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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](http://www.ecc-cr.net) 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 HELP NON-PROFITS DID YOU KNOW -

The African American Museum  
His Hands Medical Clinic  
Living Water  
United Methodist Church  
&  
Mission of Hope

**ALL STARTED AT ECCF ?**

## The Ecumenical Community Center Foundation (ECCF)

**Sharing Ministries of Humanitarian Care and Service**



## Letter from the President

**Now that summer is turning to fall**, families are thinking about their children going **back to school**. Many families enjoy shopping with their children to buy what their children will need to start the new school year and be successful. **But for many families, making sure their children are prepared for school is a financial burden and a struggle, too often accompanied by other hardships of low income.**

Those of us who are blessed with good fortune should never forget many families struggle from day to day. **For those families, something as important as starting another school year is a significant worry and an economic challenge.**

A core mission of the Ecumenical Community Center Foundation (ECCF), through Helping Hands Ministry (HHM), is to provide assistance to families in need. **Since the first of the year, HHM has provided assistance to over 500 families.**

**Without your financial support**, we cannot provide assistance to families through HHM, to families with persons with disabilities through CompuPlace, or to nonprofits, including Green Square Meals, by renting space at below-market rates. **We appreciate the support you have given ECCF that helps many families** who come to us for assistance, and we look forward to your support in the future. **We extend to you the heartfelt gratitude of our neighbors in need.**

Peter C. Riley, ECCF President

# Helping Hands Ministry

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



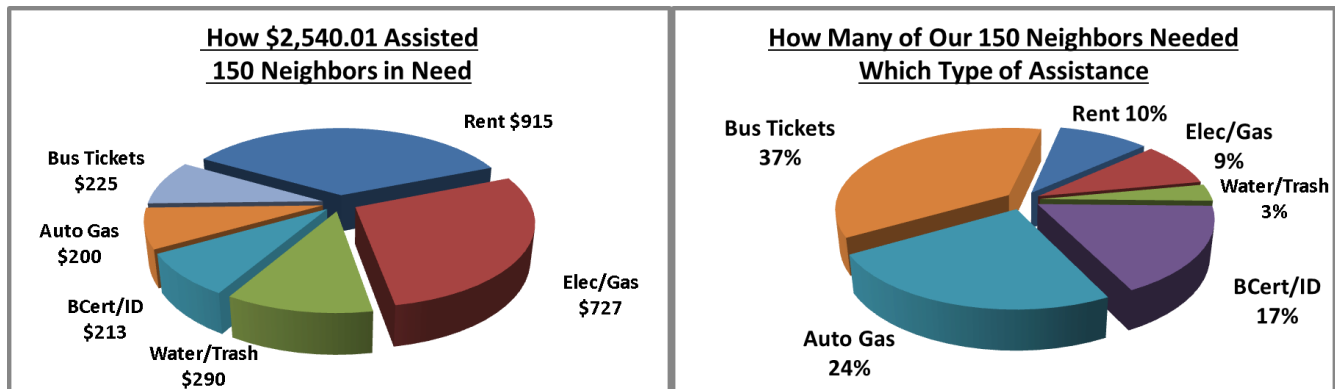
Email: [helpinghands@ecc-cr.net](mailto:helpinghands@ecc-cr.net)

Jessica Stamper, HHM Program Manager

Through August of 2017, your donations have assisted 813 people in 487 families. With your gifts, \$19,978 in assistance through August of this year has eased the struggles of our neighbors in need. Yet we still have around 1000 requests for assistance each month beyond our ability to help financially. Even when we can't help financially, your donations provide information and resources to people who reach out to us here. Sometimes, people just need a listening ear and suggestions about community resources. Since assistance is provided mostly through vouchers and direct payments to landlords and utilities, your gifts go directly to provide for basic needs.

**"I've never needed help before. I've always taken care of my kids on my own."**

We hear this often. Recently a lady with five children came in with this same introduction. She had her first child very young, and is proud to have been independent and hard-working. But this year, her hours have been cut and she is having trouble paying her bills. She paid a utility to avoid a shut off but then needed your help with her rent. She was grateful for the lists of resources for school clothes and food for growing kids. She was also looking for school supplies. **"Thank you so much."**



Another mom, not as young but just as worried for her two boys, needed help with her utility bill. "My mom moved in to help with the house payment and we're helping each other." She had purchased school supplies and was also looking for school clothes and some food resources. She, too, said, **"I've always been able to pay the bills before. It's just getting so hard. Thank You!"**

**We have many other stories of just-in-time blessings, courage, and stamina in the face of difficulty. We can offer inspirational and informational speakers. Please contact us if you would like to tour our facility, hold a meeting or training here, or if we might come to you!**

