

The Echo

Letter From the President

Inside This Edition...

Letter From the President	1
Helping Hands Ministry	2
CompuPlace	3
Margaret Bock Housing	4
ECC Board of Directors	4
Endowment Fund & Event	5
Community Support	5
Helping Hands Wish List	6
CompuPlace Wish List	6
You Can Help !	6

Please consider becoming a **sustaining partner of the ECCF 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.

As the holiday season approaches we offer thanks, give gifts, share and care. This is a good time to share some information with you concerning the Ecumenical Community Center Foundation (ECCF) and its ministries.

ECCF provides below market rent to a dozen faith-based and other charitable organizations, and through this ministry has acted as in incubator for a number of organizations such as Mission of Hope. In addition, ECCF provides space for the Green Square Meals Program for \$1.00 a year.

ECCF's CompuPlace ministry provides a learning lab for people with disabilities...A place to be believed in...A place to be and feel successful...A place to learn new things, good things...

ECCF's Helping Hands Ministry (HHM) helps families in economic crisis with basic needs. If you couldn't pay rent or utilities...An eviction or a shut-off notice...What if you needed to get away and had no place to go or money for a shelter?

What would these services be worth to you? Do you remember **when someone first believed in your intellect? Or didn't? Have you felt angst wondering how to pay for basic needs?**

These are real situations for our Linn County neighbors. From January through September of 2015, 127 individuals benefitted from CompuPlace learning services and HHM provided financial assistance to 300 families and distributed 2456 bus tickets. However, HHM had to turn away 8343 families. Because of the monumental needs in our community, your support is urgently needed. ECCF Board and Staff thank you for any support you can provide. Every dollar helps.

Peter Riley, ECCF President

Helping Hands Ministry

601 Second Avenue SE #2
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401

Phone: (319)-366-2651



Email: helpinghands@ecc-cr.net

Jessica Stamper , HHM Program Coordinator

A client's testimonial

I wanted to share how much Helping Hands Ministry (HHM) means to me, and what you have done for me in my life. I first became a volunteer with HHM in September of 2013. I had been living in a domestic violence situation, and at the time I was staying in a shelter. It was the first time in my life ever being in a situation like this, and it was a very low point for me. I feel God lead me to volunteer at HHM so that I could identify with and support our clients, knowing just exactly what they were going through and the ability to be truly genuine and empathetic to their situation.

I know first-hand that the people that come to HHM are in desperate need of help.

They truly have nowhere else to turn, as even their own families have turned away and they have no other recourse to speak of. I see the deep worry line engraved and the tearstains on their face because they are just so absolutely overwhelmed. They are faced with the serious financial stress of trying to keep the lights or water on, because they have three small children at home and they cannot pay their bills, Or they are one step away from being homeless.

When I left the shelter and was able to get my own place, I was unable to come up with my deposit. I have been in hiding in a safe room at the shelter and had not been working. HHM came to rescue, writing a check for my deposit so that I was able to get out of the shelter and have a safe and stable residence for me and my little girl. We literally would have been homeless. There was absolutely **NO** other way that I could have accomplished this stepping stone without the assistance of HHM. It is three years later and I am still volunteering at HHM. I love being here and I love being able to give hope to people that have none. I love being able to help bridge that gap for people who have nothing and no one else. HHM gives that boost and gives **that little bit of extra help that makes such a Huge difference in people's lives. Volunteering at HHM has made a huge impact on my life in every way and will continue to make a huge impact on people's lives in our community.**

I am so grateful to Helping Hands and I know the hundreds of people who are so grateful for the difference we have made in their lives. Signed, **Anonymous & Grateful**

CompuPlace

CompuPlace

601 Second Avenue SE #3
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401

Phone: (319)-362-4284

Email: compuplace@ecc-cr.net



Robin Switzer Brunner, CompuPlace Director

Triumph ! A Young Mind Revealed !

Eleven years ago, there was a young man who came to CompuPlace to play problem-solving games with skill that defied the paltry expectations teachers and professionals had for him. Those closest to him had seen glimmers of his intellect. But because he **does not talk, it was difficult to explore this spark of hope. Whispering “I know you’re smart!” in his ear elicited a joyous laugh. He knew he had been revealed.**

He continued to play his games, and observed other things people were doing on the **computers. One day, after the usual greeting, a handshake and “What do you want to work on today?”, he pointed at an email account that was up on-screen.** He wanted to learn to type and spell.

Starting with just a few words and prompts for every letter, he began to spell. Now he triumphantly types dozens of words during his weekly time here. He is much more independent, and new words are added as he progresses. He still does not talk, but is proud of his work. And so are those closest to him. He is one of many at CompuPlace who are expressing themselves more clearly. Others are learning new skills and reinforcing old ones. In 2014, 146 individuals grew through their work at CompuPlace, and in the first 3 quarters of 2015, 127 individuals have attended.

