

The Echo

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Letter From the President

The Ecumenical Community Center continues to grow and change. The Helping Hands Ministry program is making changes to help ensure emergency funds are available throughout the month. Meeting increased requests for help is currently difficult for all groups that rely on donations. The economy has reduced donations but greatly increased requests for help. The Helping Hands staff checks to see if other programs or resources are available as well. When no other help can be found, Helping Hands staff can provide emergency financial aid for rent and utilities.

CompuPlace continues a program of computer access that is both successful and unique. Focusing on adults living with disabilities, CompuPlace provides specially designed computer software and assistive devices to provide opportunities for learning, entertainment and creativity.

The Ecumenical Center continues to offer low-cost office space to several non-profit programs. This program helps Green Square Meals and the Witwer Senior Center to provide hundreds of meals each week to area residents. The Foman Infant Center is able to provide infant nursing care from the University of Iowa to qualifying residents in the Cedar Rapids area. The Tapestry Program is a growing exchange program that allows people to trade goods for services and vice versa when cash is limited. The C.R. Aquatics Association is highlighted in this issue of The Echo.

It should be noted that Margaret Bock Housing continues to provide low-cost, single room occupancy housing. This program, unique in Eastern Iowa, split off from the ECC in 2000. The housing program is at full capacity, thanks in large part to the excellent management of the Margaret Bock Board of Directors. Helping Hands staff provides applications and background checks.

As we enter the mid-year for 2012 I hope that you will continue to be part of the ECCF story. We must expand our programs to meet greatly increased needs. We need your financial support and donations of time more than ever. On behalf of the Ecumenical Center, thank you for your support. Someone in need can experience God's love through your contributions.

Jim Kennedy, ECC President

* * * * *
 * Mark Your *
 * Calendar *
 * Upcoming Parades *
 * with Helping Hands *
 * featured: *
 * Robins Roundup *
 * 06/09 @ 10:00 a.m. *
 * Hiawatha Hog Wild *
 * Days 06/23 @ 10:30 *
 * a.m. *
 * TOUR de HOPE *
 * progressive open *
 * house for ECC and 5 *
 * other organizations *
 * on Saturday, 10/13 *
 * from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. *
 * * * * *

Helping Hands Ministry

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



Check out the new **“Poverty” video** on www.ecc-cr.net featuring Kristin Moore! This was a KCC project conducted by Ismail A. Alyassiri. A special “thank you” to Kristin for a great job!

During the first four months of 2012, Helping Hands Ministry has provided:

Rent to 111 households (\$11,572.44)	Rent deposit to 5 households (\$550.00)
Electric to 49 households (\$5,522.38)	Gas to 7 households (\$617.78)
Water to 7 households (\$586.19)	Identification/Birth Cert for 5 HH (\$39.00)
Shelter Rent to 11 households (\$231.00)	Local Bus Tickets for 156 persons (\$400.00)

For a total of **\$19,518.79 to 346 households** (5 households received both service & bus tickets)

A “snippet” of a day at HHM...(the door opens at 10 a.m.) Waiting to be seen was a 34 year old single male staying at the Mission of Hope Shelter. He had questions on services available in the community. He had moved here from Des Moines four days ago and was actively seeking work as a CNA. He worked a few days for a local temporary service and earned \$263 which is not enough to move into his own apartment. Referrals were made to Linn County General Assistance for rent, to Margaret Bock Housing for possible single room occupancy living arrangements, to Department of Human Services for food and IowaWORKS to register for employment. He did not have a vehicle so HHM authorized six local bus tickets. An application for Margaret Bock Housing was given and received by HHM staff and he was linked with the building manager to view the rooms.

A total of six scheduled appointments were seen with services provided to five with rent (1 for \$100), electric (1 for \$126.32), electric deposit (1 for \$150); birth certificate (1 for \$24); and water (\$125). One applicant did not bring all the required documentation to her appointment and will return within two days to complete her request for rent. All were extremely appreciative of the help. Nine households came in for local bus tickets and were assisted by the office staff. One volunteer wrote “thank you” notes to churches that donated money in the past two weeks. One volunteer entered client data onto the Service Point database. A total of 64 incoming telephone calls were received. At 4 p.m. staff and volunteers were done for the day and the office closed.

“Every day is unique...rewarding...and spiritually uplifting!”

Please contact us with any questions you may have or to schedule a tour.

Lois Ann Rude, Director

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

Helping Hands has a newly established Fundraising Committee that has been working on several exciting ideas. We will be offering a wide array of new items for sale, including Helping Hands T-shirts, lapel pins, and coffee mugs. These will be available for purchase soon, so watch out for order forms on our website if you are interested! The fundraising committee will also be implementing a new online donation system which will feature a donation tracker; we hope you will check out this new feature and watch as we work together to reach our fundraising goals. You will also be able to find us at Robins Round-Up (June 8-9) and at the Hiawatha Hog Wild Days parade (June 23rd), so be sure to stop by and enjoy these wonderful events! We will provide updates on our fundraising progress, so stay tuned! We are so thankful for the support and time we are given to make our mission possible!