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

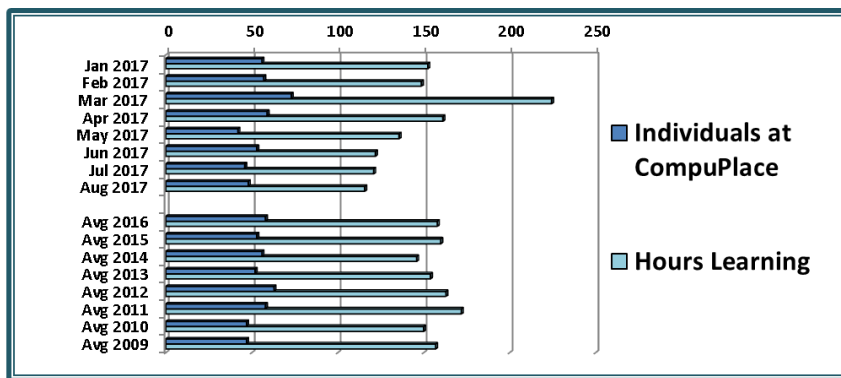


Email: [admin@ecc-cr.net](mailto:admin@ecc-cr.net) Robin Switzer Brunner, ECCF Chief Operating Officer & CompuPlace Director

**Your support**, in the first eight months of 2017, provided CompuPlace services to **112 people** with disabilities through **1182 hours** of computer-related learning services. So far in 2017, an average of 54 individuals attended each month, receiving a monthly average of 148 hours of learning. Most CompuPlace clients are adults with intellectual disabilities, but a growing number are people with other disabilities that need to join the information age. People develop basic skills at CompuPlace and improve their abilities to read, spell, work with numbers, problem-solve, use computers and technology, and carry themselves professionally. We make learning fun, and people work hard here.

**The CompuPlace Way** is to proceed from wherever the student is on their journey of lifelong learning. We recognize that people want to be and feel caring, courageous, creative, and commendable. We empower people to direct their own continuing education. Jayna attended CompuPlace to fill out online applications. She wanted to learn to use a computer. Each employer has a different system. For a new computer user, this can be confusing. The online process can frustratingly time out. It's not always clear which information needs to be entered into each field. Jayna applied for many positions, and is now working! She is proud of her paycheck and her independence!

**Would you enjoy assisting people who need to write a resume, apply for a job online, or learn to use computers and the internet more effectively? Could you commit to a few hours a week or one day per month so that we could open for drop-in availability? Over 20,000 Linn county residents** have no broadband subscription at home. **If you would enjoy sharing your skills with people who are eager to learn, volunteer at CompuPlace! We need YOU!**



**Provide the encouragement that tells CompuPlace clients that you believe in their efforts and abilities with your one-time, monthly, or quarterly tax-deductible gift of any amount. Any gift with a "5" in it is a High 5! Thank you!**



**High 5's!** Spread kindness and gratefulness purposefully. These are recognizable, renewable gifts to the world, echoing with joy. A "can do" atmosphere in our learning lab frees people to do their best. **Learn something new, with a smile, the CompuPlace Way, every day!**

## 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.



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 are in the process of replacing our upstairs hallway, bathrooms, and tenant room flooring. We completed the tuck-pointing upgrade to our building in July.

We will continue providing picnics at our building for our tenants and guests. A hamburger/brat plus side dish picnic was provided on Sunday August 27, and the next picnic is scheduled for Sunday October 15. Picnics begin at 4:00. Provide an email to [jchfed@aol.com](mailto:jchfed@aol.com) if you are interested in attending one of our next tenant picnic meals at our outdoor patio.

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, MBH President, Phone: 319-362-6936**

## ECCF's Chief Operating Officer's News

**Over 44,000 of our neighbors struggle just to meet their basic needs.** When Amelia started school this year, her parents were grateful for your gifts of assistance. They moved here in the heat of summer. When they arrived, no shelter could take their large family, even if they split up. They had nowhere to park their vehicle. Your donations provided the staff to find them a safe place to park. You provided financial assistance and staff to help them find what they needed until they could settle in and make a home here in the Cedar Rapids area. Amelia's dad is working hard to provide for her and for her young siblings and mother. This is an affectionate family who came here with almost nothing but love to start a new, productive life. Your donations helped to coordinate assistance from several agencies to get food and shelter until that first paycheck. Your gifts helped them find help and hope, get kids enrolled in school, and let them start their new lives with much less worry about the most basic necessities. I extend to you my most heartfelt appreciation for your generosity. **Robin Switzer Brunner, ECCF's Chief Operating Officer**



# **LOOK! ECCF Is Also Home To:**

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- AARP Local Senior Community Service Employment Program
- Access 2 Independence Independent Living Center
- Catherine McAuley Center Storage
- Cedar Rapids Aquatics Association Booster Club and Storage
- Green Square Meals with weekday supper at 4:30
- Green Square Meals' Food Pantry
- HarvestLife Christian Fellowship
- Inter-Religious Council of Linn County meets & receives mail here
- NAACP Local Chapter #4013
- Narcotics Anonymous Groups :
  - Face Anything, Fear Nothing Group
  - Freedom & Serenity Area Group Leaders
  - Pioneer Group
- Four Oaks Affordable Housing Network's PUSH-CR Storage
- SERRV Store – Contact us to host a sale of international fair trade items
- St. Paul's United Methodist Church Storage
- Willis Dady Shelter Storage

