



## **The Ecumenical Community Center (ECC)**

601 Second Avenue SE #1  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401-1305  
Phone: (319)-366-2651  
Email: [admin@ecc-cr.net](mailto:admin@ecc-cr.net)  
On the Web: [www.ecc-cr.net](http://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:

- 4-roll packages of toilet paper
- Small bottles of liquid laundry soap
- Deodorant
- Gift cards (special dietary needs)
- Razors and shaving cream
- 31 day bus passes (for those with new jobs)

For office:

- Postage Stamps
- Financial donations for general operations
- Avery labels (style 8160)
- 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 2.0 hubs
- White card or cover stock (Clients use to make nice greeting cards.)
- A-2 (invitation sized) envelopes
- White copy paper
- Scratch paper (clean, blank on one side)
- Avery White Clean Edge business card stock
- Lightweight portable file boxes
- File folders (new or used), preferably with stickers for new labels
- Financial donations for...
  - Software designed for adults with disabilities
  - "Closing the Gap" Conference in Oct
  - General operational support

# The Echo

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## Website Notice

Please note that the website has been reconstructed. Be sure to check us out at

[www.ecc-cr.net](http://www.ecc-cr.net)

A new partnership!

Temple Judah Disaster Relief has space in the ECC. Contact Jeff Schneider @ 396-3943 to learn more about their furniture program for flood victims.

## Letter From the President

When you relocate, the process becomes all consuming. The preparations needed for the move, the actual move to a new location, these activities become their own reason for being. It's not until you've been in the new location for a while that your attention shifts. The move is over, now you can refocus on what you brought to a new address.

The Ecumenical Center relocated in February. We are settled into our new space at 601 Second Avenue SE. The newly remodeled space is more attractive, more energy efficient and is designed with our programs in mind. So our attention is again focused on the programs and people that brought us here. CompuPlace is busy as newcomers join long-time clients to take advantage of the new computer facility for persons with disabilities. Helping Hands Ministry is working with a much expanded volume of calls and requests as the residents of Cedar Rapids and Linn County struggle with housing, utility and transportation needs in a post-flood setting.

I thank all of you who made our move possible. Your donations of time and money brought us to this beautiful new facility. I ask you now to keep the Ecumenical Center in mind for your continued support. The Center is serving more people than ever and your help is vitally important. The people we serve rarely attract attention to themselves but their needs are on-going and fundamental.

The move is a reality. Please join us as we work to take advantage of the potential we have all helped create.

May we all meet God in places and faces we never expected.

**Jim Kennedy, President**  
**Ecumenical Community Center (ECC)**



**Helping Hands Ministry**

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

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

Helping Hands Ministry (HHM) is the recipient of two grants to help households with first month rent. **The City of Marion granted \$36,260** to be used for 1st mo rent to Marion residents who were experiencing difficulty moving into a new place. Due to limited income, they could pay either the deposit or the rent, but not both. When approved, the household pays the deposit and the grant pays the rent. During the last 17 months, a total of **33 households** representing **72 persons have been assisted** at a cost of \$12,647.77 leaving \$23,612.23 to be allocated through 2009. As word has spread about this grant, more people are contacting HHM. This grant is only to be used for rent. The income guideline is less than 133% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

The **Housing Fund for Linn County** provided a \$32,500 grant to be used in 2009 for either 1st month rent, rent deposit, one month's rent to avoid eviction or utility deposit to residents of Linn County. Applicants' income must fall within the 30% Area Median Income as determined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. They must pay their own deposit, have a steady source of income/support for the last three months, and show that they will be able to continue paying for ongoing rent afterwards. A budget counseling session with Horizon's Consumer Credit Counseling is mandatory. As of the middle of May, **34 households** representing **70 persons have been assisted** at a cost of \$14,505 with \$17,995 remaining. A grant application for a second year of funding will be submitted in June. This grant was used for one utility deposit, three rent to avoid evictions and thirty first month rents in Lisbon, Central City, Marion and Cedar Rapids.

*We are very thankful for these two grants that have been a tremendous help to 67 households representing 142 persons!*

HHM has a mission to provide material assistance, referrals, and/or supportive ministry to persons in emergency need in collaboration with faith communities and local agencies in Linn County. It provides caring support to people in emergency need and preserves dignity by helping them manage their own lives. They are Linn County residents with incomes that fall below 100% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. Through April of 2009, 285 households representing 580 persons have been assisted with rent, utility, security/utility deposits, and miscellaneous items such as birth certificates, photo identifications and limited transportation. This is made possible by the generosity of the Linn County faith community, private donations and grants.

