) Please consider a tax free donation to The Tapestry so we can continue to do work we believe we are entrusted to provide! Thank you for your kind consideration.

Appreciatively,

Marti Gray, Pres. (319-573-1744)

601 2 Ave SE, Cedar Rapids IA Suite #4

Serrv Store

Need a Gift ? Stop by Serrv Store at the Ecumenical Community Center, 601 2nd Ave SE in Cedar Rapids IA to find the perfect gift.

The Store is open from 11:30-1:30pm on Wednesdays or by appointment. Call Karen 319-396-4798 for appointment.

Each and every item is unique handcrafted by a skilled artisan.



CompuPlace

601 Second Avenue SE #3

Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401

(319)-362-4284

compuplace@ecc-cr.net

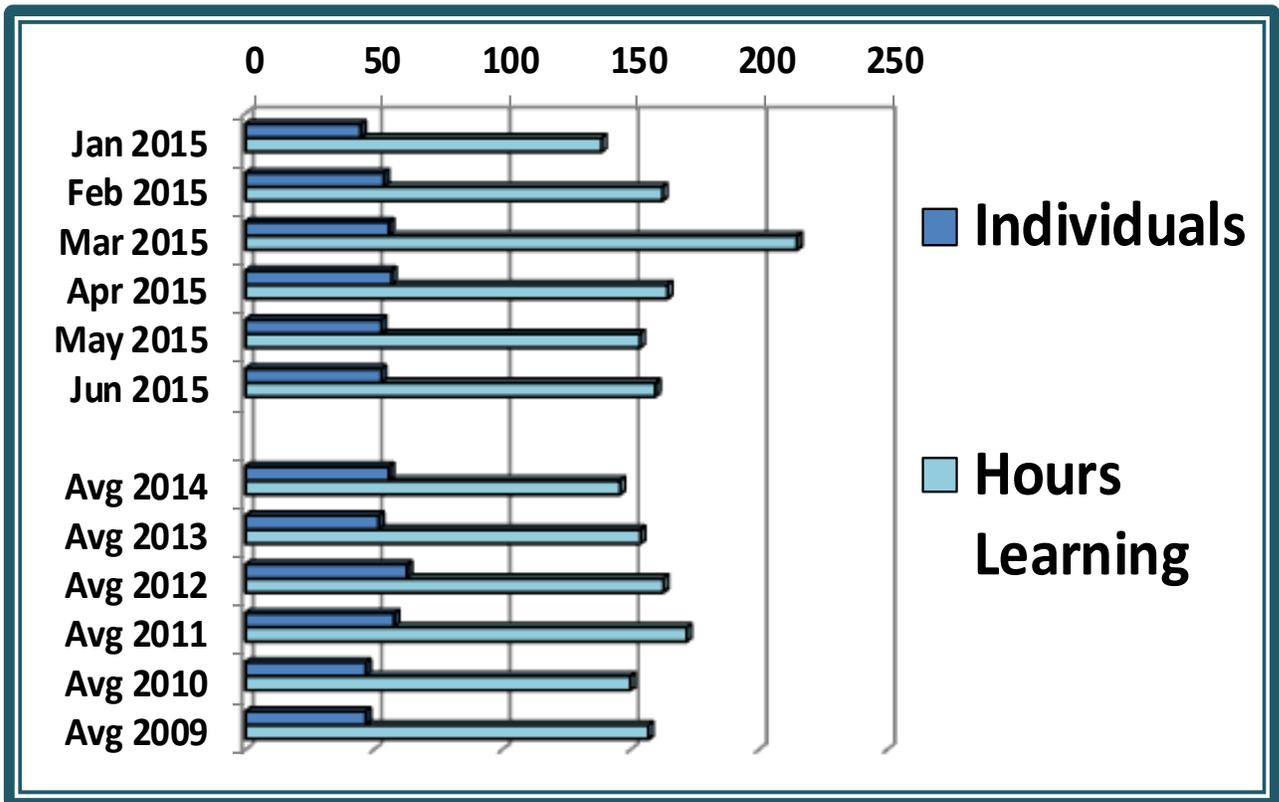


Robin Switzer Brunner

Director

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

CompuPlace serves over 50 individuals each month. Clients work to strengthen a variety of skills. From January through June 2015, 116 individuals used a myriad of computer activities to learn: Categorization, Sequencing, Math, Reading, Effective Internet Searching, Complex MS Office Tasks, Email, and Free Anti-Malware Scanning. **Join us as a volunteer & help enrich more lives!**



Recently at CompuPlace:

A few weeks ago, a young man in our lab with a group was watching someone else play a spelling game. He was offered a spelling game of his own but said he just wanted to watch, and that he didn't really like spelling. We demonstrated the game and then he saw that he had next letter clues to help him succeed independently. He decided to try it. His mood improved, he grew more animated, he persevered for a long time, and proudly proclaimed he would like to work on that again.

