

The Echo

Inside This Edition...

Letter From the President	1
Helping Hands Ministry	2
CompuPlace	3
Tour de Hope	4
ECCF Board of Directors	4
“Hopefest” Participation	5
Margaret Bock Housing	5
A Big Thanks!	5
Our Wish Lists	6

Helping Hands Ministry Open House

Along with five other groups, HHM will be open for a “Tour de Hope” on Saturday, September 26, from 9 to 1. Come for some delicious rolls, muffins, coffee & juice, hear some stories and tour our facilities. (See page 4 for more information.)

Also check out the “events” section of our website at

www.ecc-cr.net

Letter From the President

August is not usually considered a time for reflection.

End of vacation time, anticipation of autumn, yes. But perhaps because we have passed the one year anniversary of the flood, I find myself looking around and taking note of how far the city has come – and the work that still remains to be done.

I look at the Ecumenical Community Center and I realize how much has been accomplished. Since moving to our Second Avenue location we have been able to provide space for the Green Square Meals program as well as the Witwer Senior Center. The Witwer Center, flooded out of their previous location, now has office space at the Ecumenical Center. The Witwer Center shares kitchen and dining facilities with Green Square Meals. The two meals programs have been providing over 500 meals per day to area residents since February 21st.

The Ecumenical Center is providing reduced-cost office space to several local programs. The University of Iowa Foman Infant Care Clinic, the SERRV store, Churches United, the Inter-Religious Council, the Muslim American Society and Cedar Rapids Aquatics all have office space at the ECC.

ECC’s Helping Hands Ministry is giving more financial assistance than ever to persons in the Cedar Rapids area. Thanks to grants from Linn County and Marion, Helping Hands Ministry has been able to provide first month’s rent to several families needing to relocate. CompuPlace has provided a growing number of disabled individuals free access to the program’s specialized computer services.

I thank you all for the support that you have shown the ECC and, especially, the people whom we serve. I ask for your continued support as we all mark how much we have done and note the work that we still have before us.

Jim Kennedy
ECC Board President



Helping Hands Ministry

601 Second Avenue SE #2
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401-1305
Phone: (319)-366-2651
Email: helpinghands@ecc-cr.net

"We provide caring support to people in emergency need and preserve dignity by helping them manage their own lives."

During the first seven months of 2009, Helping Hands Ministry assisted **512 households** representing **995 persons** financially with rent (43%), utilities (37%) and miscellaneous (20%) such as photo identification, birth certificates, local transportation and laundry. A total of **\$37,412.74** out of \$62,400 has been expended. This does not include the other 434 households not requiring financial assistance but in need of someone to listen to their situation and make referrals to existing services when appropriate.

Also during this time period, 57 households/131 persons received help from the Housing Fund for Linn County with first month rent or rent/utility deposits. Another 18 households/47 persons received help from the City of Marion's first month rent grant.

It has truly been a very busy time. Incoming telephone calls average 30 per each six-hour work day. During the last quarter, two more volunteers have been trained. If you are available between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday–Friday, please consider volunteering for one or more 3-hour shifts. **MORE VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!** Training sessions are provided the last Wednesday of every month from 10:30–11:30 a.m. in the HHM office. Anyone interested in becoming a HHM volunteer is encouraged to contact the office and/or come to the training session.

Helping Hands Ministry received wonderful news that its grant application written by Lois Rude to the Housing Fund for Linn County was approved for 2010! A total of \$35,000 was awarded to help with first month's rent, one month rent to avoid eviction, utility or security deposits. This is a \$2,500 increase over 2009 funding.

Barb Kane submitted a grant proposal to the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation for Flood 2008 Fund and was just notified of a \$25,000 award! This will be a separate fund utilized for those affected by the flood (either by water damage or loss of employment). What great news!

