

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

Spring is a time of renewal and rebirth. Trees and bushes start to bud. Flowers and other plants reappear. Birds hatch their chicks. We look forward to spending more of our time outdoors. But we should remember for some, reliable indoor shelter is not guaranteed.

This winter Green Square Meals assisted in providing shelter on cold nights for people who were homeless. They continue to provide food and the Ecumenical Community Center receives rent of \$1.00 per year. The ECC indirectly provides assistance to Non-profit and faith based communities by providing below market rental space. We welcome our new tenants National Association for the Advanced Color People. (NAACP)

Ecumenical Community Center can not provide this service , or operate the Helping Hands Ministry and the Compuplace Program without your help.

While the seasons change, the needs remain constant.

Peter Riley, ECC 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 first quarter of 2015:

Rent	\$ 6,758 (55 HH)	Rent Deposit	\$ 850.00(13 HH)
Electric	\$ 2,119.59 (15 HH)	Electric Deposit	\$ 410.00(2 HH)
Gas	\$ 1,083.42 (9 HH)	Gas Deposit	\$ 81.00(1 HH)
Water	\$ 682.84 (5 HH)	Water Deposit	\$ 474.99(2 HH)

Identification/Birth Certificate \$ 147.00 (15 HH)

Shelter Rent \$ 135.00(6) Auto Gas \$ 600.00 (30)

Local bus tickets \$ 450.00(152)

“A total of 305 HH/ 512 persons were assisted finically at the cost of \$ 13,791.84 .”

The following grants were submitted : St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and St. Joseph Catholic Church.

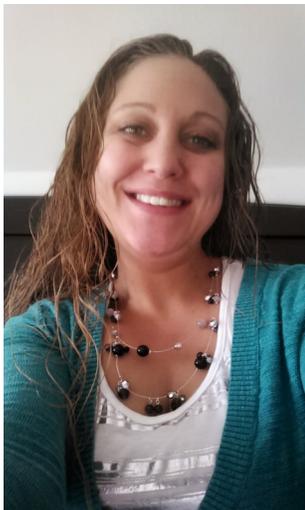
Volunteers are an integral part of providing services through Helping Hands Ministry. A total of **4** volunteers contributed **21** hours of office support this quarter.

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 **20** 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 most-ly 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.



Jessica Stamper, HHM Program Coordinator

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. As of January 2015 Jessica became Program Coordinator when Lois Rude retired.

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.

Say "Good Bye" to Jenna Gray HHM Receptionist

Jenna Gray started August of 2014 at Helping Hands as a receptionist. Now Jenna is wanting to pursue more into her own business as a massage therapist. Jenna would like to add, "Thank you for welcoming me into the ECC family. I'm very thankful for the opportunities and blessing HHM has stowed upon me."



Tribute for Eldon Pugh

Special words said by the people who loved and cared for Eldon Pugh:

It was my great privilege to work with Eldon at First Congregational Church. He was truly a gentleman with a great sense of humor and one who had a never ending interest and curiosity of the city, state and world in which he lived. I will greatly miss seeing him at the church each week; visiting with him and enjoying his jokes. Someone once said the measure of a life well-lived is not in how much money one has or what possessions they have accumulated, but rather through the lives they touched. Because of all of the lives that he touched you know that his was a life well-lived. He loved deeply and was deeply loved - one cannot ask for more than that. Eldon was a great man and served on HHM steering committee and was a great volunteer since 2002.



