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Please consider a **monthly, tax deductible donation to the ECCF**. Make checks payable to the ECCF or use our easy PayPal button. Click the link to [Donations](#) on [www.ecc-cr.net](http://www.ecc-cr.net). Or send a **High 5** donation in any amount that includes a 5 to encourage our clients.

**We've made some changes in order to provide services with greater compassion and also to increase efficiency. See the articles inside for more details.**

## The Ecumenical Community Center Foundation (ECCF)

**Sharing Ministries of Humanitarian Care and Service**



## Letter from the President

With help from your donations the promise of Spring is here for our neighbors in need. Bernard is encountering a more compassionate and effective process of requesting assistance at Helping Hands Ministry (HHM). Danita is returning after an illness, and finding new ways to learn at CompuPlace. Margaret Bock Housing (MBH), while full, though many tenants move up and on, has a long-time resident looking forward to helping care for the building. And ECCF's tenants are accomplishing more because of the low-cost office and storage space they rent here at the ECCF.

The ECCF's new Chief Operating Officer is working to strengthen services to our neighbors in need, reaching out to the community in a variety of ways, and seeking creative new partnerships and collaboration.

Thank you for your support in 2016, and early in 2017. Contact us to schedule a tour or a speaker. Please keep our clients in your thoughts and prayers and support them when you can. Every dollar helps. As donations increase with renewed efforts, more of our neighbors in need will find hope and help here.

**Peter Riley, ECCF President**

# Helping Hands Ministry

601 Second Avenue SE #2  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401  
Phone: (319)-366-2651



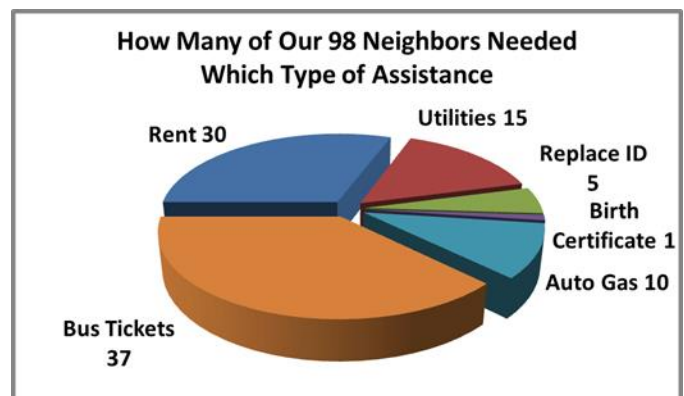
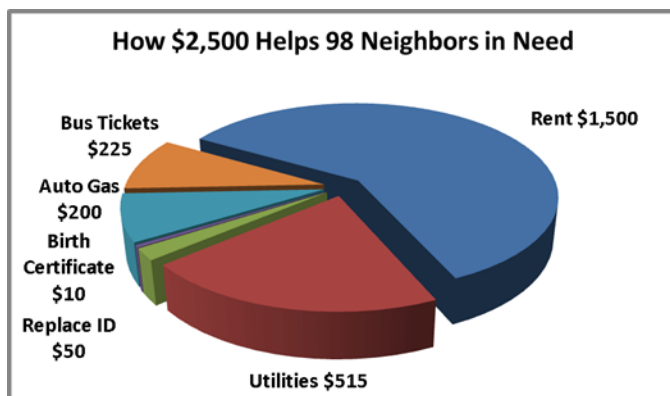
Email: [helpinghands@ecc-cr.net](mailto:helpinghands@ecc-cr.net) Jessica Stamper, HHM Program Manager

**With your help**, in 2016, we assisted 325 families of almost 700 people with just over \$36,100 in direct payments to landlords, basic utilities, ID replacement, local bus tickets, and auto gas. In addition to this, we also provided counseling, referrals, and other supportive ministry to thousands of other individuals.

In 2017, the needs continue to be great. We receive about 1000 requests for assistance each month, but funds are exhausted before we can help everyone who is in need.

**What's New?** We now establish two call-in days per month instead of one. After each call-in day, initial phone interviews streamline the process of assistance. In addition, we are taking a few emergency walk-ins when funds are available. We have updated bus ticket and auto gas requests, and other information systems for easier use and better tracking. Our office hours are still between 10 AM and 4 PM Monday through Friday.

As a result of these changes, we receive fewer ultra-distressed calls, and it is easier to ascertain people's situations, what kind of help someone might need, and how we might be able to assist.



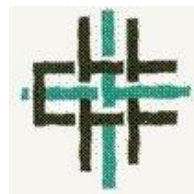
Recently, a distraught gentleman asked to speak with the HHM Program Manager. He had just arrived in town with his fiancé and her grade school-aged son. They had been promised they could stay with friends and pay half the rent while they found a place to make a home of their own. They were much less welcome than they had anticipated, but within a day, this caring gentleman had two part-time jobs. With his fiancé's SSDI, they had enough to help their friend with rent and save for a place of their own.

