



A Committee of St. Cecilia's Catholic Church

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Social Justice

Good Neighbor Moving

Good Neighbor is excited to announce that they have entered into a space and cost sharing agreement with the First Christian Church of Ames (FCC) that will allow the agency to relocate its office into an annex owned by the church at 613 Clark Avenue. The location is near the downtown area within walking distance for many residents living in low income and subsidized housing. The building is on major city bus routes and less than a block from Ames City Hall, a CY Ride hub. Remodeling efforts include the construction and installation of a wheelchair ramp and bringing the current restroom facilities into ADA compliance. These efforts will ensure that all individuals and families, no matter their physical limitations or disabilities, who need Good Neighbor assistance have access to the facility and will allow the agency to utilize all areas of the building. This relocation will provide Good Neighbor with long term dedicated space, significantly reduce occupancy costs and enhance accessibility to the agency's emergency rent, utility, food, and fuel services for Story County residents in need.

The goal is to be open for business at the new location in early December. An open house is being planned for January 12, 2014. Good Neighbor invites everyone to celebrate this relocation which is truly a milestone in their history.

Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance is a local nonprofit organization which provides emergency rent, utility, food, and fuel assistance in an atmosphere of dignity, comfort and encouragement. Currently located at 3206 South Duff Avenue in Ames, Good Neighbor enables faith groups and other supporting organizations to pool their funds to provide emergency assistance to those in need throughout Story County. Saint Cecilia is a contributing member of Good Neighbor.

The headlines in the news tell the numbers about poverty, but those numbers represent real people. Even when the economy is deemed stable, a family of three in Story County requires an income of more than \$15 per hour to meet its basic needs for

food, housing and utilities. For these families, an unexpected medical bill or car repair can force them to choose between paying for food or rent. During these difficult economic times, many people have lost jobs, or experienced pay cuts and furloughs.



In the past fiscal year which ended June 30, 2013, Good Neighbor provided rental and/or utility assistance to 308 households, representing 887 individuals that received help to remain in their homes with needed utility services. Over 73% of these individuals and families had incomes that were at or below 100% of the poverty level. These households were located in nearly every community throughout Story County, with over one third residing outside of Ames. During the same period, Good Neighbor provided 4,496 Healthy Food vouchers to 1,124 households and distributed 195 Gas vouchers.

To get in touch with Mike at Good Neighbor, call 296-1449 or email him at gneainc@gmail.com.

Emergency Residence Project Update

- Individuals and family requests are increasing at ERP and funding is low. Please include the Emergency Residence Project in your holiday donation and/or your regular donations.
- The shelter is in need of a volunteer skilled maintenance person. Please call Julie Haas (232-7138) for more information.
- ERP has 3 divisions: Homeless Shelter, Homeless Prevention and Transitional Housing. (See website: www.amesshelter.org.)
- Board members are working on improving the landscape and play area at the project. They are also working on facility improvement.

SAINT CECILIA CONTACTS:

ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET. 1-800-842-2243 STC
Contact: Cynthia Shriver 292-6584

AMOS. STC Contact: Mary Ross 232-6232

APPALACHIA WAREHOUSE,
2019 Pullman Street, Ames. STC
Contact: Lynn Franco 232-0898

BIRTHRIGHT OF AMES, 108
Hayward Ave., Suite 202, Ames
515-292-8414. STC Contact:
Kathy Ridnour 232-1697

**CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF
THE AMERICAS.** STC Contact:
Sharon Jenkins 233-2570

**EMERGENCY RESIDENCE
PROJECT.** STC Contact: Julie
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**FOOD AT FIRST, 516 Kellogg
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Contact: Doreen Berg 956-3414**

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**GOOD NEIGHBOR
EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE,
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1449. STC Contact: Doreen Berg
956-3414**

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF
CENTRAL IOWA. 515-232-8815.
STC Contact: Alan Christy 231-
8099**

**MEALS ON WHEELS
(Homeward), 1114 S. Duff, Ames.
STC Contact: Cathy Kaspar 233-
0517**

**OPERATION RICE BOWL. STC
Contact: Cynthia Shriver 292-
6584**

**PRISON MINISTRY. STC
Contact: Dave Temple 232-9271.**

**SAINT CECILIA SOCIAL
JUSTICE COMMITTEE. STC
Contact: Mary Ross 232-5080**

**SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE.
STC Contact: Garland Dahlke
(515) 460-0403**

Alternative Gift Market

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in...” Matthew 25:35 NIV

Alternative gifts will be available at the church on the weekend of November 23/24 at the annual St. Cecilia's Christmas Market. We will have a display in the Social Hall with shopping lists, catalogs and cards. There will also be a community market on December 7 (10 AM to 4 PM) and December 14 (10 AM to noon) at Warrantsfield Co-operative Grocery, 413 Northwester Avenue, Ames, in case you miss the November event at the church.

What is the Alternative Gift Market? The Alternative Gift Market offers gifts with a conscience. Instead of buying another tie or knickknack for someone on your Christmas list, you can purchase a meaningful, life-giving gift in that person's honor. It is a wonderful opportunity to show our love and to learn about projects around the world that relieve poverty and suffering. Thirty projects ranging from providing bees for pollination and honey in Haiti to bicycles for health care workers in Kenya are available through our partner, Alternative Gifts International. Additionally, nine local Ames/Story County non-profit organizations are represented.

An Alternative Gift is a real gift, given in honor of a friend or loved one. Just like traditional gifts, Alternative Gifts express love and affection, celebrate occasions, and show you care. Unlike traditional gifts, Alternative Gifts don't contribute to the consumer stream and they don't need to be dusted. They always fit and they're the perfect color. Alternative Gifts express our stewardship of the world God gave us and give us a real way to care for our brothers and sisters. These holiday gifts meet basic needs of education, food, shelter and health. They make a difference in the world.

Shoppers can provide for those in need in the Ames community with support for the Bethesda Community Food Pantry, Assault Care Center Extending Shelter and Support (ACCESS), Emergency Residence Project, Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance, Habitat for Humanity for Central Iowa, Food at First, Story County Community Dental Clinic, and Life to Life Global Building Group (Global Builders, Ames High Uganda Project). You get an attractive card and a synopsis sheet of the project you select, which you can give to your friends and family during the holiday season.

Currently, the Ames Area Alternative Gift Market is sponsored by 9 local congregations and is organized by a committee of representatives from those congregations, including St. Cecilia, St. Andrews Lutheran, Collegiate United Methodist, First United Methodist, Collegiate Presbyterian, Northminster Presbyterian, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Ames, and Ames United Church of Christ. The Ames Area Alternative Gift Market is one of the most successful of more than 300 gift markets nationwide.

Gabriel Project of Ames is a multi-parish based outreach to expectant mothers in crisis. We seek to be the hands and heart of Christ, loving mother and child through our network of "Angels." These are women that befriend the mother and walk with her in loving support. **Gabriel** provides friendship, some material needs and spiritual support for the mother. Our other volunteers help with everything from baby showers to advertising. **Gabriel** collaborates with Catholic Charities and community resources to help meet the needs of the mother. All requests are confidential. Want to put hands and heart to the Gospel of Life? Become a Gabriel Angel or volunteer. For information please contact Barbara Moore at mooremg@netins.net or 641-757-0798 or Bethany Dahlke at bethanyherb@yahoo.com or 515-771-7617. **Know an expectant mother in need? Call 515.450.6473.**

The Saint Cecilia Social Justice Committee meets on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Sunroom. All donations are made in accordance with Catholic Social Justice teachings. Financial reports and budget information are available from the parish office.