

**The Ecumenical
Community Center**

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Special Edition

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The Echo

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Inside this issue:

Who We Are	1
Where We Are Going	1
HMM Wish List	2
Help HMM Expand!	2
CompuPlace Wish List	3
CompuPlace Details	3
GoodSearch Details	4

Who We Are

The Ecumenical Community Center (ECC) is located at 1035 Third Avenue SE in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. We provide low-cost rent to nearly a dozen other non-profits, including our ministries, Helping Hands Ministry

(HMM) and CompuPlace. Inside this Special Edition Newsletter, you will find details about these ministries, and more information about our dream for expanding each of them. You will also find their individual wish lists and

how you can help us achieve our mission of impacting more lives within Linn County. Please consider how you can help us to provide more services to more people during this holiday season!

Where We Are Going

We have big dreams for the future of the ECC and our ministries! We would like to have an HMM office in all four quadrants of Cedar Rapids, and eventually one in both Hiawatha and Marion. CompuPlace

is the only ministry of it's kind in the area, and we would like to upgrade the computers, software and hardware so that our technology is as up-to-date as possible. In addition to this, we would like to

have additional funds to support more staff, so that we may serve more clients within both ministries. To accomplish this goal we are seeking future grant opportunities in addition to your gifts.

How You Can Help

We are dependent on the Linn County community to help us attain our vision. You can help with donations of your time, talents and finances. You may also donate in-kind gifts. Items that are currently

needed are listed inside under each ministry's wish list. You will also learn more about how you can have an active role in each ministry's expansion. Please consider giving to the ECC this holiday

season, and making it an ongoing gift throughout the year. All financial and in-kind gifts are tax deductible. **Thank you for support this year and beyond!**

Special points of interest:

- How you can help the HMM expand to all four quadrants of Cedar Rapids!
- Learn more about CompuPlace and how important this unique ministry is!
- Our Wish Lists are inside!



Helping Hands Ministry

Helping Hands Ministry (HMM) is located at 1035 Third Avenue SE #101 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

They provide individuals and families with limited material assistance on an emergency basis, helping with rent, utilities, and / or supportive services and advocacy. The HMM

staff and volunteers help to prioritize a client's needs and work with community agencies and funding sources to meet those needs. The staff offers someone to talk to; someone to share concerns with; someone to encour-

age reaching goals and then re-joining in those accomplishments.

Anyone in Linn County who is in need of emergency help is eligible

to apply. There is no charge and the services offered are not restricted based on race, gender, income level, religion or creed.

Helping Hands Ministry is open Mon-

day through Friday, 10:00 AM—4:00 PM. You can learn more about the Helping Hands Ministry by logging on to our website at www.ecc-cr.org or calling the HMM Director, Lois Rude, at (319)-366-2651.

Did you know that Helping Hands Ministry has new office hours? We are now open Monday—Friday, 10:00 AM—4:00 PM!

Help HMM Expand to All 4 Quadrants!

HMM would like to have an office in all four quadrants of Cedar Rapids and beyond! Being located in the SE quadrant results in the majority (89%) of current program recipients being from this neighborhood. For those in poverty, transportation and knowledge of available services are barriers. Being accessible in three or four more locations would reach the estimated 2,000—2,400 households not currently accessing services. The top barrier for homeless and near-homeless individuals is finding and keeping housing due to insufficient funds for rent, utilities and deposits. You can help us expand by increasing your current financial gifts or by committing to support us on a monthly basis.

HMM Wish List

- Heavy duty paper shredder
- Updated PC Laptop
- Printer Paper
- Postage Stamps
- 9" by 12" Brown Envelopes
- Gift Certificates to Staples and / or Office Max
- Gift designation for local bus tickets (as a non-profit, HMM is able to purchase tickets for half price)
- Gift designations for gas gift certificates.
- Brochure rack.

Our dream is to expand to all four quadrants of Cedar Rapids and beyond! Join us as we assist your neighbors in Linn County!



CompuPlace

Would you like to donate your time and talents to CompuPlace? Log on to our website, www.ecc-cr.org, or call the CompuPlace Director, Robin Brunner, at (319)-362-4284.

CompuPlace is a one-of-a-kind computer resource center for individuals with disabilities located at 1035 Third Avenue SE #105 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The mission of CompuPlace is to improve the quality of life for individuals with disabilities through computer related activities that are both educational and recreational. This mission is achieved through providing abilities-based computer access and training to

individuals with disabilities, primarily to Cedar Rapids area adults over the age of 21. Sessions are tailored to meet the specific needs of each individual; stimulating the development of literacy, language, reasoning, and academic and creative skills through touch screens, voice recognition, large print, etc. Internet access and e-mail allows individuals to keep in touch with family and friends!

You can learn more about CompuPlace and how we are serving persons with disabilities at www.ecc-cr.org!

CompuPlace Wish List

- Volunteers to help facilitate sessions (not a techie but enjoy working with the people? That's okay- we can still use you!)
- Volunteers to help maintain the computers
 - Printer Paper
 - Gift Certificates to Staples and / or Office Max
- Gift Designations for new computer hardware / software
 - USB Hub
- Gift Designations for client scholarships

Help CompuPlace Expand!

CompuPlace is in need of volunteers to help facilitate sessions with clients so that more clients may be seen at any given time. In addition, CompuPlace needs people to help update their computers to make sure they are all working properly. If you would like to donate your time and talents to CompuPlace, call Robin Brunner at (319)-362-4284.

Margaret Bock Housing Special Request

Margaret Bock Housing is requesting twin bed sheets for their tenants. They can be fitted or loose. Please drop off all sheet donations to the Helping Hands Ministry (1035 3rd Avenue SE #101, Cedar Rapids). Your gifts to Margaret Bock Housing are tax deductible.