We helped him find food and to find their son medical care, a bed, and a school. We helped him go through a list of landlords, found a place for them, and worked with Salvation Army, St. Vincent de Paul, and Metro Catholic Outreach to coordinate assistance supplementing his wages enough to make their deposit and first month's rent. They will be out of their awkward situation soon, and are very grateful for the many kinds of encouragement and supportive ministry they received. "Your help is wonderful. This has made all the difference for us. Thank you so much."

# CompuPlace and the COO

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



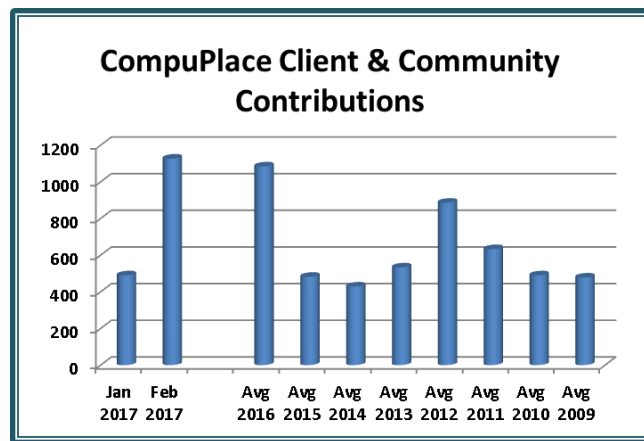
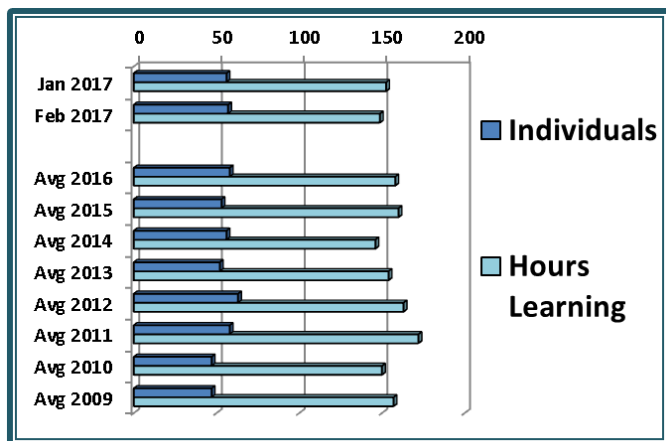
Email: [admin@ecc-cr.net](mailto:admin@ecc-cr.net)

**Robin Switzer Brunner, ECCF Chief Operating Officer & CompuPlace Director**

**With your support**, in 2016, CompuPlace served 143 people with disabilities through just under 1900 hours of computer-related learning services. Many individuals here still develop basic academic skills such as reading, spelling, math, money and problem solving. Increasingly, individuals with a variety of abilities and disabilities are coming to CompuPlace to learn skills such as office software and job and information searching strategies.

If you know of groups, agencies, or projects that could use our computer lab on Mondays or Fridays, we have moved almost all CompuPlace sessions to Tuesdays through Thursdays. We look forward to collaborating in new ways.

With increased efforts at outreach and development as the ECCF's COO, Robin is relying on a few stellar volunteers to guide CompuPlace clients while they learn. Lois, CompuPlace's founder, teaches groups and Tuesday afternoon clients. Catherine teaches on Wednesday afternoons. Jean watches for news, events, and ideas. We still need help on Wednesday and Thursday mornings. **If you enjoy helping people who are eager to learn, please contact us!**



Please help CompuPlace clients to enjoy the same or greater levels of service by volunteering or making monthly or quarterly tax-deductible gifts. **Contributions of all sizes tell our clients that someone believes in their abilities!**

## Note from the Chief Operating Officer

It is a great honor to bring caring community members, businesses, and the faithful together in service to our neighbors in need. Over 20,000 people in Linn County; 10%, live below poverty level. And about 7000 more, or 13%, live on incomes only slightly above it. For people with disabilities, needs are even more severe: 20% live below poverty level, and 25% slightly above it. Each and every person has a unique life story, and we can all help in many ways. If you have something to share, or if you need a speaker, office or storage space, or if you can help with an event, please contact us. Share with me your priorities, interests, inspirations and insights. Thank you.

**Robin Switzer Brunner, ECCF's Chief Operating Officer**

**Margaret Bock Housing – 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.

An eight member volunteer Board of Directors meets monthly and is active between meetings as well. This is our 18th 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. We seek to replace our flooring and to accomplish a tuck-pointing upgrade for our building.

We will provide picnics at our building again this year. Watch for dates in 2017 and join us!

Some tenants stay at MBH for a few months and some stay for a year. Others, like John, stay for several years and make MBH their home. John likes to keep busy and will help with work around and in the building. He loves to ride his bike around town in his leisure time, and enjoys a satisfying rest afterwards. He's eager to help with springtime tasks.