Another gentleman does not speak and has been typing his thoughts at CompuPlace for many years. When asked about some of the most important things on his mind, one of several places he typed recently that he wants to be sure to go is "church."



Our Grocery Bags Are Here! We are hoping for a \$5 donation for each sturdy bag to help spread the word about our learning ministry!

In addition, **Greeting Cards** made with art our clients have made, and with photos our clients have chosen, are available for \$1 each or \$10/dozen. We can make you Birthday cards, Thank You cards, Holiday cards, or a variety pack to include Sympathy, Get Well, and Anniversary cards.

Celebrating 25 years of comprehensive civil rights for people with disabilities through the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):

A media event was held in front of the Federal Building. Robin Switzer Brunner and many others spoke about how the ADA has impacted people with disabilities and helped to improve their lives. Even so, there is much work left to do!

A large ADA Celebration at Veteran's Memorial Stadium was an opportunity for the community to come together to embrace the ADA and access and inclusion for people with disabilities in Linn County and beyond.

Watch for Information about a CompuPlace Musical and Educational Celebration of Learning! We need performers and presenters, and backstage support. Can you sing, play, dance or deliver a dramatic reading or speech, or...?

Margaret Bock Housing (MBH)

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

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.

A ten member volunteer Board of Directors meets monthly and is active between meetings as well. This is our 16th year as a 501(C)3 non-profit organization.

Our facility has 35 rooms typically fully occupied for single adults with low incomes. Tenants pay only \$280—\$300 on a month-to-month lease that includes utilities. A deposit of one month’s rent is required and applicants are screened for any criminal record.

Contributions for day-to-day operations to help cover mortgage payments, property insurance, maintenance, utilities, property manager’s salary and other expenses are always welcome and needed. Our wish list includes single beds, sheets, pillows, lamps and end tables.

Last December, several sisters at St. Pius donated gift-wrapped clothing, bedding and toiletry gift items for every tenant and board member. They were very kind and generous . This May 17th at 4:00 pm at MBH, the board has planned a picnic for the tenants and anyone else interested in our work.

Please consider supporting Margaret Bock Housing and join us as we strive to continue operating and improving MBH. Call 319-361-6871 (Mike Williams) or 362-6936 (Jim Federer) with any questions or request a brochure.

*To make a pledge donation prior to the end of 2015, go on-line to ecc-cr.net/mbh.php website for a link to MBH via the ECC e-mail contact form. **Jim Federer, MBH President***

ECCF Board of Directors

Executive Committee

Peter Riley, President, At-Large

David Jiruska, Vice-President,
Westminster Presbyterian

Ronald Detweiler, Treasurer, At-Large

Jim Kennedy, Secretary, 1st Lutheran

Don Leonhart, Past President, St. Pius X
Parish

Scott Olson, Development & At-Large

Board Members

Dale Crosier, At -Large

Don Boland, At -Large

Donna Fernandes Jirska, At- Large

Darlene Schrimper, Echo Hill Presbyterian

Ed Holstrom, St. Paul's United Methodist

J.D Combellick, Peoples Unitarian Univer-
salist

Jim Federer, At-Large

John Vonlackum, First Presbyterian

Marica Whiteford, First Congregational

Mark Minger, Salem United Methodist

MaryAnn Stewart, Lovely Lane

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:

FAITH COMMUNITY SUPPORT JANUARY THROUGH JUNE 2015

BERTRAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

BUFFALO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

CHRIST EPISCOPAL

ECHO HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (ELY)

GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH

HOLY REDEEMER LUTHERAN

LIVING WATER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

LOVELY LANE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

OAKLAND CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

PEACE CHRISTIAN REFORMED

SALEM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ST.PAULS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ST PIUS X PARISH CHURCH

UNITY CENTER

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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.



The Ecumenical Community Center

601 Second Avenue SE #1
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401

Non-Profit Org.
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Cedar Rapids, IA
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To receive **The Echo** electronically, go to
www.ecc-cr.net or call (319) 366-2651

Return Service Requested

HHM Wish List

For distribution to clients:

- Laundry soap & quarters
- Money for local bus tickets
- Hy-Vee gift cards (special dietary needs)
- Feminine hygiene products
- 4-roll packages toilet paper
- Deodorant
- Shampoo/ conditioner

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 and sounds of animals, vehicles and more for learning games we develop
- 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 Jessica Stamper, Editor.