

The Echo

Inside This Edition...

Letter From the President	1
Helping Hands Ministry	2-3
Mount Mercy University Junior Field of Social Work Intern	3
CompuPlace	4-5
HHM Pizza Ranch	5
Margaret Bock Housing	6
ECC Board of Directors	6
ECC News & Recognition	7
HyVee Coupon Book Fundraiser	7
Wish List for CompuPlace	8
Wish List for HHM	8

Letter From the President

More than a decade ago I was asked by a member of our church congregation if I would join the Board of the Ecumenical Community Center Foundation (ECCF), and I agreed. It wasn't the best of times. The economic downturn in the early 2000's made it a challenge for ECCF to fulfill its mission and remain financially stable.

Through the hard work and skills of our officers, staff, and Board, ECCF is now financially strong. The number of churches supporting ECCF's missions has increased. ECCF acquired a new facility which allows it to host additional non-profit organizations and made it possible to provide a new home for the Green Square Meals Program after the 2008 flood. The CompuPlace Program is expanding and the amount of assistance provided by Helping Hands Ministry has continually increased.

Late last year I was asked to serve as President of ECCF, and I agreed. I am fortunate to assume this role under circumstances more favorable than when I joined the Board. On behalf of ECCF, I look forward to the continuing support of the individuals, churches, and other organizations that have given their time and financial support.

I have stepped down as President of the Ecumenical Center and turn that role over to Peter Riley. I look forward to being an active member of the ECCF Board of Directors and thank all the wonderful, dedicated staff members and volunteers, past and present, who found, and find, ways to help.

Don Leonhart,
Immediate Past President

Peter Riley, President

Helping Hands Ministry

601 Second Avenue SE #2
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401
Phone: (319)-366-2651

Lois Ann Rude, HHM Director
Kristin Moore, HHM Staff Associate



During 2013, Helping Hands Ministry has provided:

Rent to <u>204</u> households (\$23,476.50)	Rent deposit to <u>34</u> households (\$3410.00)
Mortgage Interest to <u>1</u> household (\$150.00)	Electric deposit to <u>6</u> households (\$740.00)
Electric to <u>127</u> households (\$14,201.85)	Gas to <u>20</u> households (\$2,176.11)
Water to <u>24</u> households (\$2,727.98)	Identification/Birth Cert for <u>22</u> HH (\$240.75)
Shelter Rent to <u>82</u> households (\$2,011.00)	Water deposit to <u>2</u> households (\$257.10)
Local Bus Tickets for <u>753</u> persons (\$2,800.00)	Auto Gas to <u>75</u> households (\$1,500.00)

For a total of **\$53,691.29 to 1,350 households** (51 households received both service & bus tickets).

During 2013, a total of 1,350 unduplicated persons received financial help.

Another 7,892 households were referred to other services in the community.

The following grants were received and services provided:

Tokheim Family Trust Fund through the Greater Cedar Rapids Community

Foundation (GCRCF) provided services to 18 households, representing 31 individuals for a total of \$2,882.90. Help with rent (10), electric (9), gas (3), and water (2) was provided.

Linn County Fund through the GCRCF was approved in the amount of \$10,000 to be utilized to provide first month's rent to rural Linn County residents meeting specific guidelines. This can be authorized through June of 2014. To date, six households have been assisted.

Volunteers are an integral part of providing services through Helping Hands Ministry. During 2013, a total of 4 volunteers contributed 535.25 hours of office support.

The HHM Steering Committee meets monthly to provide guidance and support to the program. Ten volunteer members and two agency representatives contributed a total of 156 hours of volunteer time including a four-hour Strategic Long Range Planning session.

A volunteer recognition dinner was held on December 6, 2013 at St. Paul's United Methodist Church. The HHM Marketing and Recognition Committee did an excellent job! Melissa Wagner-Kingery was honored as "Volunteer of the Year".

Helping Hands Ministry = providing assistance & support to persons in Linn County through collaboration with the faith community and local agencies.

Helping Hands Ministry (HHM) is much more than numbers/statistics. It is about people in our community experiencing difficulty in meeting their basic needs. This may be due to being laid off work and being denied unemployment, just starting a new job where the first paycheck is three weeks down the road, or a car repair necessary to keep the current job and needing to choose between repairing the car or paying a utility bill. Whatever the circumstances, HHM staff review their financial situation, make referrals to other sources when appropriate and serve as an advocate for them. Often HHM receives thank you notes or comments on our customer satisfaction surveys done quarterly. Here are but a few...

Thanks so much! Our water would have been shut off!

I would have been evicted from my apartment.

How can I ever thank you?

We have never asked for help before. The staff were so nice to work with and I had peace of mind afterwards.

