

The Echo

Inside This Edition...

Letter From the President	1
Helping Hands Ministry	2
CompuPlace	3
ECC News	4
HHM Social Work Intern	4
MBH Update	4
Open House 03/29/09	5
ECC Board of Directors	5
Wish Lists	6

Letter From the President

We've moved! The Ecumenical Community Center is open for business at its new location at 601 Second Avenue SE. Like many events in life, this move, much anticipated, passed in a blur of activity. Our new location is closer to downtown yet only 5 blocks from our previous address. We have beautiful, efficient office space for Helping Hands Ministry and CompuPlace. Most of the previous tenants at 1035 Third Avenue SE chose to move with us and are also enjoying remodeled office space and all new office furniture.

The Ecumenical Center also acquired the adjacent space at 605 Second Avenue SE and has leased the space to the Green Square Meals program for \$1.00 a year. Green Square Meals now has a new kitchen, expanded dining room facilities and an enclosed waiting area for persons seeking an evening meal. Bus service is available to the new facility, which is only two blocks from the original Green Square Meal site. In addition, the Witwer Senior Center, flooded out of its former location last summer, is sharing the facility with Green Square Meals. Both programs are up and running and preparing over 600 meals daily during the week. The Ecumenical Community Center is pleased to be able to provide space to two programs so very important to the Cedar Rapids community.

Many people have made this move possible. Lois Rude of Helping Hands Ministry and Robin Brunner of CompuPlace have worked hard to ensure a smooth transition for their programs during the relocation. My thanks to the ECC Board members for their guidance. I also want to thank Scott Olson for his vision and patience in making the new location a reality. My thanks to Peter Riley and Dean Spina for shepherding us through the legal process associated with the move. My special thanks to Chuck Scott, Board member extraordinaire, for the countless hours he has provided to the ECC - Chuck continues to be a mainstay of the organization. Last, I thank all of you who have supported the ECC programs and the relocation to our new facility. We will be hosting a 'grand opening' celebration in **March 29th from 1:30—3:00 p.m.** I look forward to seeing you all then. Until then, thank you all for sharing God's blessings so freely.

Jim Kennedy, ECC Board President

Hats off

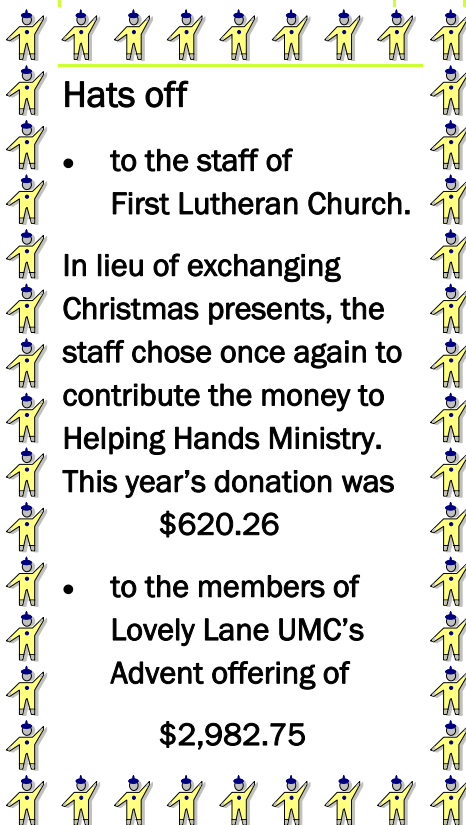
- to the staff of
First Lutheran Church.

In lieu of exchanging
Christmas presents, the
staff chose once again to
contribute the money to
Helping Hands Ministry.

