



Ecumenical Community Center Foundation

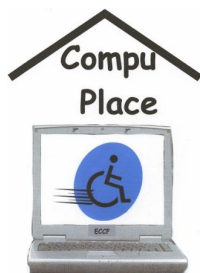
Ministries of Humanitarian Care & Service

Making today better and tomorrow brighter for neighbors in need



Helping Hands Ministry (HHM) helps low income families and individuals with financial assistance for:

- Rent
- Utilities
- Iowa ID's
- Single ride city bus tickets
- Auto Gas vouchers
- 31 Day city bus passes for work
- Personal care items and more to avoid homelessness and shutoffs



- Helps people with disabilities with lifelong learning using computers
- Individually tailored training in communication, reading, spelling, math, & more

Provides community resources and referral services, as well as low cost rental space to:



Cedar Rapids NAACP

Green Square Food Pantry

Green Square Meals



serrv



IRCLC



**Margaret Bock Housing
A Home on Third**

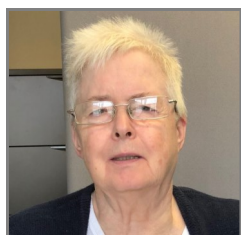


Welcome our new Helping Hands Program Coordinator

Introducing Martha O'Brien as ECCF's new HHM Program Coordinator! She has significant experience leading successful for profit and non profit organizations. Help us welcome this leader with heart, big-picture orientation, day-to-day team oversight skills, and great passion for assisting our neighbors in need.



Why do I volunteer at Helping Hands Ministry?



I have a strong desire to help people and after meeting Robin at a coffee hour at my church, Christ Episcopal, Robin gave me a tour of ECCF. I felt this was a place I could make a difference. It's very humbling to meet so many people who have so little here in Cedar Rapids. I have been volunteering for six months, grateful to share what I have with people who need so much.

How Gifts to ECCF Help Our Neighbors

A lady and her three kids came in to HHM. Wide eyed, frightened, and overwhelmed, they arrived recently, escaping a very violent abuser. She said she had nothing but what they were wearing. "I don't know how to ask for help."

HHM staff printed appropriate information and resources. In order to get help anywhere, she needed an Iowa ID. HHM paid for her ID and also provided personal care items and a gift card for a pair of shoes. After a short time, she found a job. HHM helped with a rental deposit, and has moved to a small apartment. "Thank You! Now, HOME is SAFE for me and for my kids."



Together we can make a difference in the
lives of neighbors in need.

Today we will help them;
tomorrow the help could be for us.



A Message from the Heart of our COO, Robin Brunner



Low wage living is overwhelming. For many whose shift ends or begins when busses are not running, \$6 for a ride home in the middle of the night is a hardship, and often, so is walking. Childcare for babies and children of 2nd and 3rd shift single parents also involves barriers. For day shift low wage workers, there is not time to go to food banks and other helpful agencies which are open only during their day shift.

“Housing cost burdened” means spending > 30% of monthly income on housing.
“Extremely housing cost burdened” means spending > 50% of monthly income on housing. Recently, almost all neighbors assisted by HHM were found to be spending between 40 – 70 % of their incomes on housing, and some even more!

Your gifts to ECCF help these families, and also provide individuals with information, resources, and encouragement to explore other options like financial counseling and half-fare bus cards. Because of gifts to ECCF, even when people feel trapped between numerous rocks and hard places, we make today better, and tomorrow brighter. We strive to empower our neighbors to rise up and to progress.

Thank you for joining us to share our blessings and to be good neighbors!

Attend our focus on and fundraiser to benefit

Linn County Neighbors in Need

November 3rd from 2:00 PM to 4 :00 PM

Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1285 3rd Ave SE, Cedar Rapids

Keynote Speaker: Karl Cassell

Panel Discussion with Moderator Scott Olson

& displays and networking to follow



**Find us on Facebook @ Ecumenical Community Center
Like and Share our posts!**

How to get involved

Become a Volunteer and/or Donate

Donate:

- Personal items
- Can openers
- Detergent
- Hand sanitizer
- Bandages
- Ladies supplies
- Diapers & wipes
- Socks & washcloths
- Toilet paper & tissues
- Granola bars & protein snacks
- Gift cards



Iowa ID's cost **\$10** each

Auto Gas vouchers, also **\$10**

\$ 20 helps someone reliably get to work with a 31-Day Bus Pass

\$150 helps a family avoid eviction or shutoff, helping with rent or utilities

\$225 helps 50 people to get to medical & other appointments

We want to thank First Lutheran Church of Cedar Rapids for printing ECCF's ECHO Newsletter.



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 _____