Helping Hands Ministry thanks for your continued support! If you would like a presentation about Helping Hands Ministry, please contact us at 366-2651.

**Lois Rude, HHM Director & Barb Kane, HHM Associate**

**"Thanks" to our new business partner: Rapids Reproductions!  
[www.rapidsrepro.com](http://www.rapidsrepro.com)**

# ECC News

## Volunteer Highlight

A new volunteer has joined the HHM family following her social work internship at Mount Mercy College. Teresa Hedgpeth became so dedicated to HHM and those served that she has continued as a volunteer. Thank you, Teresa!

Volunteer activities include, but are not limited to, these:

- *Serving as a receptionist and greeting clients*
- *Answering telephone calls & making referrals (with training)*
- *Scheduling appointments*
- *Copying and filing*

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

## Margaret Bock Housing (MBH)

**“A Home on Third”**

**1021 Third Avenue SE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52403**

MBH continues to function very well with a nine member volunteer board of directors. Our board meets monthly and is very active between meetings as well. This is our tenth year as a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation! 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. 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**

For more information call Ray Pina at 361-6871.

## **A Big Thanks to 2009 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  
 Living Water U/Methodist  
 Lovely Lane U/Methodist  
 Lutheran Church of Resurrection  
 Peace Christian Reformed  
 Peoples Church  
 Christ Episcopal  
 Salem U/Methodist  
 St. Ludmila Catholic  
 St. Paul's U/M Women  
 First Christian Women  
 Church Women United  
 Kiwanis Marion Sunrisers  
 P.E.O. Chapter LF  
 Rotary Club of Cedar Rapids



## **CompuPlace**

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**Specialized Learning Services for  
People with Disabilities who  
Cannot use a Typical Computer Lab**

### **CompuPlace Clients and Staff are Enjoying our New Location!**

We have settled into the lab and office with relative ease, though there is still work to do. A garden of older resources and papers still needs to be weeded and manicured. Two older Macs have yet to be set up. There is a need for one or two more big TouchScreens.

One very popular game right now is an old one, Fisher-Price Barnyard Rhythm and Moos. It is a musical click and explore game that works with a Touch Screen. If anyone has an extra copy of this “out of print” CD, we could put it to good use. If you know of any game authors who could help us write similar games, perhaps involving household pets, ocean animals, zoo animals, or wild Iowa critters, please contact CompuPlace.

Other current favorites are typing games. The best programs are ones that will not proceed with a mistaken keystroke. Nothing happens until you type just the right letter. We have discovered a way to type over a PowerPoint slide during the slide show presentation and hope to make in-house literacy materials in this way. If you'd like to help with photos or the PowerPoint presentation file, give us a call.

#### **A total of 30 computers are in working order!**

Disk Cleanup, Disk Defragmenter, AntiVirus, AntiSpyware, and CCleaner all need to be run and checked at regular intervals. This helps to keep the computers healthy and cooperative. Many of our computers are old, and we did have one eat a disc recently. Luckily, we had a backup copy, as this was another old favorite that is now out of print. Thanks to the REACT center and a dedicated volunteer, the CD drive was soon replaced, and a new backup copy of the CD was made.

**Work on the web page continues. Send your suggestions for helpful links!**

# CompuPlace Health Clinic

## Don't let your AntiVirus Expire!

Too many people ignore the irritating little box that pops up telling them that the AntiVirus program that came with their computer is about to expire.

Don't let this happen to you. **MAKE TIME** to install a **REPUTABLE FREE** AntiVirus program. At CompuPlace, we use AVG Free, and have heard the Avast is also good. Be sure you **USE** what you have.

## Learn to Do Disk Cleanup Regularly!

Like the bottom of the silverware drawer, messy, unneeded crumbs should be cleaned from your computer periodically. CCleaner is also used at CompuPlace and can be downloaded and run quite easily. It **IS** possible to remove something from your computer that you wanted. If you don't feel comfortable, get some advice from someone you trust. But **DO** learn to do it yourself if you can. It's not so scary after a few successful run-throughs.

## Get an AntiSpyware program too!

Spybot Search & Destroy is nice because you can immunize against known harmful websites. It should **NOT** run a scan at the same time as your antivirus software is running a scan. They fight.

**www.filehippo.com** is an Easy to Use Download site

## ECC Board of Directors

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

As of May 2009