For this success to continue, we urgently need your support. Your gift can help the gentleman in our narrative who still proudly attends, and many other people with disabilities who continue lifelong learning in an atmosphere of encouragement and fun.

Without your help, CompuPlace won’t be able to grow, and may not continue. Do you remember the first time someone believed in your intellect? Or didn’t?

Please send a one-time gift of hope, or partner with us by pledging regular sustaining support. Believe with us. Join our celebration of minds revealed.

Margaret Bock Housing (MB) A Home on Third

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. On September 20th at 4:00 pm at MBH, the board hosted a semi-annual 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 questions or to request a brochure. To make a pledge donation prior to the end of 2015, go online to ecc-cr.net/mbh.php website for a link to MBH via the ECC e-mail contact form. **Jim Federer, President***

ECCF Board of Direc-

Executive Committee

Peter Riley, President, At-Large

David Jiruska, Vice-President,
Westminster Presbyterian

Ron 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

J.D Combellick, Peoples Unitarian
Universalist

Jim Federer, At-Large

Ed Holstrom, St. Paul's United Meth-
odist

Donna Fernandes Jirka, At-Large

Mark Minger, Salem United Methodist

Darlene Schrimper, Echo Hill Presby-
terian

Maryann Stewart, Lovely Lane United
Methodist

John Vonlackum, First Presbyterian

Marcia Whiteford, First Congregation-
al

Vacancies, At-Large

Vacancy, Christ Episcopal Church

Vacancy, Immaculate Conception
Catholic

Vacancies, Wellington Heights &
Moundview Neighborhood Association

ECCF News, Events, & Support Jan—Sep 2015:

ECCF Endowment Fund

The Ecumenical Community Center Foundation (ECCF) is pleased to announce the creation of an endowment fund to be administered by the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation. This endowment fund was made possible by the gift by Scott and Penny Olson of \$10,00.00 to establish the fund. Scott and Penny have been generous in their support of ECCF, not only financially, but Scott has served on the Board of Directors, as President, and in other official capacities, since ECCF was created.

The endowment fund will provide a vehicle for gifts that will ensure for the long-term future and success of ECCF. In honor of their contribution, the ECCF Board of Directors voted to rename our Board Room the Scott and Penny Olson Conference Room. If you are interested in the new way to help ECCF, please contact us or the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation for additional information.

ECCF Open House

Welcome !

Saturday, November 14, 2015

11 AM—2 PM

**Let Us Show You
Who You Can Help
&
How You Can Help**

BERTRAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

BUFFALO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

ECHO HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (ELY)

GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HOLY REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

HUS MEMORIAL PREBYTERIAN CHURCH

LIVING WATER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

LOVELY LANE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

LUTHERIAN CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION

OAKLAND CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

PEACE CHRISTIAN REFORMED

PEOPLE'S UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

SALEM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ST.JOHN 23RD CATHOLIC CHURCH

ST.JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

ST.PAULS LUTHERAN CHURCH

ST.PAULS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ST.PIUS X CATHOLIC PARISH CHURCH

UNITY CENTER

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN

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
- Financial donations for general support

CompuPlace Wish List

- 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 Power-Point and/or Photo projects making learning games for clients
- Volunteers to help run basic anti-malware and other simple maintenance software
- \$ for software specially designed for adults with disabilities
- Postage Stamps (just a few each month)
- Believe in our clients with one-time financial donations or monthly pledges

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.

Ecumenical Community Center Foundation ECCF
601 Second Ave SE/Suite #1/Cedar Rapids, IA 52401
Sharing Ministries of Humanitarian Care and Service

Contribution Options:

- _____ Enclosed is my check* in the amount of: _____ \$500.00; _____ \$250.00; _____ \$100.00; \$_____ (*other*)
(Check should be payable to Ecumenical Community Center Foundation)
- _____ Donate online at www.ecc-net (Donate Now Button – PayPal)
- _____ Give to the ECCF Endowment Fund at Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation.
- _____ I cannot give today, but would like to pledge \$_____; or \$_____ per month.
- _____ Donate or volunteer my time and talents. (Please state details on reverse side.)

Name _____ Phone Number _____
 Address _____
 Email Address: _____

(Please remember to include any company matching gift forms where applicable.)

Please indicate preferred contact method.

Questions – email us at OR call us at 319-366-2651 or 319-362-4284

Email helpinghands@ecc-cr.net or compuplace@ecc-cr.net

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TAX-DEDUCTIBLE GIFT.
We DO NOT rent, sell, or exchange any of our donor information.