This year's donation was
\$620.26

- to the members of
Lovely Lane UMC's
Advent offering of

\$2,982.75



Helping Hands Ministry

Helping Hands Ministry

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

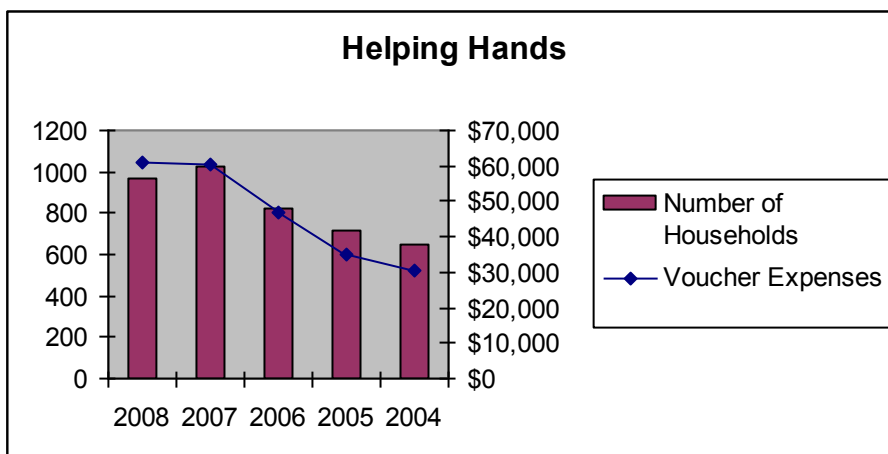
Lois Rude, HHM Director
 Barb Kane, HHM Staff Associate



A total of **965 households/1,852 persons** were assisted by Helping Hands Ministry in 2008.

A comparison of recent years shows the following:

Year	# of Households	# of Persons	Total Voucher Expense	# Volunteers/Hours
2008	965	1,852	\$61,090	10 593
2007	1,022	2,014	\$60,578	14 779.25
2006	825		\$46,848	7 437
2005	712		\$35,137	6 unknown
2004	646		\$30,595	6 unknown



One key component contributing to the success of HHM is its dedicated and supportive HHM Steering Committee. Thanks is extended to Chairperson Kate Brokaw (St. Paul's UMC), Vice-Chair Hank Hernandez (Immaculate Conception & ECC Board), Secretaries Joellen Price (St Pius X) and Mary Kay Pinckney (Linn County General Assistance), Chuck Scott (Salem UMC & ECC Board), Linda Humbert (St. Joseph's), Beverly Smith (Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist), Mary Vorwerk (Lovely Lane UMC), Mary Ann Barry (First Presbyterian, CR), Rev Paul Fuessel (Grace Episcopal), Melissa Wagner-Kingery (Christ Episcopal) and Lorna Golson (Hawkeye Area Community Action Program).

Two grants to provide payment of first month rent have assisted 26 households in Marion (City of Marion grant) and 10 households in Linn County (Housing Fund for Linn County). Money is available to continue providing services from these grants through 2009. HHM staff and volunteers wish to thank all individuals, groups and churches that have donated so this much needed ministry can continue to help. If you would like to know about volunteer opportunities, please contact us. Thanks,

Lois Rude, Helping Hands Ministry Director

ECC News

THANKS for 2009 support*
from:

First Baptist Marion	Living Water U/Methodist
Immaculate Conception Catholic	Lovely Lane U/Methodist
St Pius X Catholic	Salem U/Methodist
First Congregational	Kiwanis Marion Sunrisers
St Stephens Lutheran	
Oakland Church of the Nazarene	
Echo Hill Presbyterian Deacons	
First Presbyterian, C.R.	*It is recognized that some churches choose to send donations to HHM & ECC on a quarterly basis. This report merely shows deposits for the first two months of 2009.
First Presbyterian, Ely	
Westminster Presbyterian	
Our Savior's Lutheran	

Check out our revised website:

www.ecc-cr.net

We appreciate constructive feedback. Please contact us with any suggestions.

Helping Hands **Ministry Intern**

Margaret Bock Housing Update

"A Home on Third"
1021 Third Avenue SE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52403

Margaret Bock Housing (MBH) continues to serve low income single adults with affordable housing. It is currently at full capacity with a waiting list for acceptance. Thirty-four (34) single rooms are available to be occupied. Six of the rooms have an adjoining bathroom where as the remaining 28 share one of several community bathrooms. Rent varies according to the size of the room from \$235 to \$255 per month including utilities and cleaning of all common areas.