A big "thanks" to the faith community for donating \$40,163.78 to HHM so far this year! Individuals have also contributed \$1,323 to date. For those who have donated, volunteered, contributed items on our wish list and upheld us with prayers, thanks for your continued support of HHM! Thanks, also, to Oakland Church of the Nazarene and Echo Hill Presbyterian for inviting us to share information on HHM with their congregations. Please call 366-2651 if you would like a visit.

Lois Rude, Director & Barb Kane, Associate

ECC News

“Hopefest” Participation 09/05/09

The ECC was asked and eagerly agreed to participate in Mission of Hope’s Hopefest ‘09 to be held on Saturday, 09/05/09, from **2-6 pm at Redmond Park** (3rd Ave & 16th St SE) to reach out to the people in our community.

Activities for adults & children, live worship/music and free food will be available. Please stop by our table and enjoy a homemade cookie or two. Staff from CompuPlace & Helping Hands Ministry will be there to greet you.

Come & join in the fun!

Margaret Bock Housing (MBH)

“A Home on Third” 1021 Third Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, IA
Ray Pina, MBH Property Manager 319-361-6871

Our mission is to provide humanitarian care and service with the surrounding neighborhoods by providing low income housing, and to seek local, state, and federal funding in support of this mission. Our facility has 34 rooms for single adult men or women with low incomes.

Tenants pay \$225 - \$240 per month including utilities. A deposit of \$100 is required and applicants are screened for any criminal record within the State of Iowa. All the social service agencies in Cedar Rapids know about our facility.

A nine member volunteer board of directors meets monthly and is very active between meetings as well. This is our tenth year as a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization.

Contributions for day-to-day operations to help cover mortgage payments, property insurance, utilities, property manager Ray Pina’s salary and other expenses are always welcome and needed since no grants provide this help.

Please consider supporting MBH and join us as we strive to continue operating and improving Margaret Bock Housing.

Hank Hernandez

MBH & ECC Board Member

Big Thanks ‘09 supporters

First Baptist Marion
Immaculate Conception Catholic
St Pius X Catholic
First Congregational
St Stephens Lutheran
Oakland Church of the Nazarene
Echo Hill Presbyterian & Deacons
First Lutheran
First Presbyterian, C.R.
First Presbyterian, Ely
Westminster Presbyterian
Our Savior’s Lutheran
Asbury U/Methodist
Living Water U/Methodist
Lovely Lane U/Methodist
Lutheran Church of Resurrection
Peace Christian Reformed
Peoples Unitarian Church
Christ Episcopal
Salem U/Methodist
St Joseph Catholic
St. Ludmila Catholic
St. Matthew’s Catholic
St. Paul’s U/M/C & Women
First Christian & Women
Church Women United
Kiwanis Marion Sunrisers
P.E.O. Chapter LF
Rotary Club of Cedar Rapids
Prairie Chapel U/M/C
Gloria Dei Lutheran



CompuPlace

601 Second Avenue SE #3
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401-1305
Phone: (319)-362-4284
Email: compuplace@ecc-cr.net

...a specialized
computer-based
learning lab

In the first half of 2009, 77 individuals used CompuPlace services. There were an average of 47 clients enjoying 162 client-hours of service each month. Services were provided with an average of 162 hours of paid staff time. All clients now are adults, as our “teens” have turned 21. An average of 13 clients per month could not bring the requested \$7 per hour and needed a monthly average of 33 scholarship-hours of service. With 30+ computers in the lab and office using a variety of operating systems, we e-mail friends and family, find music and work on communication, reading, spelling, math, money, daily schedules, turn-taking, problem-solving and more. We search the internet to achieve all kinds of life-long learning. Volunteers adept at PowerPoint and/or photography could help us make presentations for our clients’ literacy work. This assistance could even be provided via e-mail if necessary. Many thanks to First Presbyterian for their recent grant!

CompuPlace TIPS: Precisely selecting text by mouse-clicking and dragging can be hard.

Highlighting Using SHIFT + DIRECTION KEYS in a word processor:

Put the cursor at the beginning or end of the section you wish to highlight.

