



Love INC
Love In the Name of Christ

Spring Love Letter

1st Quarter 2011

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Love INC Annual Spring Auction and Bake Sale Saturday, March 26, 2011

Doors open at 8:30 a.m.

Bake Sale 8:30 a.m. -10:00 a.m.; Auction at 10:00 a.m.

Each year the Love INC Annual Auction brings fun, food, and fantastic deals to our community while allowing us to raise money for the ministry. How can you help?

- **Donate** antiques, collectibles, books, furniture, etc. for the auction to our resale store. Last year we auctioned off a used car! *Please make certain when dropping auction items off that you let our volunteers or store manager know that they are for the auction.* ☺
- **Local Businesses** can donate goods or services to be auctioned off (hotel stay, haircut, products, restaurant coupon, etc.) & receive free advertising! Such items are very popular at the auction. *A hot air balloon ride was donated by a local business in 2010.*

For more information on how you can donate to or become a volunteer for the Love INC Auction, please contact Peg Breen, Resale Store Manager, at 652.4099 x13. Please remember to leave your name and contact number so we can get back with you. Thank you!

You can also help by bidding on items at the auction...bake sale items, dishes, toys, and much more!
We look forward to seeing you there...it's a fun day for all!



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



Newaygo County 7 On 7 Prayer Event May 1st, 6:00 p.m. *Prayer Changes Things...*

"Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." James 5:16

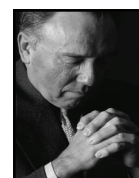
Come experience life transformation...

Watch God work in your life and throughout our community. During the week of April 24th to April 30th, Newaygo County Area Churches will come together, across denominations, to pray for:

- Our Families
- Our Schools

- Our Churches
- Our Leaders
- Our Businesses
- Our Nation

On Sunday, May 1st at 6:00 p.m. we will gather for an evening of community prayer and worship (location to be announced later). Over 200 people participated in last year's prayer event. It was God led, unifying and purposeful. We hope to see you there. It will be unforgettable and life changing. Please look for upcoming information about the event in your church bulletins/ newsletters or call Bailey Christian Church for more information (231.834.5919).





Feinstein Challenge to Fight Hunger in the Greater Newaygo County Area



For the 14th consecutive year, Alan Shawn Feinstein will divide **\$1,000,000** among hunger-fighting agencies and ministries nationwide. **The amount given to the Love INC pantry will be based on the amount of donations our pantry receives March 1, 2011 through April 30, 2011.** Your donation to the Love INC Food Pantry during this campaign makes you a partner in one of the most successful grass roots hunger-fighting campaigns ever. **Donations can include cash, checks, and food items (counted at \$1/lb).** The \$1 million will be divided proportionally among all participating groups. **Only donations received by Love INC between March 1 and April 30 are eligible for the challenge.** Please join the Feinstein Challenge, it's great way to get the whole family involved in helping our neighbors in need.

The Love INC Quilting Ministry...it all started with a volunteer's vision of donated material scraps, children in need, and willing local quilters.

Joanne Marvin has served on staff and as a Love INC volunteer for several years. She is a hard worker and one who does not like to see anything go to waste. She began to notice the large amount of scrap material being donated to Love INC and wondered if God didn't have a special use for it somewhere. She also saw first hand what a blessing the bunk bed ministry has been to children over the past two years....the wheels started turning and visions of children wrapped in cuddly, warm, comfy handmade quilts began to fill her heart. Joanne started calling local quilters...some already Love INC volunteers and some new to our ministry...would they be willing to meet once a month to turn scraps into treasures? The answer was yes! Throughout the summer and fall of 2010, several women met at Love INC...cutting, piecing, stitching and quilting. To date, they have made over 30 quilts....more than enough to supply each child receiving a bunk bed with a new quilt. The ladies also made some quilts for Love INC to auction off or sell. In December, a beautiful Christmas quilt was sold through a "silent auction" in the Love INC Resale Store. Two beautiful baby quilts were sold at a women's expo this past fall, and three quilts will be auctioned off at the Love INC Auction on March 26th. All proceeds from the sale of the quilts goes back into the Love INC Ministry to help families in need. To date, not one item has been purchased for the quilting projects. It's amazing to see how God provides!