CompuPlace

601 Second Avenue SE #3
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401

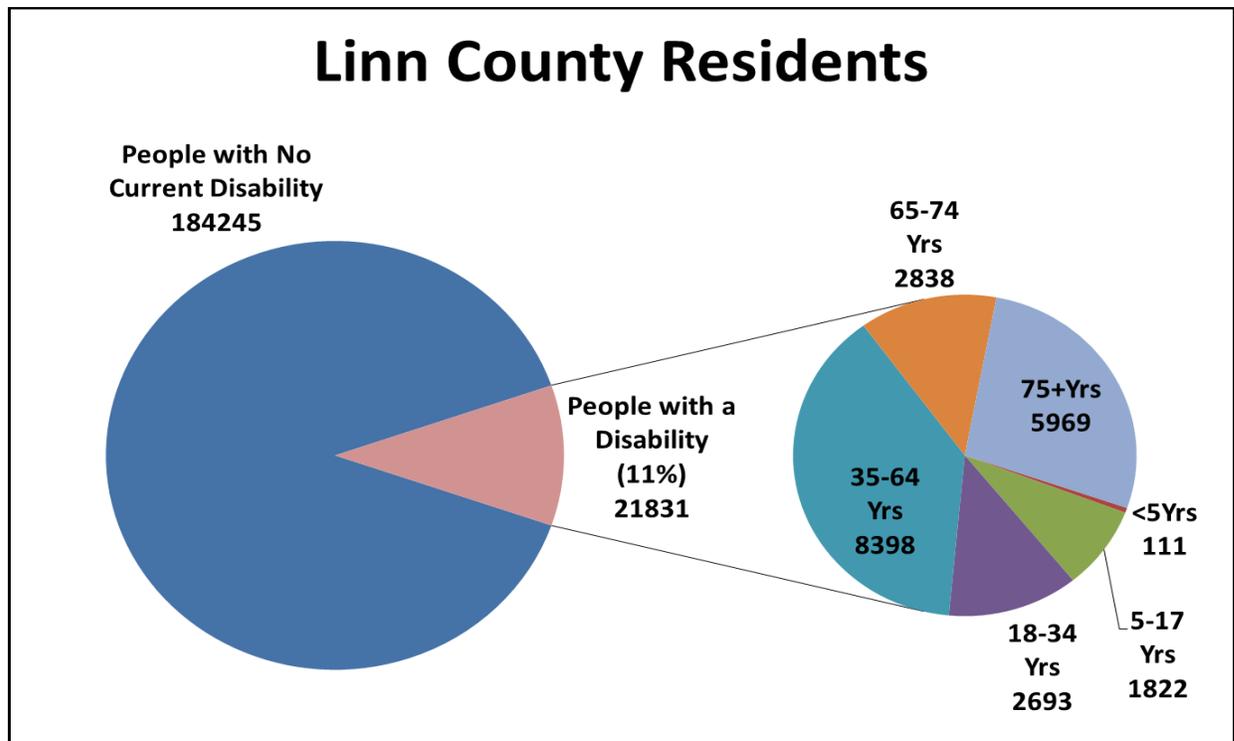
Phone: (319)-362-4284
Email: compuplace@ecc-cr.net



Robin Switzer Brunner,
Director

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

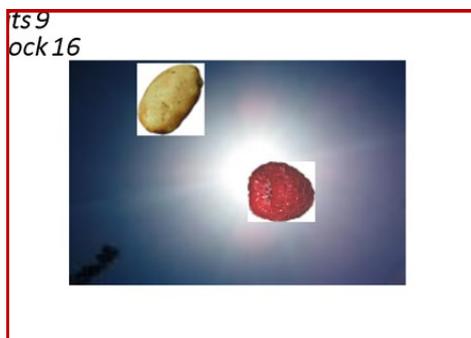
Spring is a wonderful time to reacquaint ourselves with our neighbors! At a recent event, a surprising number of people said they did not know anyone with a disability. But they likely do. Many people in Linn County do indeed have a disability. Many of us who are not born with a disability acquire disability along the paths of life. We can and DO learn to live well with disability. Lifelong learning, self-advocacy, and peer and other support can be paramount.



Living with a disability may mean having some new things to learn. Or it may mean working hard at some things that people with no current disability don't usually pay much attention to. In the first quarter of 2015, a total of 79 individuals with disabilities received over 516 client-hours of training through computer use.

CompuPlace helps people to learn in many ways. We teach basic academic and computer skills, communication, problem solving, and social skills. We use special methods and technology, along with typical computer software and hardware. Make an appointment to come meet us and see our work! Perhaps you can help support us by holding a fundraising learning session or event in our lab. E-mail or call us to schedule a visit. We have some new exciting activities to show you!

Several recent studies indicate that Choice Reaction Time (CRT) provides a sensitive measure of cognitive ability. How quickly can



someone accurately choose and hit a target? This is the newest HTML-based game at CompuPlace! We thank its creator, Bryon Wiscons! In a defined duration, each time the target (here a berry) is hit, both items move. How often can you hit the berry before time is up? Both the target and the UNtarget (here a potato) could be any images, similar or different, even a letter or a word. With carefully chosen target / UNtarget images, we

can demonstrate, practice, and improve attention and decision-making.

The CompuPlace Mission is to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities through computer-related activities that are both educational and recreational. We envision a world where everyone has access to learning and information. This is quite important in the digital age, with computers and other devices all around us.

Your donations of time and dollars can support the CompuPlace Mission and help people at CompuPlace to learn and grow through games and computer work.

You can help us with games, other activities, and fundraising events. Plans for some exciting events are in the works. Watch for announcements!

In the meantime, run your anti-malware and back up your files! Just in case...

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

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

Dale Crosier, At -Large

Don Boland, At -Large

Donna Fernandes Jiraska, 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 MARCH 2015

ECHO HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (ELY)

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

UNITY CENTER

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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.



The Ecumenical Community Center

601 Second Avenue SE #1
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401

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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.

