



The Ecumenical Community Center

1035 Third Avenue SE #201

Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52403

Phone: (319)-366-2651

Email: admin@ecc-cr.org

On the Web: www.ecc-cr.org

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www.ecc-cr.org

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Utilize Your Web Presence & Help the ECC!



**We need YOU to get the word out
about the ECC!**

If you are looking for a new and simple way to help continue to support the ECC, why not link us to your website with some information about our ministries? We can supply you with our logo(s), contact information, and a small blurb to put on your website so that visitors can learn more about the ministry that you support and can learn more about us, potentially becoming supporters themselves! Consider a place on your homepage or on your missions page and help get the word out about the ECC and our ministries! If you would like to help out by utilizing your web presence, please email us at admin@ecc-cr.org and we will send you a blurb about the ministries you support, as well as the corresponding logos and contact information.

A great way to support us without spending a dime!

The Echo

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Special Recognition

A special “thanks” to the employees of Rockwell Collins, pastors of the Cedar River Conference of SE Iowa Synod ELCA and Linn County for financial support for our expansion!

For Rent

The ECC currently has two single offices for rent. For more information and pictures, please visit our website, www.ecc-cr.org.

Letter From the President

I want to share with you the current happenings at the ECC. In a time where daily news stories seem to range from grim to tragic, I want to point out the quiet, positive, wonderful events that you make possible at the ECC.

The ECC continues to work with Green Square Meals to see if that organization is interested in relocating to a building both would share. Last fall, ECC offered space to Green Square if the group was required to relocate. At the time this is written, Green Square is exploring several options. We wish them well wherever they ultimately find a home. Despite the differences expressed as the location of Green Square was debated, the community has truly come together in voicing support for increased services to those in need.

HHM and the ECC are addressing part of that need by an exciting expansion of Helping Hands services. HHM will be opening a satellite office to be located at Crossroads Mission, 526 Third Ave. SW. The satellite operation is a joint effort of HHM, Crossroads Mission and the ECC. The new site will permit additional people to be served on the southwest part of the city. This expansion is (and will be) possible because of the support shown for Helping Hands. It is a move made in faith; the need is there and we are determined to help meet it.

Finally, I want to share the story told by Robin Brunner, director of CompuPlace. She related how one of her clients was unable to speak. However, because of the specialized software available at CompuPlace, her client was able to ‘speak’ during his visits. A miracle for all to appreciate. May we all be given the vision to see God in the everyday!

Jim Kennedy
ECC Board President

Margaret Bock Housing Update

“A Home on Third”

1021 Third Avenue SE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52403

In general, the MBH program is relatively sound financially and physically. Occupancy of over 80% is the yard stick to allow favorable administration and this has been the experience over the recent months.

Additions to the property have been well received and used. Weather permitting, the patio has been used by individuals for grilling, lounging, and on occasion an all-house cook-out. About three times a year, Ed and Pam Bock sponsor an all tenant meal – inside during inclement weather.

Kudos to those who contributed their “green thumbs” to prepare a garden plot and continued effort to weed and feed the garden. Their efforts do not go unrewarded as they have bountiful crops every year. Also noticeable is the landscaping improvements the tenants and some board members who volunteered have accomplished. This is to be a continuing effort.

Hank Hernandez

ECC Board Member

HHM Is Expanding to SW Cedar Rapids!

Helping Hands Ministry opens a new office in the southwest quadrant of Cedar Rapids as of May 2007! The Ecumenical Community Center (ECC) and Crossroad Mission are working together to offer the services of Helping Hands Ministry at the Crossroads Mission location of 526 Third Ave SW (6th Street Entrance); Cedar Rapids, Iowa on Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Barb Kane will be the HHM staff on location.

Crossroads Mission is a non-profit, neighborhood, ecumenical Christian mission to support individuals and families. Included in their services are food pantry, clothes closet, emergency meals, employment assistance, Christian education, bible studies, counseling, pastoral visits, life mentoring, support groups and advocacy.

Helping Hands Ministry – Crossroads Mission (HHM-CM) recognizes the need of those who live in the southwest quadrant of Cedar Rapids and the benefit of collaborating with a neighborhood mission. With limited resources, HHM-CM will rely heavily on **new donors** supporting people in need coming to this new location.

It is our intent that we will continue serving the same number of people or more at our main office. Diversion of funds will not accomplish the goal of serving more needy families in our community.

Any donations supporting this new location, needs to be clearly identified as HHM-CM and sent to the main office: Helping Hands Ministry, 1035 Third Ave SE **#101**, Cedar Rapids, IA 52403.

A BIG Thanks To...

Volunteer Highlight

Odissa Junker is a 2nd year Criminal Justice student at Hamilton College. For her internship, she chose to volunteer at Helping Hands Ministry. She remembers the time when she needed some emergency assistance and HHM was there to help. "I couldn't think of a better way to show my appreciation!", says Odissa. The 120 hours contributed between January 8th and March 20th seemed to fly by.



Odissa Junker

Served as HHM Intern

Odissa not only goes to school full-time and volunteered an average of 12 hours a week at HHM, but is the proud parent of two lovely girls, Olivia age 3.5 and Emma age 2.5 (so sometimes she's a "frazzled" parent).

HHM has benefited from her dedication and ability to adapt quickly to the needs of the applicants as well as program requirements. Odissa has familiarized herself with services in the community and has been a great asset as a program assistant for HHM.

Does this sound like something you would like to do? Call (319)-366-2651 to discuss volunteer opportunities.

