



Ecumenical Community Center
1035 3rd Avenue SE #201
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52403
Phone: 319-366-2651
Email: admin@ecc-cr.org
On the Web: www.ecc-cr.org

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage PAID
Cedar Rapids, IA
PERMIT NO. 1017

Return Service Requested

ECC IS ON THE WEB!

Attention everyone! Log on today and bookmark us, because the Ecumenical Community Center now has a world wide presence! You can get information about our ministries, the ministries that use our building, office space that is for rent, and more! In addition, please take note of the following email address changes.

ECC: admin@ecc-cr.org

Helping Hands: helpinghands@ecc-cr.org

CompuPlace: compuplace@ecc-cr.org

CHECK US OUT AT:

www.ecc-cr.org

Coming soon we will have the capabilities of taking donations with a credit card, so that you can donate to ECC and our ministries from the convenience of your home!

We're on the web!
www.ecc-cr.org

THE ECHO



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>From the President</i>	1
<i>Let Us Introduce...</i>	2
<i>ECC Wish List</i>	2
<i>HHM Update</i>	3
<i>CompuPlace Update</i>	4
<i>Ads for Attention</i>	5
<i>ECC on the Web</i>	6

FROM THE PRESIDENT...

I want to thank you for your support of the Ecumenical Community Center. Because of that support, Helping Hands Ministry has been able to substantially increase the financial assistance given to those facing crises. That support has also allowed CompuPlace to reach out to individuals in need of the special adaptive computer equipment and software that CompuPlace makes available.

Do you realize the impact your gifts are having? Can you imagine the relief of a single parent given help with a past-due utility bill? How about the gratitude of a homeless person helped in the search for a job and the documents needed to secure it? Can you picture the expression of a person at CompuPlace learning to master a computer program that increases their independence in some of their everyday activities?

Your gifts touch many lives. Your generosity becomes a form of grace to persons you may never know. May God allow all of us to be a blessing to others.

Jim Kennedy
ECC Board President

Churches United, the Inter-Religious Council and the Ecumenical Center are working to bring a special program to Cedar Rapids in October. The program will explore the dimensions, costs and moral implications of poverty in our community. If you have ever wondered if more could be done to reduce poverty, please watch for information about the Zero Poverty Symposium.

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

Is your church, business, or ministry looking for a new home? ECC has low-cost office space for rent! We have a variety of spaces and sizes available. If you are interested, check out www.ecc-cr.org for pictures and details on each space that we have available!

For more information, see Page 5.

ECC VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Ladies and Gentlemen,
We kindly ask that you consider donating one of the most precious gifts you can offer— your time and talents! ECC is in need of dependable volunteers who can give at least 2-5 hours a week on a fairly consistent basis. If you would be interested in helping in this vital area, please contact Sarah Palmersheim at (319)-366-2651. Thank you!

LET US INTRODUCE...

Our New Development Director, Sarah M. Palmersheim!



First of all, let me thank all of you for this opportunity to get involved in the community and really make a difference! I have so many ideas for the Ecumenical Center, and I cannot wait to get these projects going! I want to take a moment and go over some of my plans— hopefully you will read them and think of all of

the ways you can get involved to help make them happen. Your support will be so crucial— both your gifts of time and talent, and your financial gifts.

While there are many things I want to bring ECC to, one of the main things I want to get up and going right away is a world wide presence! You will find ECC's online home at www.ecc-cr.org. This website will be fully completed by September 15, 2006. Feel free to visit it before then and check out the progress!

A primary upcoming event will be Ecumenical Sunday! We will be asking churches in our area to promote ECC by allowing a special presentation that morning, as well as space to setup a small booth for further information. We are also asking churches to commit to either donating 10% of their offering that day to the ECC, or by continuing the special offering (whichever would be best). The churches that participate will have a special ad placed in the next edition of our newsletter, and will be specially featured on our website with a link to your church website (if they have one available)!

