

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

Spring is a time of renewal. It's also a time for increased distress for people who request assistance from Helping Hands Ministry (HHM). Winter is over, bans on utility shut-offs are no longer in effect, and Eva's family is fearful and without electricity. Even after we provide our full month's budgeted monetary assistance, we still offer guidance to other community resources. HHM can only assist a fraction of families like Eva's who are in difficult situations. Your donations mean fewer people will hear that funds for the month are already given.

Edward at CompuPlace also needs your support to proudly continue with computer-related activities that enhance his reading, math, communication, social, and computer skills. CompuPlace improves the quality of life for people like Edward with a variety of disabilities. Though often hard-working, individuals at CompuPlace are usually not in a position to make a payment that comes anywhere near the cost of the services they need for lifelong learning. Many learners are able to afford only the most basic necessities. Furthermore, we receive very limited support from most referring agencies.

For both HHM and CompuPlace to maintain their current level of services, we need your continued partnership. We have a well-trained and dedicated staff and can optimize our mission only with your financial assistance. Thanks to so many of you for your past support, and for renewing that gift during this Spring season.

Starting In this 5th month, in our City of 5 Seasons, please send High 5's of encouragement and support to those we serve. We invite you to donate any amount that is right for you that has a 5 in it! Let us know if we can tell Eva and Edward and our community who you are. Eva and Edward, their families, and we here at the ECCF thank you very much, and send High 5's right back to YOU! And we hope you have a Happy and Blessed Spring.

Peter C. Riley, ECCF President

Please consider a **monthly donation to the ECCF**. It's easy using PayPal. Click the link to **Donations** on www.ecc-cr.net.

ECCF welcomes new Board Members:
Amy Sigler
 &
Beverlee Valant

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

The Dignity of Giving Back

Elena first came to HHM over five years ago. A widow, Elena was not only supporting herself, but also her adult daughter and elementary aged grandson, providing home transportation and other necessities. Her love and commitment to keeping her family together is strong. She is dedicated, and was working three jobs to support her family, cleaning for two agencies, and at 4:30 each morning, delivering papers for the Gazette. Despite working so hard, like many in Linn County, she lives paycheck to paycheck.

She was behind on the family's rent, past due to the point of eviction. When she confessed her dire financial situation, she felt utterly hopeless. She is a woman of strong faith, deeply devoted to her church, and a loyal employee. Struggling to keep her head above water, she reluctantly found herself asking for help.

During the application process, she signed our form describing the option of repayment. Repayment frees up funds for us to help others, and is also applied to an individual's lifetime limit of assistance, allowing HHM to help if the individual encounters difficulties again in the future. Within less than a month, Elena came in with \$5, viewing her assistance like a revolving loan. Two months later, she brought a \$10 bill. Each month she stopped in with whatever she could repay. She never forgot, and eventually proudly repaid \$300 in full.

A year and a half later, Elena needed assistance with her gas bill. And she was soon making \$5 and \$10 repayments. That same year, she again needed help with rent. Still maintaining three jobs to support her family, she unexpectedly needed tires and maintenance for the car in which she delivered papers, and got herself and her family to work, school, doctor and grocery.

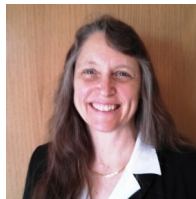
In March 2016, Elena made her last payment of \$20. She has received and proudly repaid a total of \$680. She expresses joyfully how HHM helped her bridge the gaps, and how her repayments allow HHM to help others in the same way. High 5's to Elena!

Send Elena your High 5's by donating \$5, \$15, \$25, \$55, or even \$105 or \$500— any amount with a 5 that's right for you! Come visit, send a check by mail, or use the link on our [Donations](#) page to send your gift securely via PayPal. Ask friends to join **High 5's**.

CompuPlace

CompuPlace

601 Second Avenue SE #3
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401
Phone: (319) 362-4284



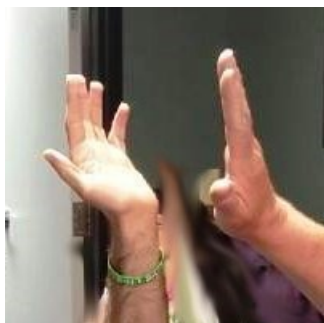
Email: compuplace@ecc-cr.net

Robin Switzer Brunner, CompuPlace Director

A Specialized Computer Learning Lab for People with Disabilities

We Need Your High 5's !

At CompuPlace, we value dignity, personal growth, and lifelong learning for everyone.



Internet technology has much to offer, but it's like needing to **HAVE** your glasses to **FIND** your glasses. Edward's disability and low income make it especially difficult to access the technology that this same situation leads him to need so acutely. You can give him the gift of heartfelt encouragement.

“That was **HARD!** Well Done!“ You can applaud Edward with High 5's. Inspire and empower him to find out what he can do, what he wants to know, and to email relatives, friends, and even community officials.

