

The Echo

Inside This Edition...

Letter From the President

Letter From the President	1	A couple of years ago I heard author Jeannette Walls (<u>The Glass Castle</u>) speak in Iowa City. Ms. Walls was describing her grandmother who sometimes drove a small school bus. If the bus became stuck or just needed help to climb a hill, her grandmother would have her students get out and recite prayers as they pushed the bus. ‘Push and pray’ was her grandmother’s shouted encouragement to her students.
Helping Hands Ministry	2-3	
Non-profit Agency Highlight: Foman Infant Nutrition	3	
CompuPlace	4-5	Push and pray – I still like the combination of action and faith. The programs of the Ecumenical Community Center face the same challenge many organizations currently face. Requests for services are increasing and outstripping the resources available.
Car Donation Program	5	
Margaret Bock Housing	6	
Alternative Gift Market	6	Helping Hands Ministry receives nearly 2,000 requests for help each month. If community resources cannot be found to address the caller’s need, Helping Hands tries to provide emergency financial assistance. But requests for help are growing and already exceed available funds. And the calls for help keep increasing.
ECC Board of Directors	6	
ECC News	7	
Wish Lists for Helping Hands & CompuPlace	8	CompuPlace is expanding the computer hardware and software available to individuals with disabilities. The CompuPlace program provides computer services that are unique in Iowa. But once again, demand for the services is exceeding the resources to fund them.
Mark Your Calendar	1	



Cold Weather is Coming!!!

Please donate gloves, hats, scarves, socks (new, clean & in good repair) to be distributed by Helping Hands Ministry

The ECC provides space for the meals programs of Greensquare Meals and the Witwer Senior Center. Several non-profit agencies such as the Foman Infant Unit, Narcotics Anonymous and Cedar Rapids Aquatics receive reduced cost office space. As a result of the reduced-cost space each of these programs is able to spend more of their funds on direct service.

Push and pray. There is a great need now for action and faith. Please consider helping the Ecumenical Community Center if you can. Thank you all for your support. Our combined action and faith will carry us over the challenges our community faces.

Jim Kennedy, ECC President

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



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

Rent to <u>208</u> households (\$21,620.44)	Rent deposit to <u>15</u> households (\$1705.00)
Mortgage Interest to <u>1</u> household (\$150.00)	Note: Housing assistance is the highest demand.
Electric to <u>119</u> households (\$13,056.15)	Electric deposit to <u>6</u> household (\$635.00)
Gas to <u>16</u> households (\$1470.95)	Identification/Birth Cert for <u>14</u> HH (\$120.00)
Water to <u>23</u> households (\$2,225.18)	Water deposit to <u>2</u> households (\$175.00)
Shelter Rent to <u>30</u> households (\$630.00)	Local Bus Tickets for <u>493</u> persons (\$1,400.00)

Some people come to HHM just for local bus tickets.

For a total of **\$43,187.72 to 576 households/953 persons** (26 households received both service & bus tickets). In total, 1,420 unduplicated persons received help during the first 9 months of 2012.

Recognizing that the economy has impacted giving to the faith community, donations from supporters has declined (especially over the summer months). For the first time, HHM has reached out to business leaders to seek their support. The first business to respond was Philipp Trucking, Inc. A big “thank you” goes out to them as well as Adcraft Printing, Family Psychology Associates, PC and Clark’s Pharmacy! We hope to hear from others before the end of the year.

We have developed an appeal letter that could be shared with your employer should you want to donate to Helping Hands Ministry and have the employer match your donations. Please contact HHM if this sounds like something you would be interested in pursuing.

Our candle sales are going well with 51 out of 100 sold in the first month! Check out our website for more information or our Facebook page (Helping Hands Ministry Cedar Rapids Iowa). Please visit Facebook and “like” us. You may win a candle! And just in time for the Holidays, our Old Fashioned Christmas candles have arrived! They will be available at the November 2nd World Community Day sponsored by Church Women United. I am pleased to be the guest speaker at this event and share what is happening at Helping Hands Ministry!

