

# The Echo

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Please consider a **monthly donation to the ECCF**. It's easy using PayPal. Click the link to **Donations** on [www.ecc-cr.net](http://www.ecc-cr.net).

Robin Switzer Brunner, CompuPlace Director since 2005, is now also honored to serve as **ECCF's Operations Director**.

## Letter From the President

As I write this in early February the Iowa caucuses have mercifully ended, which is something to be thankful for. The phone is not ringing incessantly with numbers out-of-state area codes. This is when I believe that caller ID is one of the greatest inventions in the history of man kind. We won't have to watch the awful commercials, at least until Fall. Perhaps the saddest thing is so many candidates appeal to our fears, angers, and insecurities rather than our virtues of faith, hope, compassion and optimism.

I am optimistic about the Ecumenical Community Center and it's programs. 2015 was a successful year, and we hope to be able to sustain all of our missions in the future. However, as we review 2015, it is clear and unfortunate there are limits on how many neighbors in need that we can serve. Our direct services through Helping Hands Ministry and CompuPlace mission depend on you. And our ability to provide below-market rents for the many non-profits housed here, including the Green Square Meals program, requires your continued support. We can't fulfil this missions without your continued support.

**Peter Riley, ECCF President**

# Helping Hands Ministry

## Helping Hands Ministry

601 Second Avenue SE #2

Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401

**Phone:** (319)-366-2651



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

**Jessica Stamper , HHM Program Coordinator**

### **We are currently seeking volunteers to staff our reception desk. Duties include:**

Greeting visitors & clients, answering calls to HHM & ECCF, & checking messages, returning phone calls, making referrals & distributing information about community resources, assembling & organizing files, entering client data, and a little light office cleaning.

Times we need your help the most are 2 - 4 PM Mondays through Thursdays, and Fridays anytime 10 AM - 4 PM.

We also need help for fundraisers such as serving at local restaurants on benefit nights, answering questions at our booth at Farmer's Markets and other events.

CompuPlace needs special volunteers to help people with disabilities to learn a variety of skills through computer use. If you enjoy cheering on people as they learn, we'll show you what you need to know about our computers. If you are more technically inclined, you could help with computers in the lab, or work with images, audio, & basic web coding to help make HTML-based learning games for our clients.

### **USE YOUR TALENTS & TIME TO MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS!**

Would you be willing to add your name & phone &/or email to our list of potential volunteers so that we can contact you when other specific projects or needs arise?

Please contact HHM - Jessica Stamper at [366-2651](tel:366-2651).

Please contact CompuPlace - Robin Brunner at [362-4284](tel:362-4284).

Or use [Our E-Mail Contact Form](#)

## **Client Testimonial**

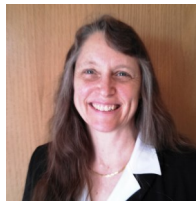
A mother with 3 children came into the office with a eviction notice and asked if HHM could help pay on her rent which her rent alone was \$650.00 . She also had utilities that were over due but was more focused on her rent .Her husband cant work at this time due to a bad heart so she had to pick up the pieces and try to come up with the rent just for one month, her husband would be receiving unemployment the following month. After collaborating with all the agencies she walked out of HHM office with rent paid in full. She was so grateful that she said when she gets her taxes she would come back in re-pay for her services so we could help someone else.

# CompuPlace

## 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, CompuPlace Director**

## A Specialized Computer Learning Lab for People with Disabilities

### Listen to These Joyful Exclamations of Success!

“Wouldn’t my old teacher be proud?” as he solves math problems he thought would be too hard. He beams with pleasure, knowing his own competence is growing.

“I can do this!” as she makes a greeting card for a loved one using a fairly complex program mostly independently. She is pleased to express her concern so artfully.

“That’s the right and correct answer, isn’t it?” as he spells a list of his favorite things.

“I work hard. See! This is MY game.” as she lovingly spells her family members’ names.

“Hey, I learn a lot more than just computers here. I’ve been reading the news and looking for a job! I’ve even been learning how to take care of my own computer!”

**In addition we see smiles on the faces of people who do not speak, but are having many of the same victories. People who are eager to learn can have these opportunities for success because of YOU!**

**In 2015, you provided 1923 hours of service to 139 individual learners!**

**CompuPlace will be offering classes through the Cedar Rapids Parks and Recreation Department!** Some classes are for people who are 50 +, and some are for Special Populations.

**Surfing the Internet | Downloading Apps | DIY Computer Tune-Up**

**Watch for the next edition of PLAY! Sign up starts February 29, 2016.**

**Contact CompuPlace with questions or requests for new classes.**

# 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 eight member volunteer Board of Directors meets monthly and is active between meetings as well. This is our 17th 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 \$300-320 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 2015, sisters at St. Pius church donated gift-wrapped clothing, bedding and toiletry gift items for every tenant. St. Pius also donated funds for MBH to purchase mattresses. Also in December, MBH installed new tile flooring in the first entry & hallways.

*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 2016, go on-line to [ecc-cr.net/mbh.php](http://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 Jiruska, At-Large

Mark Minger, Salem United Methodist

Darlene Schrimper, Echo Hill Presby-  
terian

Maryann Stewart, Lovely Lane United  
Methodist

Marcia Whiteford, First Congregation-  
al / UCC

Vacancies, At-Large

Vacancy, Christ Episcopal Church

Vacancy, First Presbyterian

Vacancy, Immaculate Conception  
Catholic

Vacancies, Wellington Heights &  
Moundview Neighborhood Association

# ECCF News, Events, & Support Jan & Feb 2016:

## **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 \$10,000.00 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 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 Community Room. If you are interested in this new way to help ECCF, please contact us or the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation for additional information.

## **ECCF 2016 Church Support**

**ECHO HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**LIVING WATER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**LOVELY LANE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**OAKLAND CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE**

**OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**PEACE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH**

**ST. PUIS X PARISH CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**SALEM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**



### 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

- Colored 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](http://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.

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](mailto:helpinghands@ecc-cr.net) or [compuplace@ecc-cr.net](mailto:compuplace@ecc-cr.net)

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR TAX-DEDUCTIBLE GIFT.**

**We DO NOT rent, sell, or exchange any of our donor information.**