I am so excited to be working with all of you to reach out and impact the lives around us! Stand together with us as we work to expand ECC and our influence on the community—please remember us with your financial gifts and your precious time and talents! Thank you again for this opportunity!

Sarah M. Palmersheim
Development Director

ECUMENICAL SUNDAY IS COMING UP!

Ecumenical Sunday will be every Sunday during the month of October! Check out more details about ECC Sunday on Page 5, or on our website at www.ecc-cr.org! By hosting ECC, you can take advantage of...

- Special ad placed in the next newsletter!
- Special listing featured on our website!
- Link to your church's website (if available)!



ECC WISH LIST

- Volunteers willing to come and help move furniture / clean.
- Volunteers to come into the ECC office to help with basic office duties on a regular, consistent basis.
- Potted plants and flowers (both fake and real)
- Gift cards for office supplies to Target or Wal-Mart
- Stamps for postcards (24 cent)
- A gift of \$300 (or 6 people who give \$50 each!) to cover costs for brochures, etc for ECC Sunday.

If you are able to help with any of the above needs, please contact Sarah at 319-366-2651.

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

ATTENTION BUSINESSES, CHURCHES & OTHER MINISTRIES!

ECC has low-cost office space for rent! Below are the different areas of the building that are currently for rent. All shown prices include all utilities, and you will be able to utilize our DSL for a small monthly cost of \$20.00. Each space will be rented on a one year lease, and after that time will be on a month-to-month basis. We have a small parking lot behind the building and plenty of off-street parking. Please contact the Development Director, Sarah Palmersheim, at 319-366-2651 for further information or to view any of these spaces, or log on to our website (www.ecc-cr.org) to view the space.

OFFICE SUITE... \$500 / month

Includes 3 smaller offices and a larger entry room. Offices measure: 10'2" by 8', 9'4" by 8', and 13' by 7'11". Upstairs unit. Some office equipment (chairs, desks, etc) can be used. Bathrooms located on same level. DSL available for additional fee (easy to setup). Down hallway, more secluded. Available immediately.

SMALL OFFICE... \$150 / month

Near staircase and ECC reception area. Great natural lighting. Measures 11'4" by 8'6". DSL available for additional fee (easy to setup). Available immediately.

SMALL OFFICE... \$175 / month

DSL hookup ready to go. Measures 9'4" by 12'4". Natural lighting. Down hallway, more secluded. Available immediately.

CONFERENCE ROOMS... Call for price quote

We have one large and one small conference room that can be rented on a temporary basis. Pricing will determine if you are a current tenant and the amount / consistency of use.

ECUMENICAL SUNDAY

ATTENTION CHURCHES IN LINN COUNTY!!!

We are designating the month of October to host Ecumenical Sunday's around Linn County! This gives you 5 dates to choose from to allow ECC to come make a personal presentation to your congregation. You can decide if your congregation would be more generous to ECC with a special offering, or by committing 10% of that day's offering. We would like to have a small table to setup for brochures and information for people who would like to get involved.

That's not all though- there are incentives for you! Each church that hosts ECC for a Sunday in October will have a special "thank you" ad in our next newsletter, as well as on our website (and if your church has a website of its own, we'll link the name to your site). Get your name out in the community and help others by hosting ECC during October. **To schedule when your church can host us, call Sarah Palmersheim at 319-366-2651, or get more information on our website at www.ecc-cr.org.**

HELPING HANDS UPDATE...

Thanks to the support of local churches, individuals and small grants, Helping Hands Ministry (HHM) continues to provide limited financial assistance, referrals to other services and supportive care to those in need.

The population Helping Hands Ministry serves asks questions like these:

1. They turned off the water this morning. How can I get it turned back on?
2. What day this week will the sheriff come to empty the contents of my apartment onto the curb?
3. I have \$5.00 until payday. My baby needs formula and I need gas or bus fare to get to work this week. What am I going to do?
4. Thankfully we have food stamps, but how do I buy personal hygiene items, cleaning supplies and paper products?

