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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. Or send a **High 5** donation in any amount that includes a 5 to encourage our clients.

**Plan to attend our
OPEN HOUSE
10am–2pm, July 15, 2017
Call, or watch our web
site to get more details, to
sign up for classes, or to
help with the event!**

The Ecumenical Community Center Foundation (ECCF)

Sharing Ministries of Humanitarian Care and Service



Letter from the President

Summer officially starts on the summer solstice, but is traditionally heralded by Memorial Day weekend. I have been on the Ecumenical Community Center Foundation (ECCF) Board for almost two decades and my wife is the Treasurer at our church. As a result, I am well aware of the seasonal nature of charitable giving. For reasons I cannot explain, charitable giving for religious organizations and other charities typically falls off during the summer.

Unfortunately, the needs ECCF's ministries serve know no season. In addition, Iowa's budget crisis and potential cutbacks in Federal programs are likely to increase the needs of the families ECCF serves. For these reasons, we decided to make fund raising a focus of this ECHO edition. ECCF has helped address these developments. For example, we provide space to the Green Square Meals Program for \$1.00 per year. They have now started a food bank and are renting additional space, at a below-market rate, to operate their food pantry.

Since Robin Brunner accepted the position of Chief Operating Officer last fall, ECCF, Robin and Helping Hands Program Director Jessica Stamper have made tremendous strides in focusing our programs and economically using our limited resources to maximize the number of families we benefit. With the increased reliance on metrics, we have improved our record-keeping systems to better measure our impact. But the sad truth is we can never provide assistance to all of the families that come to see us. Join us as a volunteer or make a gift that helps someone soon. Thank you very much.

Peter C. Riley, ECC President

Helping Hands Ministry

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



Email: helpinghands@ecc-cr.net

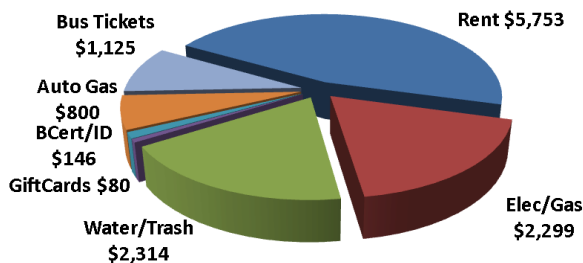
Jessica Stamper, HHM Program Manager

Through May of 2017, your donations have assisted 445 people in 282 families. With your donations, \$12,517.78 in assistance 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. Your donations still help us keep the doors open to offer information about other community resources, we listen, we pray, we suggest, and we refer these individuals to other agencies whenever possible. Assistance is provided mostly through direct payments to landlords and utilities. The price tag for birth certificates and ID replacement is fairly low, yet having these can make the greatest impact.

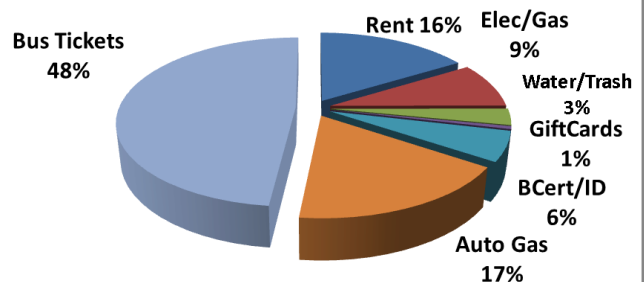
Transportation needs affect the greatest number of individuals. Occasionally a small gift card can make all the difference. Home – rent and utilities – is the greatest need in terms of dollars. This is something many of us have the luxury of taking for granted, but for how long? It is not uncommon to encounter people who have no idea how to ask for help, because they have never needed it before.



**How \$12,517.78 Helped
445 Neighbors in Need**



**How Many of Our 445 Neighbors Needed
Which Type of Assistance**



Recently, a frazzled woman walked into HHM with an electricity shut off notice. Worried about her kids, she was pursuing work at a nursing home so they could be more self-sufficient. She had been working as a server, making very low wages. She did not have enough to pay her budgeted amount to the electric company on time, and was told to pay 80% of the bill within only a few days or be shut off.