Kristin Moore, Fundraiser Committee Staff Liaison

Order your White Lights Soy Candles from Helping Hands today!

Choose from 15 scents in a 16 ounce glass jar for just \$14 each...what a great gift idea (for yourself or others). Send a check to Helping Hands along with how many/what scent (Almond Butter, Buttercream Frosting, Caramel Rum Swirl, Cinnamon Bunds, Fresh Laundry, Honey Pear Cider, Hot Apple Pie, Iced Cinnamon, Old Fashioned Christmas, Pomegranate, Pumpkin Spice, Raspberry Almond, Tangerine & Lemongrass, Toasted Hazelnut, and White Tea).

Non-profit Agency Highlight: CR Aquatics Association

Cedar Rapids Aquatics Association (CRAA) is a non-profit organization offering year-round competitive swimming to individuals from the Cedar Rapids community and surrounding areas. Swimmers in CRAA competitive programs range in the ages of five to over fifty. Additionally, CRAA provides swimming lessons to over 1,200 children a year!

CRAA uses the swimming pools located at Coe College, Jefferson High School, Washington High School, Kennedy High School and the University of Iowa to run its practices, swim meets and swimming lesson programs.

The mission is to provide our community and surrounding areas with a USA Swimming Club which promotes the sport of swimming, teaching and training all levels of swimming and emphasizing individual progress with club unity. Individuals are given the opportunity to pursue their goals in the sport to whatever level they aspire and are capable of achieving. CRAA vision is to empower individuals to be successful in life through excellence in swimming.

CRAA employs around forty full-time and part-time employees. CRAA looks to train its staff to provide the best aquatic teaching services in the community of Cedar Rapids. As a non-profit organization, CRAA provides swimming opportunities through scholarships to those who qualify. For more information, please visit the website at www.CRAA.org.

Bobby Kelley (319) 247-2722



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

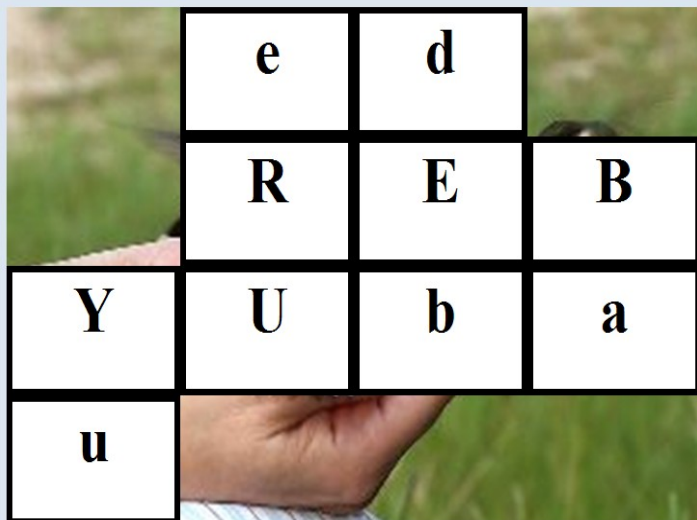
CompuPlace has recently been celebrating the successes of several new individuals. They are playing games, surfing the Internet, and improving typing, reading, and many other communication and problem-solving skills.

In the first quarter of 2012, 60 individuals received 155 client hours of service per month via 167 hours of paid staff time. Total client hours of service provided were 465 via 501.75 paid staff hours. \$2,126.75 was contributed directly to the CompuPlace program by clients, their family members and the community.

We need your help taking photos in the community. We have a list of "sight" words and other useful words and we need volunteer photographers to take pictures to go with these words. We will use the images to make games for our clients to improve word recognition and spelling. The nouns will be easier, and even very young photographers could help. Action words, and some others, might require some creativity! The list of words could be short or long, depending on hour time and availability.

Perhaps you know someone who could help us with some fun sound and video clips. Do you have a favorite instrument? How about some favorite songs? Could you gather some funny short videos? This could make a great summer activity, either for individuals or for a group of friends. Schedule a tour to learn more details.

Call Robin at 362-4284 or e-mail, either from the link on www.ecc-cr.net, or directly to compuplace@ecc-cr.net.