Please consider supporting Margaret Bock Housing and join us as we strive to continue improving MBH. To make a pledge donation, go on-line for MBH at [www.ecc-cr.net/mbh.php](http://www.ecc-cr.net/mbh.php)

1. Click on the link to the ECC E-Mail Contact Form
2. Fill in contact information, including in the comment field that you wish to make a donation to MBH. Your information will be forwarded to MBH.

Thank you for partnering with us to provide a Home on Third.

**Jim Federer, President**

**Phone: 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

**Scott Olson, Development**  
**Committee Chair, At-Large**

**Dale Crosier, At-Large**

**J.D Combellick, People's 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

**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 Thursdays @ 7:00 P.M.  
in the Ecumenical Community  
Center's Scott & Penny Olson  
Community Room

## ECCF Endowment Fund

The ECCF's Endowment Fund is administered by the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation. This endowment fund, made possible by a gift from Scott and Penny Olson, provides a vehicle for gifts that 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 helping beneficiaries of ECCF services in this way, please contact us, or the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation.

Donors are inspired to give because they appreciate the wide variety of ways in which we serve our neighbors. Mrs. Higdon, a donor to the endowment fund said, *"We want to help this good work continue. We've known over the years that we can give to people who really need it through Helping Hands Ministry. We know people who come to CompuPlace and how much they learn. And I've been involved in the SERRV Store, and know that others rent space and how much good they do there."*

### **Join Us!**

**Volunteer at the ECCF for HHM, CompuPlace, or for the ECCF as a whole. Contact us to arrange a tour and tell us about how you'd like to help.**

## 2016 & 2017 ECCF Contributions – THANK YOU!

ALLIANT ENERGY FOUNDATION  
RUTH M. AND CLIFFORD M. ALTERMATT FUND  
OF THE GREATER CEDAR RAPIDS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET OF CEDAR RAPIDS  
BEATON, INC.  
BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
PAUL AND GLENNYS BRIMMER FOUNDATION  
BUFFALO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
DUPACO COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION  
ECHO HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL / UCC  
FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF CEDAR RAPIDS  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CEDAR RAPIDS  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEAR ELY  
GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH  
GUARANTY BANK  
HUS MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH  
KOPEL REALTORS AND CONSULTANTS  
LANDLORDS OF LINN COUNTY  
LIVING WATER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
LOVELY LANE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
MARION CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
MARION SUNRISERS KIWANIS  
METCO CREDIT UNION  
OAKLAND CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE  
OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
PEACE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH  
PEOPLE'S UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH  
SALEM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH  
ST. PIUS X PARISH CATHOLIC CHURCH  
TOKHEIM FAMILY DESIGNATED FUND FOR LUTHERAN CHURCH  
INITIATIVES FOR THE HOMELESS OF THE GREATER CEDAR  
RAPIDS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
UNITY CENTER OF CEDAR RAPIDS  
  
ECCF BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
  
AND NUMEROUS PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS

**THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH!**

# You Can Help!

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## Helping Hands Ministry Wish List

- Laundry soap & a few laundromat quarters
- Funds for additional local bus tickets
- Hy-Vee gift cards (special dietary needs)
- Feminine hygiene products
- Toilet paper, soap, deodorant
- Disposable razors, toothbrushes & toothpaste
- Shampoo, conditioner & lotion
- Postage stamps
- Colored 8-1/2 x 11 copier paper
- Encourage our clients with one-time financial gifts, monthly pledges and **High 5** donations!

## CompuPlace Wish List

- Colored A-2 (invitation sized) envelopes
- Photos and sounds of animals, vehicles and more—help us develop learning games!
- Internet hubs (4 or more ports)
- Volunteers to help teach clients, or for projects making learning games for specific clients
- Volunteers to help run basic anti-malware and other simple maintenance software
- Funds for specialized adult learning software
- Encourage our clients with one-time financial gifts, monthly pledges, and **High 5** donations!

Printing of this quarterly publication, The Echo, is graciously provided by First Lutheran Church of Cedar Rapids.

Send articles, inquiries & suggestions to Robin Switzer Brunner, ECCF's Chief Operating Officer & ECHO Editor.

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

Questions? – Contact us! [admin@ecc-cr.net](mailto:admin@ecc-cr.net), 319-362-4284 or [helpinghands@ecc-cr.net](mailto:helpinghands@ecc-cr.net), 319-366-2651

Donate online at [www.ecc-cr.net](http://www.ecc-cr.net) (PayPal) OR:

\_\_\_ Enclosed is my check\* in the amount of: \_\_\_ \$500.00; \_\_\_ \$250.00; \_\_\_ \$100.00; \$\_\_\_\_\_ (other)

*\*PLEASE: Checks payable to Ecumenical Community Center Foundation*

\_\_\_ Give to the ECCF Endowment Fund at Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation.

\_\_\_ I cannot give today, but would like to pledge \$\_\_\_\_\_ once; or \$\_\_\_\_\_ per month, or volunteer:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please include any company matching gift forms where applicable.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR TAX-DEDUCTIBLE GIFT. We DO NOT sell or exchange donor information.**