There are folks in our community struggling with these and other concerns every day. Did you know that the average age of a homeless person in the US is 9? Cedar Rapids is not immune from this problem. Some children miss school because they don't have transportation to get there. Some adults are unable to get or keep jobs due to lack of transportation. All of these problems are happening right here in our area!

A role of HHM is to serve as an advocate for those in need. Work continues on having a Zero Poverty Symposium on Sunday afternoon, October 15. It will be at Kirkwood Training and Outreach Services (3375 Armar Drive NE, Cedar Rapids) from 1:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. This symposium will address two primary questions: What is poverty? What can be done in our community to end poverty?

Would you consider attending and being a part of the solution? Together, we can make a difference! Please call 319-366-2651 with any questions or concerns. Thank you for your support.

Lois Rude

Helping Hands Ministry Director

DID YOU KNOW...?

Helping Hands assists an average of 70 households financially each month.

There are an average of 466 calls each month for assistance.

HHM averages 20-25 appointments per week and accommodates as many walk-in requests with 60% of the assistance budget going to help the homeless acquire housing or keep from losing it.

Another 33% of the budget utilized for utilities. The remaining funds are for transportation, food/non-food items and limited medical assistance.

HHM was able to disburse \$10,506 in the second quarter of 2006.

COMPUPLACE

CompuPlace provides abilities-based computer access and training to people with disabilities, primarily to Cedar Rapids area adults over age 21. About 60 individuals each month spend a total of around 175 hours working on basic reading, math and problem-solving skills, or use special assistive technology to work more efficiently with their disabilities. We have education that is fun, and fun that is educational. Here are some examples:

One gentleman has learned to check his email and do some web surfing with very little assistance. In doing this, he is working on reading skills, and is enjoying the wealth of information for lifelong learning on the internet. He like many other CompuPlace clients has often used a website called Wikipedia to learn about a topic of interest. His interests also include music sites and websites of local businesses. Occasionally he comes in with a specific website he has heard of instead of just a topic. He looks forward to coming to CompuPlace each week.

There is another gentleman who uses much more assistance. He checks his email weekly and receives an ecard each week from a long-time friend. He sends a card in reply, maintaining reading and spelling skills, and then works on a touch screen. He uses his finger to point to and choose puzzle pieces and drag them into place. He can also do a matching game with the touch screen without much help.

Dragon Naturally speaking is a program that allows computer users to operate the computer with voice commands. Several people with limited use of their hands have learned what this software can and cannot do for them. This program can be very helpful for someone who finds typing difficult. Intellitalk is a program that reads aloud what a person types as they are typing. This helps to build and reinforce spelling and reading skills, and can be an avenue of communication for someone, for instance with autism, who does not speak. Zoomtext is a program that enlarges or magnifies the computer screen and also reads aloud. This can be liberating for someone with low vision or other print disability. These are very expensive programs and it is important to "try before you buy" so that funds are not wasted.

The schedule is very full. With more than 20 staff hours per week, more people could be served. Operational funds are the most difficult to find. Thanks to The Ecumenical Community Center Foundation and its member churches, individual donors, a Community Development Block Grant, Christ Episcopal Church's Bruna Fund and the Wal-Mart Foundation's Literacy Grant.

Robin Brunner
CompuPlace Director

CompuPlace Wish List

- Ink cartridges and paper for our printers are always needed
- High-quality, age-appropriate basic reading, math and life skills software can be very expensive
- Specialized equipment for disabled learners, for example, other pointing devices
- Newer computers with video and sound cards and speakers to play the newer games
- Funds to attend "Closing The Gap," a national assistive Technology conference in October.
- A New DVD CD RW drive installed.
- An EXCEL and / or ACCESS expert to help with operational data
- Volunteer for Disk Maintenance
- Anti-virus assistance
- Volunteers who could work with specific disabled individual learners
- Volunteers who could come during times when there are big groups here

*Thank you for your continued support
with our ministry!*