Thanks just doesn't express how I feel. You are truly wonderful!

Churches that support HHM should be proud of their work. Such compassionate and helpful staff.

I now have a place for me and my son thanks to Helping Hands Ministry!

Want to meet HHM staff and hear more by attending the first Helping Hands Ministry Progressive Dinner? Please check out our website in April for all the details. The tentative date will be Friday, April 25 or Friday, May 2.

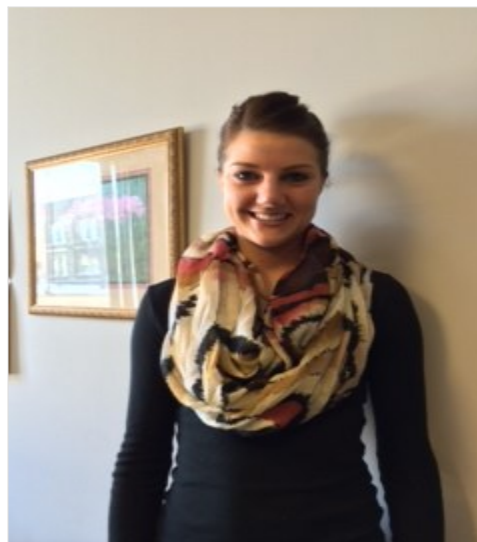
Junior Field of Social Work Intern:

Helping Hands Ministry would like to welcome our new Intern, **Ali Suntken**. Ali is a Junior in the Social Work program at Mount Mercy University and has an Associates Degree in Liberal Arts from Kirkwood Community College.

This past summer she spent time volunteering at a residential treatment center for children through Four Oaks.

On the weekends, Ali works as a waitress. She enjoys spending time with friends and family, going to movies and going to as many country music concerts as she can.

Ali is very excited to be a part of the Helping Hands Ministry team and is looking forward to this awesome experience!





CompuPlace

601 Second Avenue SE #3

Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401

Phone: (319)-362-4284

Email: compuplace@ecc-cr.net

**Robin Switzer Brunner,
Director**

COMPUPLACE: A Specialized Computer Learning Lab for People with Intellectual Disabilities and / or Needs for Assistive Technology

Computers and other devices help many ordinary people do extraordinary things in their daily lives. CompuPlace helps extraordinary people do ordinary things.

Last year, CompuPlace opened doors to success and self-improvement for more individuals than ever before! In 2013, CompuPlace assisted 134 individuals to strengthen reading, spelling, math, communication, and many other types of skills. Success at CompuPlace lies in helping our extraordinary individuals to use their special skills, along with technology, to overcome disability-related obstacles to learning.

We have individuals who can keep calendars and schedules with great detail in their heads, but may have trouble telling what they know to others. Some of our clients are amazing with spatial relations and maps, but have trouble riding in the vehicle that takes them to all the places they know so well. Some know amazing facts about our Presidents and First Ladies, movie stars, or certain musical genre or artists. Some know animal species or sports trivia that an ordinary person might never have heard of!

It is this special knowledge and these keen aptitudes that we use to help these same individuals work on comparisons in both language and math, phonics or whole word recognition, a sense of time, one-to-one counting, or mathematical computation. Our activities exercise memory, problem-solving, expression of ideas, or social skills. We maintain an atmosphere of dignity and fun. Our clients are eager to come, and often work very hard. CompuPlace is like college for these extraordinary individuals.

Sometimes, we go above and beyond technology.
 At CompuPlace, success is often individually defined.
 Here is a poem to spark your thoughts on success:

Success, by Ralph Waldo Emerson

To laugh often and much
 To win the respect of intelligent people
 and affection of children
 To earn the appreciation of honest critics
 and endure the betrayal of false friends
 To appreciate beauty
 To find the best in others
 To leave the world a bit better
 whether by a healthy child
 a garden patch or
 redeemed social condition
 To know even one life has breathed easier
 because you have lived
 This is to have succeeded

Monday, March 31, 2014

5:00—9:00 p.m.

YUMMY FOOD

FOR A GOOD CAUSE

Pizza Ranch at 2450 Westdale Dr SW, Cedar Rapids will donate 15% of meals ordered with this coupon and tips will be given to Helping Hands Ministry.

BRING YOURSELF, FAMILY AND FRIENDS!

**Thanks you for your
 participation!**

(Make copies and share)



Margaret Bock Housing Update

“A Home on Third” = **Margaret Bock Housing**
1021 Third Avenue SE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52403

Margaret Bock Housing at a Glance

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 \$280 - \$300 per month including utilities. A deposit of one month’s rent 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 Margaret Bock Housing.