Press and hold down SHIFT and tap one of these:

UP, DOWN, LEFT or RIGHT ARROWS, or HOME or END Keys

Until the text you want is highlighted.

Once your text is selected / highlighted, you can do a number of things.

Pressing any letter or the delete key will delete the selection.

CTRL + Z Undo the last action. Very important because if you highlight some text, you can delete it by pressing any key. Great if you did it on purpose and troubling if you meant to do something else!

CTRL + X Cuts the text out of the document and holds it .

CTRL + C Copies the text and holds it

The text is held on a “clipboard.”
until you put something else on the “clipboard.”
This lets you copy something more than once.

CTRL + V Pastes the contents of the “clipboard” at the cursor.

CTRL+S Saves changes made to the document. SAVE SAVE SAVE!

Helping Hands Open House

ECCF Board of Directors

TOUR de HOPE

**Come see God's hand at
work through ministries
in the downtown area**

**SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 26
9 AM TO 1 PM**

*A free progressive open house
featuring moving stories, delicious food,
and fun door prizes*

Begin Anywhere, Be Inspired Everywhere!

www.aidtowomeministry.com/tourdehope

861-2747

Aid to Women
701 Center Point Rd. NE

Equipping Youth
118 3rd Ave. SE #431

Helping Hands
(a program of the
Ecumenical Center)
601 2nd Ave. SE

House of Hope
1744 2nd Ave. SE

Mission of Hope
1537 1st Ave. SE

**His Hands Free
Medical Clinic**
1043 3rd Ave. SE

Jim Kennedy, President, First Lutheran
Charles Scott, Vice President, At-Large
Peter Riley, Treasurer, At-Large
Lois Nosek, Secretary, Mound View
Neighborhood Association
Gary Novak, Salem United Methodist
J.D. Combellick, Peoples Unitarian
Universalist
Dale Crosier, At-Large
Jim Federer, At-Large
Henry Hernandez, Immaculate
Conception Catholic
Ed Holstrom, St. Paul's United
Methodist
David Jiruska, Westminster
Presbyterian
Robin Kash, Wellington Heights
Neighborhood Association
Scott Olson, At-Large
Jean Oxley, First Congregational
Carolyn Schmidt, Echo Hill Presbyterian
Tom Ryder, At-Large
John vonLackum, First Presbyterian-CR
Mary Evans, First Christian
Mary Ann Stewart, Lovely Lane United
Methodist
Claudia Whitney, Christ Episcopal
Church
Donna Jiruska, At-Large

Would you like to support the ECC by purchasing a \$10 booklet to Younker's Fall 2009 Community Day? All of the ECC Board members have booklets to sell. Shop & support ECC... sounds good!



The Ecumenical Community Center

601 Second Avenue SE #1
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401-1305

Phone: (319)-366-2651

On the Web: www.ecc-cr.net

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage PAID
Cedar Rapids, IA
Permit No. 1017

Return Service Requested

(See Website for more details.)

HHM Wish List

For distribution to clients:

- 4-roll packages of toilet paper
- Small bottles of liquid laundry soap
- Deodorant
- Gift cards (special dietary needs)
- Razors and shaving cream
- Shampoo

For office:

- Postage Stamps
- Financial donations for general operations
- Colored 8-1/2 x 11 copier paper
- White 8-1/2 x 11 copier paper
- Gift cards to purchase ink cartridges

CompuPlace Wish List

- Office computer chairs that can be easily wiped and cleaned.
- 1 or 2 (4 port) USB hubs
- Card or cover stock (Clients use to make nice greeting cards.)
- A-2 (invitation sized) envelopes
- White copy paper—any weight
- Scratch paper (clean, blank on one side)
- Empty CD Cases (used; clear front best)
- Lightweight portable file boxes
- File folders (new or used), preferably with stickers for new labels
- Financial donations...
 - Software designed for adults with disabilities
 - “Closing the Gap” Conference in Oct
 - General operational support
 - Sponsor client visits