A **special thank you** to the women who have volunteered their time and poured their talents into the making of these beautiful handmade quilts. We love you!

If you are interested in being a part of the Quilt Ministry, please contact the Love INC Clearinghouse at 231.652.4099.

Love INC Wood Ministry

The Love INC Wood Ministry Team gathers, splits, stacks, and delivers wood for heat to families in need in the Newaygo County Area. In preparation for the 2011/12 winter season, team leaders are asking for help from area churches. The Wood Team would like 4-5 churches to commit to:

1. Donating 1 (one) cord of wood a month March 2011 through October 2011 (9 cord total per church).
2. Providing 2+ volunteers/month to help split and stack wood (a log-splitter is available on site). The scheduled work day is every 4th Saturday of the month, starting at 9:00 a.m. at St. Bartholomew's Church (599 W. Brooks Street, Newaygo).
3. Providing volunteers with heavy-duty trucks willing to deliver wood to families.

If you are willing to assist the Wood Team in any or all of the above areas of need, please contact Dick Ringlever at Love INC Clearinghouse 231.652.4099. Thank you!





Love Stories and Thankful Hearts



My granddaughters and I wish to thank you for the beautiful bunk bed, bookcase and bedding that your volunteers made. The workmanship on all pieces is outstanding. We are blessed by wonderful people.

Sincerely, V.G.



Thank you so much for helping me get my electricity turned back on! I am so thankful that there are people like you and organizations like Love INC that are willing to help those in need. Thanks again for all that you do.

God Bless! J.T. & Family

Save-the-Date!

**BarlowGirl coming to Fremont High School,
Friday, May 13, 2011.**

CureUs, the Love INC concert ministry team, is committed to providing community opportunities for believers in Christ to draw closer to God while also providing those who don't know Jesus Christ the opportunity to find salvation and hope in Him. Past events included Big Daddy Weave, SONICFLOOD, and 33Miles. "We want to provide entertaining events, but also want the events to be filled with spiritual substance and truth. We try to keep CureUs events affordable for community members; this is accomplished through church and community donations. Currently, donors can give to the CureUs ministry, through Love INC, and have their donations matched \$1/\$1 by the Fremont Foundation. Matching funds will be used to help families in need. It's a great way to help." says Julie Gardenour, CureUs Team Member.

Donations can be written and sent to Love INC, 11 W. 96th Street, Grant, MI 49327. Please write "CureUs" on the memo line. Thank you for your support and we hope to see you on May 13th!

**Love INC Growing Hope Relational Ministry -
Money Management is Just one Part of the Big Picture!**

This January three more people graduated from the Love INC Growing Hope Money Management Program - Leslie, Mary and Tracie. We were very happy for them...yet they didn't seem so happy to graduate...why? They all had very positive remarks concerning the budget classes, personal growth classes, and their all important budget mentors. They are doing well budgeting, yet, none of them seemed to want to leave the program. We needed to understand, so we prayed about it and asked the ladies to join us for coffee.

Their answer... they didn't want to lose the relationships, friendships and the bonds they had created...in Bible Studies, Cooking Classes, Life Skills Classes, and with their mentors. They also wanted the opportunity to "give back"...to share some of what they have learned with new people coming into the program.

Bottom line: It was less about managing money and more about building relationships.

The Growing Hope Relational Ministry Program was designed to help people better manage their finances while also helping them to learn new life skills and develop Christ-centered relationships. Yet, after working at Love INC for three months, I see how important the "building relationships" part of the program really is to our participants. We can provide the skills and knowledge to address budget problems, but if we don't invest in people's lives, how do they find Christ? How do they ever feel comfortable and safe walking through the doors of our churches?