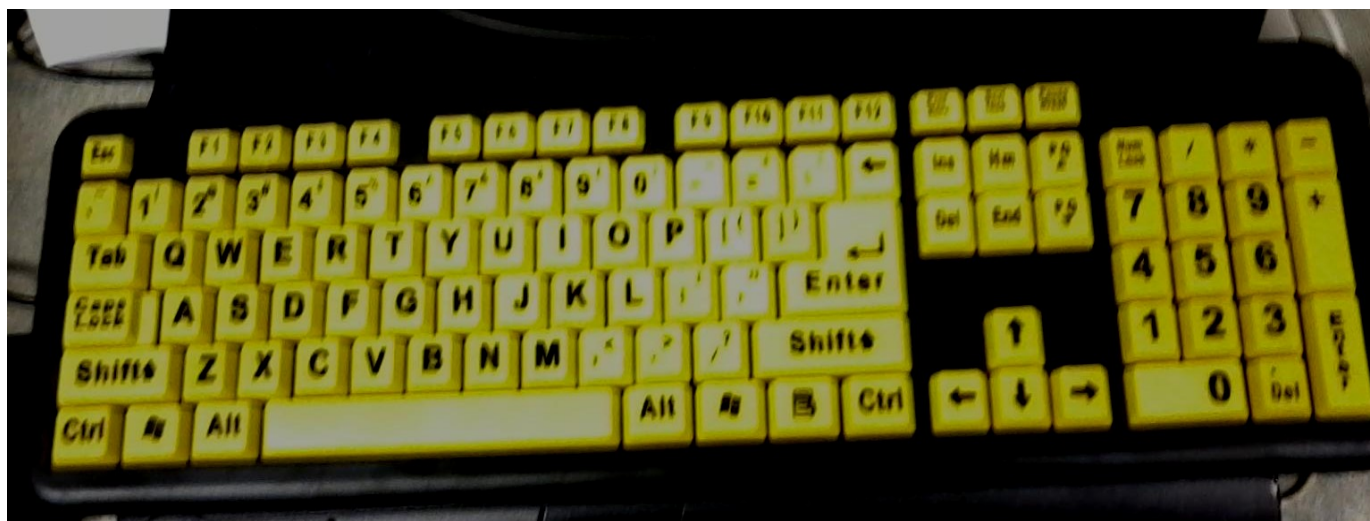
FIND THE R

Take a look inside!

Call to schedule a hands-on, demonstrative tour of our lab.

See how hard we work and how games and the Internet can build brain power.

CompuPlace has a new game for recognition of upper and lower case letters!



And we have a few individuals who are learning to be more independent by using track balls in various ways. Some use a track ball as you see here, while others use two hands. Separating the point and click tasks into moving the mouse arrow with one hand and clicking a button with the other hand can help greatly. Some clients even use a regular mouse with one hand to move the arrow and a track ball to click with the other hand to click. It is a real joy to step back and watch a person discover how well they can operate the computer!

Touch screens that don't require a mouse, and screen readers that read on-screen text aloud are also very important here.



Calling all photographers! Can you help CompuPlace? We need your help taking photos in the community.



ECC News:

Contributions received between January 1 & April 30, 2012 (not including private donations and agency rent)

St Pius X Catholic
Immaculate Conception Catholic
Echo Hill Presbyterian Deacons
Our Savior Lutheran
St. Andrew Lutheran
Living Water U/Methodist
St. Stephen's Lutheran
Peace Christian Reformed
St. Paul's U/Methodist
Lovely Lane U/Methodist
Prairie Chapel U/Methodist

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic
Oakland Church of the Nazarene
First Lutheran
Salem U/Methodist
Westminster Presbyterian
Buffalo U/Methodist
Mission of Hope
St. Paul U/Methodist Women
Gloria Dei Lutheran
Ascension Lutheran

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

If your church or organization has donated and is not listed here, please call the office at 366-2651. We do not want to miss recognizing anyone!



Charitable Estate Planning to assist ECC—

Estate planning offers you the opportunity to make an enduring statement of confidence. This act of stewardship can leave an indelible mark on the programs of the ECC. You may be surprised that even a small asset can be turned into a gift which will support your choices into perpetuity. You may even identify assets previously not considered that could be used to make a generous gift. Would you consider putting ECC in your will?

The Ecumenical Community Center provides low-cost office space to nearly a dozen other non-profit agencies.

These agencies in turn provide a variety of services to the Cedar Rapids community. The reduced rent offered by the ECC allows these agencies to focus more of their precious dollars on direct help to the groups they serve. If your agency / business is interested in renting space at the Ecumenical Community Center, please contact us. All spaces for rent have full access to our break room, conference rooms (as available) and bath-



The Ecumenical Community Center

601 Second Avenue SE #1
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401

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

Return Service Requested

HHM Wish List

For distribution to clients:

- Shampoo/Conditioner
- 4-roll packages toilet paper
- Feminine hygiene products
- Hy-Vee gift cards (special dietary needs)
- Quarters for laundry needs
- \$ for local bus tickets

For office:

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

CompuPlace Wish List

- White Card or Cover stock (for clients to make nice greeting cards); White copy paper (any weight)
- Apple Pro Mouse
- Photos of animals, vehicles, farm equipment for game development
- A-2 (invitation sized) envelopes for quarter-fold greeting cards
- Internet hubs (maybe 4 port?)
- Volunteers for PowerPoint and/or Photo projects making learning games for clients
- \$ for software specially designed for adults with disabilities
- \$ to attend "Closing the Gap" conference

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.