The minimum requirements for acceptance are: must be single, have a source of income, pay a \$100 security deposit, pay one month rent in advance and agree to a "criminal check". Rent applications may be picked up at the Helping Hands Ministry office located at 601 Second Avenue SE #2. Raymond Pina is the MBH Property Manager. His hours are: 8 am - Noon, Monday through Friday. **Wish list:** twin sheets & pillows



Teresa C. Hedgpeth is a Junior at Mt. Mercy College and is doing her Social Work internship at HHM. Teresa plans on pursuing a Master's Degree. Her passion is working with prison women, low income women and one-on-one counseling. HHM is pleased to have Teresa 12 hours a week for a total of 156 during the Spring semester. Welcome, Teresa!



CompuPlace

601 Second Avenue SE #3
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401-1305

Phone: (319)-362-4284

Email: compuplace@ecc-cr.net

Robin Switzer Brunner, Director

COMPUPLACE: Provides Abilities-Based Computer Access and Training to People with Disabilities

CompuPlace clients are enjoying the new space! We were able to move without missing any client who could make it here. Many thanks to Lois and Ray Fergus, Churches United, the SERRV Store, Raymond Pina and, of course, Charles Scott for their help moving furniture and the larger monitors. Thanks to the REACT Center's Barb Klawiter, and volunteers Kevin, from Network Solutions, Robert, and also Scott; ECC's internet is up and running. Robert has continued to deftly assist with reassembling the lab.

CompuPlace serves mostly adults with disabilities who are working on basic skills. We provide a unique post-secondary educational option to hard-working individuals. CompuPlace also has Assistive Technology which can minimize or even remove disability-related barriers to computer use. There is great value in a try-before-you-buy technology center – precious dollars are not wasted on “good ideas” that don't work for a given individual. We also serve as an information resource. A sample:

The REACT Center—Accepts computer donations and provides training and refurbished computers to eastern Iowa schools and other non profit organizations.

393-9632

<http://www.reactcenter.org/>

RJ Cooper & Associates—Makes software and hardware for people with special needs. If you call, it may even be RJ who answers! See the wide variety on his site.

800-752-6673

<http://www.rjcooper.com/>

The Center for Disabilities and Development—Working to improve the health, independence, productivity, and community participation of Iowans with disabilities.

877-686-0031

<http://www.healthcare.uiowa.edu/cdd/index.asp>

Universal Design & Home Accessibility— Making homes better for everyone.

515-294-8520

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/UniversalDesign/>

*See our recently updated web page at www.ecc-cr.net
Please send suggestions, especially for usability and accessibility, to:
compuplace@ecc-cr.net*



OPEN HOUSE...

Come to the Ecumenical Community Center
Open House on

Sunday

March 29, 2009

1:30—3:00 p.m.

601 Second Ave SE

Ecumenical Community Center

and

605 Second Ave SE

Green Square Meals &

Witwer Senior Center Meal Program

ECC Board of Directors

- ★ Jim Kennedy, President, First Lutheran
- ★ Charles Scott, Vice President, Salem United Methodist
- ★ 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 Ann Stewart, Lovely Lane United Methodist
- ★ Claudia Whitney = Christ Episcopal Church

As of 03/12/09



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

HHM Wish List

For distribution to clients:

- Small bottles/boxes of laundry soap
- Quarters for laundry needs
- 4-roll packages toilet paper
- Razors/Shaving Cream
- Feminine hygiene products
- Hy-Vee gift cards (special dietary needs)

For office:

- Postage Stamps
- Colored 8-1/2 x 11 copier paper
- White 8-1/2 x 11 copier paper
- Letter size/3-tab manila file folders
- Gift cards to purchase ink cartridges
- Financial donations for general support
- Volunteers (minimum 2 hours/week)

CompuPlace Wish List

- Office-type chairs that can be easily cleaned
- Internet Hubs
- USB hubs (maybe 4 port?)
- A-2 (invitation sized) envelopes for clients' quarter-fold greeting cards
- White Card or Cover stock (greeting cards)
- \$ for software designed for adults with disabilities. These can be \$60–\$150 per disc.
- \$350 for one more MagicTouch touch screen
- \$ to attend October 2009 conference in MN
- \$ for general operational support
- Scratch paper (clean, blank on one side)
- One or a few lightweight portable file boxes
- Empty CD cases, clear in front is best
- A volunteer to take photos & use them to make learning materials using PowerPoint