My husband and I recently read a devotional centered on John 15:9remain in my love. It suggested beginning each day by asking God a series of questions. "Lord, how can I love you today?" "What act of worship can I do?" "What words can I utter that will honor and bless you?" "What act of service can I do to represent Your love?" and "How would Your Spirit inspire me to pray today?" If we seriously asked these questions each day, how would we live our lives differently? I know I look at my job as more than just "giving people knowledge and skills", I'm investing in their lives. So, how do we bridge the gap between "The Church" and those who need Christ? I don't know exactly, but I believe we need to step out of our church buildings and meet people where they are. How that will look for you, or for our program in the future remains to be seen; we continue to pray about it. My heartfelt prayer is that each of us will begin asking God these questions each day and watch how He answers. I guarantee you this, the more we seek God's will, the less our lives will be centered around us. He will give us opportunities to know Him intimately and to serve Him effectively. He will use us to be His hands and feet. Could there be anything more exciting?!

Thank you to all the mentors, teachers, childcare providers & businesses who make this program such a success. A special thanks to Rita for all her support these first three months and to River Valley Community Church for allowing us to use your building.

Love In Christ,

Laurie Plakmeyer, Relational Ministry Coordinator





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



2010 Love INC Hours of Operation

Resale Store

M, W, Th, F: 9:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

Tuesdays: 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Saturdays: 9:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

Food pantry

M, W, Th, F: 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Tuesdays: 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Tues. Eve: 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

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 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Tue. Eve (as needed): 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Friday: 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Love INC Staff

Michele Zimmerman, Executive Director
Rita Astras, Clearinghouse Coordinator
Laurie Plakmeyer, Rel. Ministry Coord.
Kathy Kuperus, Clearinghouse Assistant
Dick Ringlever, Clearinghouse Assistant
Sue Black, Program Assistant
Tracy Conley, Food Pantry Coordinator
Kathy Fehsenfeld, Food Pantry Assistant
Peggy Breen, Resale Store Manager
Amanda Hughes, Asst. Store Manager



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.

2010/11 Financially Supporting Churches of Love INC:

Amazing Grace Acres Church
Bailey Christian Church
Chapel Hill United Methodist Church
Christian Life Center of Fremont
Church of the Living Christ
Croton Community Church
Croton Trinity Bible Church
Dayton Center Wesleyan
Ensley Baptist Church
Family of God Church
First Baptist Church—Fremont
First Christian Reformed Church
First Congregational Church
First Reformed Church
Fremont Christian Church—DOC
Fremont United Methodist Church
Fremont Wesleyan Church
Grace Bible Church
Grace Community - Howard City
Grant Christian Reformed Church
Grant Reformed Church
Grant Community Church
Grant Wesleyan Church
Hesperia Baptist Church
Kent City Baptist Church

New Community Church—Newaygo
New Life Fellowship Church
Newaygo United Church of Christ
Newaygo United Methodist Church
North Casnovia Baptist Church
Northland Church of Christ Missions
Pine Grove Community Church
Redeemer Lutheran Church
Reeman Christian Reformed Church
River Valley Community Church
Sand Lake United Methodist
Second Christian Reformed Church
Seventh Day Baptist Church
South Ensley United Methodist
St. Bartholomew Catholic Church
St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Trinity Christian Reformed Church
Victory Fellowship Church
White Cloud United Methodist Church

♥ Thank You ♥



Shelley's Spot



I liked Dr. Tony Evans take on where the Church fits into helping others...

The best way to understand the Church is to picture an American Embassy. America has embassies all around the world in foreign territory, but they're ruled by the laws of the homeland. All embassies are sovereign territory, they do not belong to the country they're in, they belong to the country they're from. The Church is God's embassy in history, reflecting the values of eternity in the locality of earth. The job of the Church is not to provide

merely weekly inspiration. It is to manifest how God would address an issue if God Himself were personally here addressing it...since we are His body. So, the question is not, "Did I like the sermon and the songs?" That's not enough. It is, "How is God addressing the hurts of the people? How is He being a mother to the motherless and a father to the fatherless?" He is creating surrogate parents through His people. "How is He addressing the issue of the poor? How is He addressing the collapse of society? He's providing fathers to those who don't have

them through male mentors. In other words, the role of the Church is to be the visible, physical expression of God's activity. If all you get is a sermon and a song, well you can get that from a radio or television broadcast. What you can't get is life on life touch and that's what the people of God should be providing.

Life on life touch is what we see people hungering for everyday...relationship with God's people and relationship with Jesus Christ. What is He calling you to?

Love,

Shelley Zimmerman ♥