



601 Second Avenue SE Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401 www.ecc-cr.net

Ecumenical Community Center Foundation

Ministries of Humanitarian Care & Service

The ECHO – ECCF's Spring 2018 News

Your Gifts in 2017 Brought Hope and Made Today Brighter

YOUR GIFTS - Fulfilled 1536 Requests at Helping Hands Ministry (HHM)



Assisted 588 Individuals

310 Families

Over 230 children

\$30,000 in Additional Donations Could Assist Over 300 More Families in 2018

Your gifts helped with rent, utilities, transportation & ID replacement

You helped avoid evictions, shut offs, & missed medical visits & employment opportunities

Many more individuals and families received community resource information and referrals, toiletries, laundry soap and other basic items



YOUR GIFTS – Brought Lifelong Learning to People with Disabilities

131 people with disabilities improved their skills at CompuPlace

1570 hours of computer-related learning services

Individually tailored training in communication, reading, spelling, math, money, problem solving, & a full range of general computer skills

People build confidence, improve skills, and take pride in successes large and small

Our many neighbors in need THANK YOU for your financial & in-kind donations.

ECCF employs only 2 individuals

Your tax-deductible gifts also make a difference in people's lives by helping to provide community resource & referral services, as well as low-cost rental space to these ECCF tenants:

- AARP Senior Employment Program assists 30 + local seniors each year to gain skills and find employment. This program serves ECCF with receptionists building their skills here.
- Access2Independence Independent Living Center, assists around 100+ consumers each month
- Cedar Rapids Aquatics Booster Club & Storage with lessons & competitive swimming for 800+ local swimmers per year
- Green Square Meals (GSM) 20,000+ meals each year for diners on weeknights at 4:30 PM
- GSM Food Pantry 300+ participants per year
- HarvestLife Christian Fellowship, with services here on Sundays – **SEE THE HIGHLIGHT BELOW**
- Inter-Religious Council of Linn County, encouraging understanding, respect, and friendship
- NAACP Local Chapter #4013, ensuring political, educational, social, and economic equality
- Narcotics Anonymous Groups - over 100+ individuals per year:
 - Acceptance in Recovery Group
 - Face Anything, Fear Nothing Group
 - Freedom & Serenity Area Group Leaders
 - Pioneer Group
 - The Gift It Works Group
- SERRV Store with high-quality, fair trade, hand-crafted items for sale from all over the world
- Willis Dady Homeless Services & Storage, empowering people to break the cycle of homelessness
- Catherine McAuley Center Storage, transforming lives through education and housing
- St. Paul's United Methodist Church Storage

Tenant Highlight: HarvestLife Christian Fellowship (HCF) members actively care about our Church people. We share friendship, and assist with physical work needs and financial counsel. We serve our building folks through weekly cleaning on Sunday and assisting CompuPlace in the lab. HCF members also serve our community in a variety of devoted and personal ways.

Margaret Bock Housing (MBH): Your gifts to ECCF also provide clerical and other assistance to MBH, A Home on Third. Single adults rent small rooms with shared bathrooms at MBH for \$320 per month. Often a step away from homelessness, people have the chance to get back on track and successfully live independently. Residents may be working through difficulties, finding it hard for them to manage getting their rent paid. Here they have the opportunity to get it right.

We are requesting financial donations and donations of sturdy nightstands, wardrobes, and entertainment centers to convert to wardrobes for both folded and hanging clothes. Much of our day to day maintenance is performed by longer term residents who are proud of their work, and rightly so. You're invited to come & see, and join us for a picnic on May 20 at 4 PM!



THANK YOU!



A lady came in to HHM recently who is working full time to support herself and her children. She has seven kids, six at home, toddlers to teens. They arrived here recently, escaping a terribly violent abuser. She needed to learn about resources in our area, and HHM staff spent a little longer than usual with her. She had left everything behind except her car and her kids. They needed clothing, shoes, a home, everything. She is getting into housing, but needs birth certificates for everyone in order to benefit from available programs. Gifts to HHM helped with birth certificates from various states, and with gift cards for basic necessities. She was extremely grateful for this assistance and for all of the information. She may need a bit more of your assistance once the birth certificates arrive. She said she'd return and let us know how she is doing, so stay tuned for an update!

May you find kindness & respect at the moment you need it most!



Your gifts helped a young man who talks only sometimes and very quietly. He was working in the midst of a large and boisterous group in the CompuPlace lab. He is blind, and we'd discovered a few months ago that he can use screen readers. He did not smile when asked if he wanted to look up music, which he usually enjoys. When asked if he wanted to look something else up on the internet, he smiled. So we let him know when Google was ready for him to type his search terms. A short while later, he was learning about a nine million year old arthropod, and grinning ear to ear. Later returning to this young animal enthusiast, we found him learning about the uniqueness of the soft tissue of certain reptiles. He navigated to other impressive audio about animals we'd never heard of! He was thrilled, and so were the staff that had come with the group. He can prove he knows much, and that we all can learn from him and his thirst for knowledge!

May you learn something thrilling this Spring!



YOU can share your blessings and encourage these individuals and others with gifts that assist with the most basic of human needs – food, home, learning, other basics, and transportation.

Every dollar helps. Your Gift of \$10 helps a person with an all-important ID replacement, or a learning session. Your Gift of \$100 - \$150 helps a family with rent, often preventing eviction & homelessness for families & children. Your Gift of \$250 gets over 50 individuals to work & appointments for one month. Larger Gifts of \$500 - \$750 prevent utility shut offs or evictions for 5 families. Major Gifts of \$1,000 - \$1,500 or more prevent this disaster for 10 or more families.

Items People Need & Appreciate That You Can Give At ECCF

Shampoo	Toothpaste	Nail file	Can Opener	Socks
Deodorant	Floss	Ladies supplies	Flashlight	Washcloths
Soap	Hand sanitizer	Tissues	Water bottle	Laundry Soap – single load
Lotion	Triple antibiotic ointment	Wipes	Granola bars	Notepad/Pen
Conditioner	Bandages	Razor	Protein - can or package of chicken or tuna	Notes of encouragement
Toothbrush	Nail clipper	Comb		

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

Send articles, inquiries, & suggestions to Robin 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 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, 319-362-4284 or helpinghands@ecc-cr.net, 319-366-2651

Donate online at www.ecc-cr.net (Donate via 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.