HHM will be at the Alternative Gift Market being held Saturday, December 1, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Echo Hill Presbyterian Church (9000 C Ave NE). Instead of giving Grandpa another tie or Grandma another apron, come and contribute to Helping Hands Ministry in their honor and receive a nice card to write a special message in along with an insert that explains HHM. Candles will also be available for purchase.

Thanks for joining us in action and faith as we “push and pray” for Helping Hands Ministry now and in the future! Have a blessed Christmas and Holiday Season!

Lois Ann Rude, Director

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

A progressive open house (called Tour de Hope) was conducted Saturday, October 13 with six non-profits participating. People could visit the Ecumenical Community Center's Helping Hands Ministry and CompuPlace, Metro Catholic Outreach, Medical Lending Closet (Grace Episcopal), Equipping Youth, and His Hands Free Medical Clinic. Comments received from participants were: "I was unaware of all these services!" "What great resources we have for those experiencing hardships!" "Keep up the good work." "Thanks for making this possible; Will it be held again next year so I can bring others?" Yes, we will hold it again. A suggestion was made to coordinate with the Downtown Farmer's Market dates.



Kristin Moore, Lois Rude & Jessica Stamper

Non-profit Agency Highlight: Foman Infant Nutrition

What is the Foman Infant Nutrition Unit Department of Pediatrics of the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics? This program is committed to the improvement of the nutritional management of infants through scientific investigation and education. Manufacturers of infant formulas often rely on studies conducted by this unit as a basis for formula modifications.

Participation in a nutritional study is voluntary. Healthy breast fed or formula fed babies are eligible. For some studies, the infant must be between new born and 9 days old. For others, they can be accepted at one month of age. Most studies involve infant weight and length measurements. Some studies may involve the obtaining of blood samples. Some compensation is provided.

The Foman Infant Nutrition Unit of the University of Iowa invites you to learn more about the current nutrition studies available for your infant.

Please call Janice Jeter (319) 335-4936 or (866) 778-5818

or Jean Sullivan (319) 467-4525. Clinics are located in Coralville & at the Ecumenical Community Center at 601 2nd Ave SE (6th Street entrance) by appointment only.

Fax: 319-335-4856

E-mail: janice-jeter@uiowa.edu or ekhard-ziegler@uiowa.edu



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

The past few months at CompuPlace have been exciting! Even more new Letter, Spelling, Trivia & Matching games are being developed. Our games are tools for learning that reveal and cultivate abilities. With them we are meeting a variety of educational needs in ever more personally tailored and age-respectful ways.

During July through September, an average of 63 individuals received 163 client-hours of service per month via 160 hours of paid staff time. Thanks to volunteers from New Life Community Church, we have a large number of pictures to complete a Spelling game that includes many of the basic reading, or Dolsh, words. These young photographers familiarized themselves with CompuPlace clients' needs, and creatively captured images that are changing lives.

People who talk in typical ways often take easy communication for granted. New successes at CompuPlace coincide with development of our learning games, and especially with Spelling games that employ liberal hints. Triumphs include specific loving expressions for family members, initiating for the first time a request for a simple drink of water, and even joking to lighten the mood on a tough day. If CompuPlace walls could talk they'd have many stories of accomplishment to tell.

While we have fun, we defy pessimistic labels and predictions. After Robin caught a glimpse of her pattern recognition skills, one lady is using those skills and our games to learn letters, their sounds and the meaningful words they make. She is over 50 years old, and when she was diagnosed at age 3, her family was told she'd never develop these skills. She and her mother want you to know that she is indeed augmenting her understanding through her work here at CompuPlace. And she's having fun! We are proud of her effort at overcoming monumental obstacles!

COMPUPLACE (cont.)

Thanks to a generous gift from an anonymous donor, the recent Closing the Gap conference in Minnesota was a truly amazing experience for the CompuPlace Director.

Beginning on Wednesday, October 17, Robin attended as many sessions as possible. There was so much to learn! Many of the conference sessions focused on iPad use by people with disabilities. There are many ways to use iPads as Alternative / Augmentative Communication (AAC) devices and as Speech Generating Devices (SGD's). A number of reasonably priced apps have been developed to enable people to express their needs, knowledge and ideas by touching pictures or symbols on their iPads. Cases have been designed that will protect iPads not only from lively use and being dropped, but, impressively, from sailing across the room and into walls!