**Join Us! We Have Office Space for Rent:**

**Contact Scott Olson, Skogman Commercial Realty, 319-247-5000**



**ECCF Endowment Fund**

The ECCF's Endowment Fund is administered by the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation. This endowment fund was established with a gift from Scott and Penny Olson, and provides a vehicle for gifts that ensure the long-term future and success of ECCF. If you are interested in helping beneficiaries of ECCF services in this way, please contact us, or the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation.

With the Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes (PATH) Act of 2015, the QCD rules have finally been made permanent and make it easier to engage in proactive charitable giving strategies that help to minimize the tax bite and meet IRA's Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) obligations.

Donors must be over 70 ½ on the date of the distribution and the maximum dollar amount of a QCD is limited to \$100,000.00 per year. The distribution must be from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) and must go to a public charity (excluding public foundations and donor-advised funds).

The primary benefits of doing a QCD directly from your IRA to a 501(c)(3) charitable organization are that the distribution is not counted as taxable income and that it does meet your annual Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). Notably, there is no charitable deduction for making the QCD contribution to the charity. To use this giving strategy to support neighbors in need who come to the ECCF for assistance, it is important that the IRA distribution be made directly from your IRA and made directly payable to the ***Ecumenical Community Center Foundation***. Please consult your tax advisor or attorney for legal and tax advice.

**Or Donate Using Our PayPal Button**

**You Can Also Join Us**  
**Helping our Neighbors in Need**  
**by Volunteering at the ECCF!**

**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**

**Kate Hogg, Christ Episcopal**

**Ed Holstrom, St. Paul's United Methodist**

**Donna Fernandes Jiruska, At-Large**

**Robin Kash, Wellington Heights Neighborhood Association**

**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: First Presbyterian**

**Vacancy: Moundview Neighborhood Association**

**Meets: 4th Thursdays @ 7:00 P.M. in the  
 Ecumenical Community Center Foundation's  
 Scott & Penny Olson Community Room**

**With Gratitude to Each Director for Your Active Concern  
 and for Your Generosity of Time, Talent, and Treasure.**

# Thank You For Your 2016 & 2017 ECCF Contributions!

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DENISE ANDERBERG

TWO ANONYMOUS DONORS

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HY-VEE OF CEDAR RAPIDS & MARION

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MARION SUNRISERS KIWANIS

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SANDY MILLER

M & W MANUFACTURING

BESS NAUJOKS

PENNY NOVAK

WESLEY & NANCY NYGREN

OAKLAND CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

PEACE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

PEOPLE'S UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
CHURCH

MELVIN RHODES

DAVID & MARTHA ROGERS

CHARLES ROHDE

SALEM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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ST. JOHN XXIII CATHOLIC CHURCH

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ST. PIUS X PARISH CATHOLIC CHURCH

ST. STEPHEN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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EVELYN SWANSON

E. CHARLES & JANET THULIN

TOKHEIM FAMILY DESIGNATED FUND FOR  
LUTHERAN CHURCH INITIATIVES FOR THE  
HOMELESS OF THE GREATER CEDAR RAPIDS  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

HERBERT & MITZI WAMBOLDT

SHERRY WESTERCAMP

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JACQUELINE WILHELM

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JAMES & DARLENE WORDEN

UNITY CENTER OF CEDAR RAPIDS

BONNIE & GREGORY VANSLOTEN

JOYCE VOGT

WALMART STORES - BLAIRS FERRY,  
MARION, & SAM'S CLUB

RICHARD & ANN WOODWARD

LOIS & EDWIN YOERGER

**& MEMBERS OF ECCF'S  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

# You Can Help!

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## Helping Hands Ministry Wish List

- Laundry soap & a few laundromat quarters
- Funds for local bus tickets & auto gas
- Gift cards (special dietary & other basic 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
- **Adopt a Family** or offer encouragement 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
- **Adopt a Learner** or offer encouragement with one-time financial gifts, monthly pledges, and **High 5** donations!

Printing of this ECCF newsletter, 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.

To receive a link to our newsletter via email, send a request to Robin at [admin@ecc-cr.net](mailto:admin@ecc-cr.net)

**Ecumenical Community Center Foundation (ECCF) Sharing Ministries of Humanitarian Care & Service**

**601 2nd Ave SE #1, Cedar Rapids, IA 52401**

See our privacy policy at <http://ecc-cr.net/ECCFPrivacyPolicy.html>

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:

**EVERY DOLLAR HELPS!**

\_\_\_\_ 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.**