She used her whole paycheck to pay toward the bill, got help from HHM and several other community resources, but was still short about \$100. HHM contacted a private contributor to ask if they could help. Amazingly, they responded immediately and generously. Your donations, and especially this last one, made all the difference for her family. She called the next day, appreciative and relieved, just to say **“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



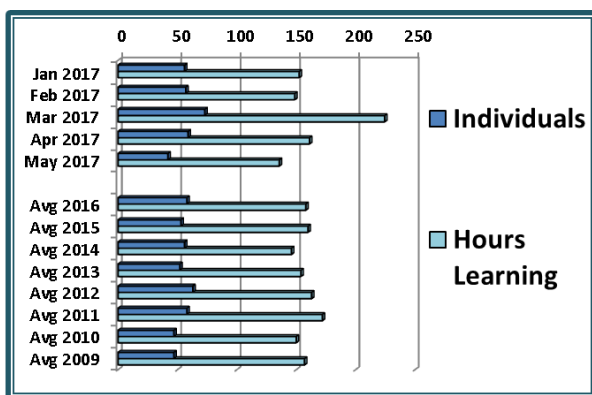
Email: admin@ecc-cr.net Robin Switzer Brunner, ECCF Chief Operating Officer & CompuPlace Director

Your support, in the first five months of 2017, provided CompuPlace services to 97 people with disabilities through 822.75 hours of computer-related learning services. So far in 2017, an average of 57 individuals attended each month, receiving a monthly average of 165 hours of learning. In the past, most CompuPlace clients have been adults with cognitive related disabilities like Down syndrome, autism spectrum, or brain injury. These individuals develop basic skills at CompuPlace such as reading, spelling, math, money, problem solving, and professional behavior.

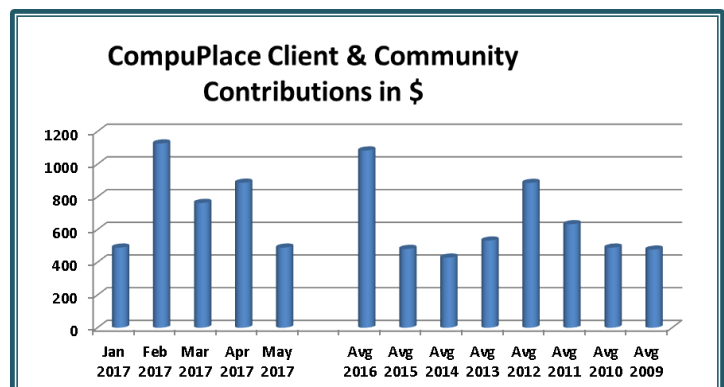
The CompuPlace Way is one of respect. It opens doors to learning, empowering people to direct their own lifelong education. It is a method of joyous encouragement assisting individuals to highlight and strengthen their own abilities. The CompuPlace Way works well for people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities. Like Sugata Mitra's Hole in the Wall project, CompuPlace offers Minimally Invasive Education, allowing individuals to learn guided by their own curiosity, experience, creativity, desires, courage, and sensibilities.

ECCF is cultivating methods to open the CompuPlace lab to Linn County residents with no current disability who are in need of computer literacy and assistance with internet access. Most of these individuals have low incomes and many have sought assistance from HHM and other local agencies helping people with low incomes, including other tenants of the ECCF. If you could commit to teaching individuals basic technology skills on a regular basis, please contact us. **If you enjoy helping people who are eager to learn, CompuPlace is where it's at! We need YOU!**

Please tell 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! A client is graduating from weekly sessions to internet and a tablet at home, and only two sessions a month at CompuPlace. She is proud of her progress, as she should be!



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 seek to replace our hallway and tenant room flooring, plus accomplish a tuck-pointing upgrade to our building in 2017. We are grateful to the St. Pius mission committee for providing funds for new flooring in about 6 tenant rooms plus bedding for 4 rooms.

We will continue providing picnics at our building for our tenants and guests. A Mexican fiesta meal was provided on Sunday June 4, and the next picnic is scheduled for Sunday August 27. Picnics begin at 4:00 PM. Provide an email to jchfed@aol.com if you are interested in attending.