Thanks to First Lutheran Church for including both CompuPlace and Helping Hands Ministry in their mission fair in conjunction with a February 18th "Words of Albert Schweitzer and Music of Bach" concert. A free will offering was taken with \$875.51 donated to HHM! HHM also has a new volunteer, Chris Lumm, as a result of this event. Chris volunteers every Monday afternoon. Welcome aboard, Chris!

A Big Thanks Goes Out To...

Ascension Lutheran
 Cedar Rapids Aquatics Assoc.
 Christ Episcopal Church
 Churches United
 First Baptist Church of Marion
 First Christian Church
 First Congregational Women
 First Lutheran
 First Presbyterian
 Gloria Dei Lutheran
 Immaculate Conception Catholic
 Inter Religious Council
 K.P.P.C. Deacon's Fund
 Living Water United Methodist
 Mission of Hope
 Muslim American Society
 Narcotics Anonymous
 Oakland Church of the Nazarene
 Our Savior's Lutheran
 Peoples Unitarian Church
 Prairie Chapel United Methodist
 Salem United Methodist
 St. John's Catholic
 St. Ludima's Catholic
 St. Paul's United Methodist
 St. Pius Catholic
 St. Stephen's Lutheran
 Troy Mills Christian Church
 Welcome Wagon Club Members
 Westminster Presbyterian
 Westminster Presbyterian Women



Helping Hands Ministry

1035 Third Avenue SE #101

Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52403

Phone: (319)-366-2651

Email: helpinghands@ecc-cr.org

HHM Update

Members of the HHM Steering Committee spent a day in March working on a Strategic Plan. You wouldn't believe how much time was spent to come up with a shortened mission statement that could be memorized by all and easy to share with those who want to know more about the program. The revised mission statement is: "Helping Hands Ministry will provide assistance and support to persons in Linn County through collaborations with local agencies and the faith community." Our vision is to expand community awareness and support of Helping Hands Ministry. This in turn, can lead to an increase in the number, quality and geographic area of services. Steering Committee members will continue to work on the development of goals and objectives to be achieved over the next one to three years. Currently there are representatives from seven local churches. Three agency representatives serve in an ex-officio capacity. We would like to have at least three more churches represented on this committee. Anyone interested should contact Lois Rude at 366-2651. One hour meetings are held the third Wednesday noon of each month.

The first quarter of 2007 has proven to be one of high demand and generous donations. HHM was able to assist 238 households (463 persons) in the amount of \$16,121.22 for rent, rent deposits, utilities, utility deposits, transportation and miscellaneous items such as birth certificates, photo identification cards, and work expenses. In addition, 205 households (341 persons) received 1,309 local bus tickets to seek work, keep a new job, and attend agency meetings and/or medical appointments. The Welcome Wagon Club continues to provide quarters for laundry and during the first quarter of this year, 20 households received a total of \$95.00 and utilize free dryers on Mondays at a local laundromat. Personal hygiene items were also distributed from the Welcome Wagon Club.

Three grants were awarded to HHM this quarter. The first is from the Rockwell Collins Employees United Fund in the amount of \$2,700 for computer software and networking to expand services into other areas of Linn County. HHM also received a second year grant from Linn County's Local Homeless Coordinating Board that administers a Federal Emergency Food and Shelter Grant. A total of \$4,400 was awarded for use in moving individuals and families from shelters to permanent housing. Notification was received from the Cedar River Conference of Southeastern Iowa Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America that HHM will receive a check from the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation soon.

Lois Rude
HHM Director

HHM Wish List

For distribution to clients:

- Small bottles of liquid laundry soap
- Dryer sheets
- 4-roll packages toilet paper
- Pre-paid phone cards
- Hy-Vee gift cards (special dietary needs)

For office:

- Gift cards to purchase ink cartridges
- White 8-1/2 x 11 copier paper
- Bright colored cardstock (heaviest available)
- Avery labels (style 8160)
- Postage Stamps
- Financial donations for general operations



CompuPlace

1035 Third Avenue SE #105
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52403

Phone: (319)-362-4284

Email: compuplace@ecc-cr.org

CompuPlace Update

Client numbers per month are, on average, good despite weather and illness. We are serving about 65 individuals each month. Some come weekly or semi-weekly and some come less often with groups. The CR Rec Center's Time Check group is enjoying coming twice a month instead of just once and a new cottage from Tanager also visited and enjoyed CompuPlace activities for an hour. In both February and March, CompuPlace provided over 186 client-hours of service to these individuals.

We now have over 20 working computers, mostly thanks to REACT. Also thanks to a grant from the Rockwell Collins Employee United Fund. This grant will provide more software programs specifically designed for people with disabilities. Additional computers are now connected to the Internet. A golden volunteer has been helping semi-weekly with technical issues for several weeks.

Robin Switzer Brunner
CompuPlace Director

A Special Thanks to...

- Barb Klawiter of REACT for the computers, especially the most recent ones! Also for moral support to the Director and the CompuPlace program as a whole!
- Zach Peters for his generously devoted technical assistance and remarkably gifted expertise.
- 2 family computers, one from the Wedemeier family, the other from the Barnes family.
- A very nice new large wall clock from The Vogeler family.
- A digital camera from a 1st Lutheran church member (please call us so that we may thank you in person!).

CompuPlace Wish List

- Office-type chairs that can be easily wiped and cleaned
- Card or cover stock
- A-2 (invitation sized) envelopes
- White copy paper
- Scratch paper (clean, blank on one side)
- A package of Avery white clean edge business card stock
- 3-4 lightweight portable file boxes
- File folders, new or used (preferably with stickers for new labels)
- One or two (maybe 4 port?) USB hubs
- Gift designations for software designed for adults with disabilities
- Gift designations for attending a conference in Minnesota in October
- Financial support for general operations