



Love INC  
Love In the Name of Christ

# Summer Love Letter

3rd Quarter 2009

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## Love INC - developing ways to better serve our partner churches

Our Love INC Board of Directors and staff are reaching out to local pastors in an effort to help our churches serve community members more effectively. Three projects are currently underway:

1. **Church Resource Guide:** Love INC is compiling a book of community resources in the hope that it will enhance the ability of each church to serve more effectively. The guide will contain a list of ministries provided by Love INC, a list of ministries provided by our area churches and a list of resources available throughout Newaygo County. The guide, when completed, will be given as a gift to our churches.
2. **CAT (Church Assistance Tracking):** Love INC has agreed to act as the local tracking center for church assistance. Centralized tracking of assistance, given to people by our churches, will allow each participating church to make more informed decisions regarding the type and amount of assistance they choose to provide.
3. **Pastor Appreciation/Information meetings:** This fall Love INC Board Members will attend one of the local ministerial meetings in Grant, Newaygo, Fremont, and White Cloud to inform pastors of current Love INC programs and also to ask pastors for their ideas as to how Love INC can better serve them and their congregations.



If you belong to a community group, ministerial group, or church group and would like us to share more about Love INC with you, we would be honored to do so. When we speak to groups about Love INC, we simply share our mission and vision for Newaygo County churches; we do not solicit funding at that time.

For more information on any of these projects or to schedule a time for us to share the Love INC Ministry with your group, please call Michele Zimmerman, Love INC Director, at 231.652.4099 x 14.

Thank you!

Our mission is to mobilize the Church to transform lives and communities in the name of Christ.



## CROP Hunger Walk 2009 - Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>

The 2009 Newaygo/Grant CROP Hunger Walk will be held at The Newaygo United Methodist Church on Sunday afternoon, October 4th. The event will begin at 12:30 pm with a soup and bread meal, followed by prayer and the start of the walk just after 1:00pm. In 2008, over

130 walkers from 10 different churches raised over \$12,000 to help with disaster relief, sustainable self-help and development, and hunger relief both internationally and right here in Newaygo County. 25% of all funds raised are given to the Love INC Community Food Pantry to assist

families in our community. Please join us! Walk as a continuation of your Sunday worship...walk as a family or youth group...walk in memory of a loved one...walk to be in solidarity with our brothers and sisters who struggle just to exist.

*For those in the Fremont area, please join the Fremont walk on September 27th.*

## ♥ Love INC Gap Ministries: Ways You Can Help Others ♥

**Wood Ministry:** Love INC put the call out to our churches for wood donations and many of you answered that call—thank you! In fact, so many answered the call that our wood ministry host church (Body of Christ Lutheran) could use your help with cutting trees down, hauling wood back to the church site, and splitting and stacking the wood once it is onsite. We certainly don't want to let any of the wood donation offers go unanswered. Please call Wood Ministry Coordinator, Dean Letter at 989.289.9251 to find out how you can help. Work days are held the last Saturday of each month at the church from 9am to 2pm, lunch is provided.



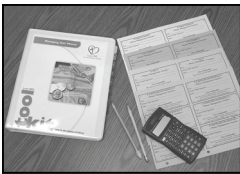
By next year we would love to see another church, maybe in the Fremont or White Cloud area, become our second wood ministry church. Storing wood in two different locations would help with distribution efforts. The wood storage location would have to be accessible during the winter months. The church would need a Wood Ministry Coordinator and volunteers willing to cut, haul, split and stack wood. If your church is interested, please contact Dick Ringlever in the Love INC office 231.652.4099 x 15.

**Growing Hope Relational Ministry:** This ministry is centered around financial management and personal growth classes. Budget skills training, mentoring, and goal-setting support is wrapped around individuals and families to provide a more holistic approach to meaningful change and long-term stability. All classes are offered to community members free of charge. Childcare is provided. Participants can earn product vouchers for things like gasoline, childcare, haircuts, food pantry & resale store use while attending class.



Starting in September 2009, classes will be held Monday evenings, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., at River Valley Community Church located on the corner of M-37 and 88th Street in Newaygo. In addition to Money Management, the following classes will also be offered this fall: Parenting, Life Skills, and preparing Meals on a Budget.

We are currently seeking volunteer assistance with childcare for the fall sessions. **Please consider volunteering Monday evenings from 5:45 - 8:15 p.m. for one month...you will be a blessing to the children and their parents while you, in turn, are blessed beyond measure. We also need budget class teachers and budget mentors. The fall sessions are offered on the following dates: Session 1: Sept. 14, 21, 28 Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26 Session 2: Nov. 2, 9, 16, 22, 30, Dec. 7, 14.** If you are willing to join our team or you would like to participate in any of our classes, please contact Karen Buter, Relational Ministry Coord. at 231.652.4099 x 25 or karenb@loveincnewaygo.com.