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 Mike William’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.

Jim Federer, MBH President

Order your White Lights Soy Candles from Helping Hands Ministry today!

Choose from 15 scents in a 16-ounce glass jar for just \$14 each...what a great gift idea (for yourself or others). Stop by the office to see the candles and make your selection!

ECCF Board of Directors

Executive Committee

Peter Riley, President, At-Large

David Jiruska, Vice-President,
Westminster Presbyterian

Jim Kennedy, Secretary,
First Lutheran

Conrad Baumler, Treasurer, At-Large

Don Leonhart, Past President,
Saint Pius X

Scott Olson, Development & At-Large

Board Members

Vacancy, Mound View
Neighborhood Association

Mark Minger, Salem United Methodist

Dale Crosier, At-Large

Jim Federer, At-Large

Don Boland, At-Large

Vacancy, Immaculate Conception Catholic

Ed Holstrom, St. Paul’s United Methodist

Vacancy, Wellington Heights
Neighborhood Association

Jean Oxley, First Congregational

Darlene Schrimper, Echo Hill Presbyterian

Donna Fernandes Jiruska, At-Large

John vonLackum, First Presbyterian,
Cedar Rapids

Vacancy, First Christian

Mary Ann Stewart, Lovely Lane United
Methodist

Vacancy, Christ Episcopal Church

Vacancy, At-Large

Meet: Last Thursday/mo @ 7:00 pm at
Ecumenical Community Center
Conference Room

ECC News:

Unity Center	Christ Episcopal	Echo Hill Presbyterian
First Lutheran	First Presbyterian	Gloria Dei Lutheran
Mission of Hope	Grace Episcopal	Our Savior's Lutheran
St. Pius X Catholic	St. Joseph's Catholic	St. Paul's Lutheran
St. Matthew's Catholic	Marion Christian	St. Stephen's Lutheran
St. Paul's UMC Women	Hus Memorial	Bethany Lutheran
Living Water United Methodist	Lovely Lane United Methodist	
Oakland Church of the Nazarene	Peace Christian Reformed	
Salem United Methodist	Immaculate Conception	
St. Paul's United Methodist	The Mother Mosque of America	
Westminster Presbyterian	Buffalo United Methodist	
First Congregational	Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist	

**Contributions received between January 1 & December 31, 2013
(not including private donations and agency rent)**

**A big thanks goes out to all of you! We could not do it
without you!!! Thank you for partnering with ECC!**

Business & Foundation Partners:

Adcraft Printing	Hills Foundation
Emporium Enterprises	Collins Community Credit Union
M & W Manufacturing	The REACT Center
Paulson Electric Company	Rockwell Collins Employee United Fund
Hibu	WalMart Foundation
HyVee	Kiwanis—Marion Sunrisers
Shirley E. Morrow Memorial Sparrow Fund	
Paul & Glennys Brimmer Foundation	Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation

All 13 HyVee locations in Cedar Rapids and Marion are supporting the Ecumenical Community Center in its mission of sharing ministries and service with the surrounding neighborhood!

You can **purchase a coupon booklet for \$10** from staff at 601 2nd Ave SE any time between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday—Friday. This coupon book **has hundreds of dollars worth of savings on items you would normally buy at HyVee**. In fact, if your family buys at least \$100 of groceries, you immediately get your \$10 taken off the bill. It is truly a win-win-win situation. Buy many books as they are good all year long! See you at HyVee!



The Ecumenical Community Center

601 Second Avenue SE #1
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401

To receive **The Echo** electronically, go to
www.ecc-cr.net or call (319) 366-2651

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

Return Service Requested

HHM Wish List

For distribution to clients:

- Shampoo/Conditioner
- 4-roll packages toilet paper
- Feminine hygiene products
- Razors and shaving cream
- Hy-Vee gift cards (special dietary needs)
- Laundry soap & quarters
- \$ for local bus tickets

For office:

- Postage Stamps
- Colored 8-1/2 x 11 copier paper
- White 8-1/2 x 11 copier paper

CompuPlace Wish List

- White copy paper (any weight); White Card or Cover stock (for clients to make nice greeting cards); A-2 (invitation sized) envelopes for quarter-fold greeting cards
- Photos of animals, vehicles, farm equipment for game development
- Internet hubs (maybe 4 port?)
- Volunteers to help teach clients or for PowerPoint and/or Photo projects making learning games for clients
- \$ for software specially designed for adults with disabilities
- Postage Stamps (just a few each month)
- Financial donations for general support

Printing of the quarterly publication of *The Echo* is graciously provided by First Lutheran Church; Cedar Rapids, IA. Articles may be submitted to Lois Rude, Editor.