MBH will refrain from the use of fireworks on our property.

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

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

Working together with community members, businesses, and the faithful in service to our neighbors in need, your gifts cool the stifling oppression of a summer "without ." Over 44,000 people in Linn County live near or below poverty level. These individuals are often without the modern "bootstraps" of knowing where assistance is available, how to ask for help, or how to get away from a dangerous home situation. They often do not have adequate food, toiletries, laundry, housing, transportation, technology training, or internet access, but still want to better their own situations. Their stories include both courage and fear. We listen to them as they share their difficulties. Many of us are nearer than we think to being in a similar fight to regain hope and stability. Please share what you can with our neighbors in need. They are most grateful for your gifts and for the small things we often take for granted.

Robin Switzer Brunner, ECCF's Chief Operating Officer

LOOK! ECCF Is Also Home To:

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- Access 2 Independence Independent Living Center
- Catherine McAuley Center Storage
- Cedar Rapids Aquatics Association Booster Club and Storage
- Green Square Meals
- Green Square Meals' Food Pantry
- Inter-Religious Council of Linn County
- NAACP Local Chapter #4013
- Narcotics Anonymous :
 - Face Anything, Fear Nothing Group
 - Freedom & Serenity Area Group Leaders
 - Pioneer Group
- Four Oaks Affordable Housing Network's PUSH-CR Storage
- SERRV Store with Fair Trade Items from all over the world
- St. Paul's United Methodist 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.

Donating IRA Assets to Charity

Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCDs):

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.

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

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

Vacancies: Wellington Heights & Moundview Neighborhood Associations. Representatives from each of these associations are chosen by each association.

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

Thank you to each of you 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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ALLIANT ENERGY FOUNDATION
DENISE ANDERBERG
ANONYMOUS
AL & NANCY AOSSEY
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FUND OF THE GREATER CEDAR RAPIDS
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FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF CEDAR
RAPIDS
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CEDAR
RAPIDS
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEAR ELY
ELLEN & AL FISHER
MARY JEAN FISHER

STEPHANIE & NEAL GILBERTSON
OPAL GISH
GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH
JOHN & KAREN GOEDEKEN
GUARANTY BANK
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PAUL & TAMARA HESS
DAVE & DOROTHY HIGDON
JARED & CAROL HILLS FOUNDATION
SCOTT HISEROTE CONSTRUCTION
HUS MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC
CHURCH
WILLIAM JAMISON
DOUGLAS & ANITA JOHNSON
KATHY JOHNSON
ROBIN KASH
JAMES & LINDA KIPP
DANIEL & NOVA KOLANDER
KOPEL REALTORS & CONSULTANTS
LANDLORDS OF LINN COUNTY
BOB & MARTY LEE
DON & LINDA LEONHART
LIVING WATER UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH
LOVELY LANE UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH
BARBARA MALINA
SCOTT MANSFIELD
MARGARET BOCK HOUSING
MARION CHRISTIAN CHURCH
MARION SUNRISERS KIWANIS
JUDY MCDOWELL
JUNE MENGLER
METCO CREDIT UNION
SANDY MILLER
M & W MANUFACTURING
BESS NAUJOKS
PENNY NOVAK

WELSEY & 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. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH
ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH
ST. PIUS X PARISH CATHOLIC CHURCH
ST. STEPHEN CATHOLIC CHURCH
JOANNE STEVENS & TOM JACKSON
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
SHEERY WESTERCAMP
WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
JACQUELINE WILHELM
BRUCE & BONNIE WILLIAMS
JAMES & DARLENE WORDEN
UNITY CENTER OF CEDAR RAPIDS
BONNIE & GREGORY VANSLOTEN
JOYCE VOGT
WALMART ON BLAIRS FERRY
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 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.

To receive a link to our newsletter via email, send a request to Robin at admin@ecc-cr.net

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

601 Second 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, 319-362-4284 or helpinghands@ecc-cr.net, 319-366-2651

Donate online at 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.