**Medical Equipment Ministry:** The cost of durable medical equipment can be an insurmountable hurdle to individuals facing health issues and mounting medical bills. This ministry LOANS good used items to community members who have a need for them. **We are looking for a host church to coordinate this Gap Ministry. If interested, please call Sue Black at 231.652.4099 x 24.**



**Prayer Warrior Ministry:** Prayer is an integral part of the Love INC ministry; it is the driving force behind Love INC. Prayer Warriors are individuals who understand that prayer changes things. They are committed to praying for the Love INC ministry, staff, volunteers, clients, and board members. In the spring of 2009, Love INC began printing and mailing monthly Love INC Prayer Calendars. **If you are willing to commit to praying for our community and ministry and would like to receive the monthly prayer calendar, please contact Sue Black at 231.652.4099 x 24. Calendars can be mailed or emailed to interested parties.**



**Seasonal Worker / Migrant Family Ministry:** Many seasonal workers come to W. Michigan to work on the vegetable farms and in the orchards. Often, workers and their families arrive in vehicles loaded with people with little room for personal items. Camp housing does not usually provide dishes, pots, pans, curtains, towels and bedding. This is a gap we, the Church, can fill. Love INC is looking for a church or a group of churches to host the seasonal worker ministry. Love INC can provide much of the needed items, but we cannot effectively store and distribute the items. We need the following:



- Volunteers to assemble and clearly label boxes of dishes (plates, bowls, cups, silverware, pots and pans); bedding, towels and curtains; and some clothing (hats, light jackets and sweatshirts).
- A place to store the items once they are assembled.
- Volunteers willing to distribute the items to families once needs have been verified through the Love INC Clearinghouse.
- Volunteers who speak Spanish to help make distribution easier on the families we serve.

**If your church would like to fill this gap coming into the 2010 season, please call Sue Black at 231.652.4099 x 24.**



# Love Stories

Dear Love INC,

I would like to thank you for helping me in getting my van repaired. The air conditioning is necessary for my daughter as she has a seizure disorder. The day my van was at Fremont Ford to be repaired, my daughter had an appointment with Mary Free Bed to receive her new special tricycle. Fremont Ford loaned me a van to use to be able to keep this appointment. It is very nice to know that you are there to try to help people out in their time of need. It is greatly appreciated for what you have done.

Thank You,

L.P.

*Note: a picture of her daughter on her new tricycle was included with the letter. ☺*



Dear Love INC,

The volunteers just finished putting up my ramp and I had to write and tell how much it is appreciated. Tomorrow I go to a urologist in Muskegon to have a kidney stone removed and every Monday I go for blood work and chemotherapy. This is my second dose of chemo and last time I got so weak, I fell on my steps twice. Now at least I can come home in my wheelchair with no steps. God bless you and everyone connected with this program. God will reward each and everyone of you in time. Please pray for me too.

J.L. *(In God We Trust)*



*Love INC received a ramp request from a mother taking care of her 39 year old son who receives kidney dialysis several times each week. Without a ramp, getting to and from the transport van was very difficult for her son. After the Project Ramp Team built them a ramp, we received the following letter:*

Dear Love INC,

I can't thank you enough for the ramp for my son. He was crawling to and from the van that takes him to dialysis. The first day with the new ramp he rolled himself right to the van. It's just wonderful and your workers were fantastic. I ask God to bless you all.

Sincerely,

M.P.



Dear Kathy and Love INC,

Just wanted to say "Thank You" to you for the help you gave to me in getting my chimney on my house fixed. The man that fixed it said the whole chimney cap was gone—he's got it fixed and did a very nice job on it. No more leaking. We are so fortunate to have people like you helping people.

Thank you very much,

J.F.



Dear Love INC,

Thank you all for the generous gift of help. The root canal went very well at the appointment today. The respect, kindness and prayers that I received from Kathy were/are truly priceless. I sincerely ap-

preciate your support and thank you for the food too!

Peace,

D.H.

*These words of thankfulness belong to every volunteer, church partner, & Love INC donor. It's an honor to serve alongside you.*



After falling behind on several household bills, "Janet and Ted" began attending Love INC Money Management Classes this past winter. The couple set a budget and began tracking expenses using the lesson information and the budgeting tools they received in class. In a very short time, they were back on track with their finances. Janet and Ted chose to continue on with a budget mentor once the 7-week money management class ended. Continuing on with the mentor gave them the source of accountability they needed. By the end of 8 weeks of mentoring, they were able to once again write a small offering check as a tithe to the church they attend. They were very excited to be able to write that check once again.

*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*

We would like to thank our Money Management teachers, mentors, childcare providers, class helpers & personal growth class teachers—you are God's gift to our community.