Send Edward your High 5's by donating \$5, \$15, \$25, \$55, or even \$105 or \$500— any amount with a 5 that's right for you! Come visit, send a check by mail, or use the link on our [Donations](#) page to send your gift securely via PayPal. Ask friends to join **High 5's**.

CompuPlace offers classes to seniors and others, through the Cedar Rapids Parks & Recreation Department, & to individuals & groups requesting training. Paying for a class supports sessionses for people with disabilities.

DIY Computer Tune-Up, June 11, 1 – 3 PM. This class is #118101 in the Apr – Aug 2016 edition of PLAY! Sign up soon on the [Cedar Rapids Rec Department's site!](#)

Don't be shy about using your technology! Learn to get the GOOD out of it!

CompuPlace can offer a variety of classes on the Internet, Downloading, Saving & Moving Files, and more. **Contact us with questions & requests for classes.**

Margaret Bock Housing (MBH) 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 nine 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.

Contributions to help cover costs for insurance, maintenance, utilities, tenant furnishings, building supplies, plus office expenses are always welcome and needed. Our wish list includes single beds, sheets, pillows, lamps, and end tables. Our grant request from City Housing to replace our outdated fire alarm system was not successful. That system plus our office computer system will be replaced with savings. On March 20, and again on May 22, MBH will provide a picnic at our building. All interested are invited to come at 4pm on May 22.

Please consider supporting Margaret Bock Housing and join us as we strive to continue improving MBH. To make a pledge donation prior to the end of 2016, go on-line to the MBH website at ecc-cr.net/mbh.php

1. Click on ECC E-Mail Contact Form
2. Fill in all information including comment field for MBH. Your information will automatically forward to MBH when you submit.

**Jim Federer, President
319-362-6936**

ECCF Board of Directors

Peter Riley, President, At-Large

David Jiruska, Vice-President, Westminster Presbyterian

Ron Detweiler, Treasurer, At-Large

Jim Kennedy, Secretary, First Lutheran

Don Leonhart, Past President, St. Pius X Parish Catholic

Scott Olson, Development Committee Chair, At-Large

Dale Crosier, At-Large

J.D Combellick, Peoples Unitarian Universalist

Jim Federer, At-Large

Ed Holstrom, St. Paul's United Methodist

Donna Fernandes Jiruska, At-Large

Mark Minger, Salem United Methodist

Darlene Schrimper, Echo Hill Presbyterian

Amy Sigler, At-Large

Maryann Stewart, Lovely Lane United Methodist

Beverlee Valant, Immaculate Conception Catholic

Marcia Whiteford, First Congregational / UCC

Vacancy, Christ Episcopal
Vacancy, First Presbyterian

Vacancies, Wellington Heights & Moundview Neighborhood Assoc.

Meets 4th Thursday/mo. @ 7 pm in Ecumenical Community Center's Scott & Penny Olson Community Room

ECCF News, Events, & Support in 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 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 Community 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.

Or Give your Time

Know anyone who can donate their time for a summer photo project?

Help CompuPlace make learning games! [Contact Robin](#) for details.

Thanks! And **High 5's** !

THANK YOU !

BUFFALO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

**RUTH M. AND CLIFFORD M. ALTERMATT
FUND OF THE GREATER CEDAR RAPIDS
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

SALEM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ST. PUIS X PARISH CATHOLIC CHURCH

**TOKHEIM FAMILY DESIGNATED FUND
FOR LUTHERAN CHURCH INITIATIVES
FOR THE HOMELESS OF THE GREATER CE-
DAR RAPIDS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

UNITY CENTER

Individuals are not listed for privacy. If you have donated and would like to be listed, [contact us](#).

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 / lotion

For office:

- Postage Stamps
- Colored 8-1/2 x 11 copier paper
- Financial donations for general support

CompuPlace Wish List

- A-2 (invitation sized) envelopes, **pastel or bright colors**, for quarter-fold greeting cards
- Photos and sounds of animals, vehicles and more—help us develop learning games!
- Internet hubs (maybe 4 port?)
- Volunteers to help teach clients, or for Power-Point and/or Photo projects making learning games for specific clients' needs
- 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)
- Encourage our clients with one-time financial gift, monthly pledges, and **High 5** donations!

Printing of the quarterly publication, *The Echo*, is graciously provided by First Lutheran Church of Cedar Rapids, IA. Articles may be submitted to Jessica Stamper, ECCF's ECHO Editor.

Ecumenical Community Center Foundation ECCF
601 Second Ave SE/Suite #1/Cedar Rapids, IA 52401
Sharing Ministries of Humanitarian Care & 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 want to pledge a one-time gift of \$_____; or pledge \$_____ per month.
- _____ Donate or volunteer my time and talents. (Please include additional details.)

Name _____ Phone Number _____
 Address _____
 Email Address: _____

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

Please indicate preferred contact method.

Questions? – email us helpinghands@ecc-cr.net or compuplace@ecc-cr.net OR call 319-366-2651 or 319-362-4284

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TAX-DEDUCTIBLE GIFT.

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