Accessibility settings can make the iPad usable by many more individuals. For example, Voice-Over reads the screen. Zoom and Large Text can make the iPad easier to see. Assistive Touch can allow switch access and make special iPad gestures easier. Triple-Click Home makes it easier to turn on many accessibility features.

Sessions on Video Self-Modeling were enlightening. The idea is to use mobile devices to capture people comporting themselves well. Videos of exemplary behavior shown to individuals before an activity or even just once a day for a couple of weeks can reinforce desired or necessary behavior in positive and amazing ways.

Evidence-based work detailed at the conference supports the abundance of anecdotal knowledge we have about learning and individuals with disabilities. It can also improve our practices and augment our successes. For instance, the National Professional Development Center on Autism Spectrum Disorders has a whole host of resources and training modules.

Age-respectful literacy materials described at the conference may be the most immediately useful information gathered. Many of our clients are eager to read better. We are excited to use and share the cornucopia of literacy resources and expertise we found!

Have a vehicle you would like to donate to support the Ecumenical Community Center or one of its programs?

Take part in our Vehicle Donation Program and support the programs of ECC and receive a tax deduction when you itemize your return. Go to www.ecc-cr.net for details or call us at 366-2651.

Margaret Bock Housing Update

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

Margaret Bock's mission continues to provide single room housing for low income single adults (men or women). We typically have 5 women and 29 men in our building. Many transitional housing programs limit the amount of time a tenant can stay. At Margaret Bock Housing, tenants can live there as long as rent is paid and they comply with board directed rules and regulations. It is their decision as to when they wish to move on.

Rent is at or below \$300 per month including all utilities and cable. Rent proceeds allow us to meet monthly operational expenses. We have an excellent half time property manager, Mike Williams. However, we lack the financial resources to provide full time management or any paid outside professional services. Our board members provide assistance as needed for our tenants who have personal issues. We would appreciate any donation of volunteer time and money to help implement our board agenda plus purchase bedding and other materials for the tenants and our infrastructure.

Our address is Margaret Bock Housing, c/o Ecumenical Community Center, 601 Second Ave. SE, #9, Cedar Rapids Iowa 52401
Our property manager's phone number is 981-3389.

Jim Federer, MBH President

Did you know you can designate the Ecumenical Community Center as your charity of choice through your local United Way campaign? Check with your employer to see if your donation can be matched!

Looking for meaningful gifts this Christmas?

Plan now to attend the Alternative Gift Market (AGM) on Saturday, December 1. Eleven local nonprofits and thirteen international groups will provide an assortment of unique gift options: everything from goats to prenatal vitamins. The AGM will be held at Echo Hill Presbyterian Church from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Echo Hill is located at 9000 C Ave. in Marion (just north of Robins Rd.)

ECCF Board of Directors

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Cedar Rapids

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Don Leonhart, St. Pius X Parish

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:

Contributions received between January 1 & October 31, 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
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First Lutheran
Salem U/Methodist
Westminster Presbyterian
Buffalo U/Methodist
Mission of Hope
St. Paul U/Methodist Women
Gloria Dei Lutheran
Ascension Lutheran
Echo Hill Presbyterian
Christ Episcopal*
St. George Orthodox

***My apologies to both Peoples Church and Christ Episcopal who made donations in May were inadvertently left off of the August edition of The Echo.**

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!

Business Partners:

Adcraft Printing
Philipp Trucking, Inc.
Family Psychology Associates, PC
Clark's Pharmacy
Paulson Electric Company
Yellowbook

Would your business be willing to join us as a partner? If so, please contact Jessica at 366-2651. The Ecumenical Community Center is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

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 bathrooms.



The Ecumenical Community Center

601 Second Avenue SE #1
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401

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

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
- Razors and shaving cream
- 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

CompuPlace Wish List

- White Card o/Cover stock; A-2 Invitation envelopes (for clients to make nice greeting cards)
- White copy paper (any weight)
- An old Apple Pro Mouse
- A new or refurbished iPad
- Photos of animals, vehicles, farm equipment for game development
- Internet hubs (maybe 4 port?)
- Volunteers for PowerPoint and/or Photo projects making learning games for clients
- 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.