*"Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ."*

*Galatians 6:2*



## Donating to the Love INC Pantry & Receiving the Michigan Tax Credit:

If you are interested in receiving the 50% Michigan Tax credit for donating to the Love INC Community Food Pantry, please send your financial donations to: Feeding America West Michigan Food Bank, (formerly Second Harvest Gleaner's Food Bank), 864 W. River Center Dr. NE, Comstock Park, MI 49321-8955. Ask them to place the donation on the **Love INC N-waygo County account: #2215** and place the account number in the memo portion of your check.

Thank you to all of our donors for your generous gifts. We could not serve 800-900 families each month without your help.



Love INC  
Love In the Name of Christ

## Service & Contact Information

11 W. 96th Street  
Grant, MI 49327

Phone: 231.652.4099

Fax: 231.652.4079

E-mail: info@loveincnewaygo.com

Website: www.loveincnewaygo.com

## 2009 Love INC Hours of Operation

### Resale Store

M, W, Th, F: 9:00 am to 3:45 pm

Tuesdays: 9:00 am to 7:00 pm

Saturdays: 9:00 am to 11:45 am

### Food pantry

M, W, Th, F: 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Tuesdays: 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Tues. Eve: 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

*We will register people to use the pantry until we reach the limit we can serve by closing time each day.*

### Office and Clearinghouse

M - Th: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Tues. Eve (as needed): 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm

Friday: 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

### Love INC Staff

Michele Zimmerman, Executive Director  
Rita Astras, Clearinghouse Coordinator  
Kathy Kuperus, Clearinghouse Assistant  
Dick Ringlever, Clearinghouse Assistant  
Sue Black, Office Assistant/Gap Ministry  
Tracy Conley, Food Pantry Coordinator  
Peggy Breen, Resale Store Manager  
Amanda Hughes, Store Asst. Manager  
Karen Buter, Relational Ministry Coord.  
Joanne Marvin, Administrative Assistant

### **Love INC Core Values:**

- \* *We are Christian. Everything we think, say and do is in the Name of Christ.*
- \* *Prayer is an integral part of who we are.*
- \* *We follow Christ's example of valuing those in need.*
- \* *We value unity of the Body of Christ.*
- \* *We value transformation in the lives of people and communities.*
- \* *We value churches living out the two great commandments to love God and love their neighbors.*
- \* *We value building Christ-like relationships.*
- \* *We value connectedness of the Love INC movement.*
- \* *We model excellence.*
- \* *We value continually maturing in our capacity to meet people's needs.*

### **2008/09 Churches who financially support Love INC:**

Aetna Calvary Church	Grant Wesleyan Church
Amazing Grace Acres Church	Hesperia Baptist Church
Bailey Christian Church	Kent City Baptist Church
Bible Study Church	New Community Church—Newaygo
Body of Christ Lutheran	New Life Assembly of God
Cedar Creek Evangelical Church	Newaygo Baptist Church
Chapel Hill United Methodist Church	Newaygo United Church of Christ
Church of God	Newaygo United Methodist Church
Church of the Living Christ	North Casnovia Baptist Church
Croton Community Church	Northland Church of Christ Missions
Croton Trinity Bible Church	Pine Grove Community Church
Ensley Baptist Church	Redeemer Lutheran Church
Family of God Church	Reeman Christian Reformed Church
First Baptist Church—Fremont	Rice Lake Baptist Church
First Christian Reformed Church	River Valley Community Church
First Congregational Church	Second Christian Reformed Church
First Reformed Church	Seventh Day Baptist Church
Fremont Christian Church—DOC	St. Bartholomew Catholic Church
Fremont United Methodist Church	St. Joseph Catholic Church
Fremont Wesleyan Church	St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Grace Bible Church	St. Michael Catholic Church
Grace Community - Howard City	Trinity Christian Reformed Church
Grant Christian Reformed Church	Victory Fellowship Church
Grant Reformed Church	
Grant United Church of Christ	

♥ Thank You ♥

## Shelley's Spot

As I sit at my desk enjoying the quiet solitude of the early morning, my heart is filled with thankfulness. I'm thankful to be one small part of the awesome Love INC team...missionaries to Newaygo County.

The question is, how do I adequately express my gratitude to the volunteers who sort through, clean and price piles of donations each day—the good, the bad and the smelly? Or to the volunteer

who stands on a concrete floor for four solid hours helping people shop in the pantry (after recently undergoing knee replacement surgery)? How do I begin to describe the love and respect I have for Love INC Staff?...we are this rag tag group of people God brought together to serve in His name...we are a family. How do I convey the serious priority given to each prayer request left in the food pantry prayer basket or the honor I feel as I serve alongside the Love INC Board of Directors?

I don't know that there are words adequate to express my heart so I will simply say "Thank you for giving to the Lord...for I am a life that was changed."

*"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving." Colossians 3:23-24*

*Love, Shelley*