

DEAR FRIENDS,

My earliest thoughts of Easter were centered around going to church and Christ's resurrection. Those long ago days were filled with white straw hats, kid gloves and patent leather shoes that left black marks on our linoleum much to my Mother's dismay. Growing up in one of Northern Michigan's snow belt areas always brought an intense longing for spring as we usually received a healthy amount of snow which never went away fast enough to suit me!

Easter was and is a time for renewal and fresh starts! It is looking back to the great sacrifice that Jesus Christ made for us by giving of Himself in the most unselfish way, so that all may live in eternal glory. It is a time for a searching of our souls to make sure we are allowing God the space to guide and direct us in a new and fresh way. As we examine our hearts and minds to this "starting fresh" may we be reminded that all are worthy of this gift and by meeting someone's temporary or emergent need we can start them onto another path that could be the "fresh start" they are longing for.

FAMILIES FALLING THROUGH THE CRACK...A young couple from Wexford County was told by a local agency to call Love INC suggesting that maybe we could help with their temporary need. They were a family of four that were looking for food resources along with diapers and wipes for their one year old son. They live frugally on limited funds, but still experience some gaps in providing for their family including having no working vehicle. The intake worker was able to give them several food resources and was able to connect them to diapers and wipes from one of our pantries at a member church. They also suggested the local Christmas program which they did sign up for. Small things that add up to big helps!

DEVASTATING CIRCUMSTANCES...A fire nearby devastated the home of a factory worker and his wife. They received some funds from the Red Cross, but had not been able to secure a home yet. With direct funding, Love INC was able to pay for two additional nights at a motel until they could get into a more permanent home situation.

LETTING GOD USE YOU...A gentleman living in Osceola County called the Love INC office in need of firewood and had been given an electric shut off. A call was put out to a member church in Tustin and we were given a contact for firewood. After talking with this contact, they arranged to deliver a load of firewood to this client and also felt led to pay his past due utility bill. Fast forward to another call from a young lady that had recently been through a divorce and the passing away of her son. With paying for his cremation, she fell behind on her utility bill and was almost out of firewood. We reached out to the first couple to see if they knew of anyone else that might possibly have firewood available and were told that once again they would deliver a load of wood. On their own, they also took her some food. In follow up, they told our intake worker that they do not do this for their own sense of satisfaction, but that they do what God tells them to do and it is all God's work.

IN 2018, WE RECEIVED 1930 CALLS FOR HELP...Your gifts are extremely important in providing help for families like the ones above with funding, valuable resources and Christ-centered relationship opportunities. Thank you for caring, praying and supporting the ministry of Love INC!

IN CHRIST,

Carol Dolan, Executive Director

**10TH ANNUAL
LOVE INC**

GOLF

OUTING / FUNDRAISER

Saturday, June 15, 2019

8 AM Registration - 9 AM Start

\$75 Per Person - Lunch Included

Cadillac Country Club on East M55

Opportunities to contribute include:

Gold Sponsor

*Sponsor a Team of 4, 1 hole, 2 carts,
Banner on Railing & 8 Hand Grenades
\$650 (save \$115)*

Silver Sponsor

*Sponsor a Team of 4 & 1 hole
\$350 (save \$50)*

Team Sponsor - \$300 for 4

Luncheon Sponsor - \$500 - Can be split

Score Board Sponsor - \$200 - Limited

Putting Green Sponsor - \$150 - Limited

Banner Sponsor - \$225 - Limited

Hole Sponsor - \$100 per hole

Cart Sponsor - \$50 per cart

Donate a Prize for the Silent Auction

Call today to reserve your spot!

231-779-1888



Love INC
Love In the Name of Christ

The mission of Love INC is to mobilize the church, transforming lives and strengthening the communities one person, one family at a time with love, hope and dignity.

Love Letter

Spring 2019

Love INC

PO Box 88

Cadillac, MI 49601

Phone: 231-779-1888

Email: office.admin@loveinccadillac.org

Website: loveinccadillac.org

VOLUNTEER SHOWCASE

We love our volunteers who so willingly help us out. We would not be able to do what we do without them! In this edition, we showcase a few volunteers from the office and our resale stores:

LOVE INC OFFICE: MARY BELLOWS has been a volunteer for 14 years. When asked why she volunteers, she replied: "I liked the mission of Love INC. When I retired, a friend suggested I volunteer. I jumped in, a little reluctant at first, but from the first day have always felt welcome. The staff and volunteers are so friendly, supportive and helpful. They note volunteer strengths and build on them. They also remember to check with a volunteer to be sure they are comfortable with the task assigned. The staff are all Christians and that shows in all aspects of their work world. Best of all is when I see the mission being fulfilled in the best of ways every time I am present. Thank you Love INC for welcoming me. You support me even when I am not at my best. You gracefully deal with my limited availability. Love is such an appropriate name for your organization."

REED CITY INC SPOT STORE: Our volunteer to recognize is **THELMA RICHMOND**, who is here nearly every day of the week. She has been with us since 2012, and is priceless! She writes, "I've been volunteering at the INC Spot for the last several years. It's rewarding to help others and it's for a great cause. All of us workers have a lot of fun together, too."

MANTON INC SPOT STORE: The staff would like to recognize **DIANE NEWMAN** as our volunteer this edition. "She has gone above and beyond many times by taking home electronics to repair and research the items. She also has taken many printing jobs home to complete and helps in every area of the store."

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A WAY TO SERVE?

We currently need volunteers in the following areas: client transportation needs, mowing lawns, and general household repairs including simple plumbing. Or, come join our efforts of being part of a wheelchair ramp team or the fun of driving a box truck to Hudsonville every 6-8 weeks - no lifting involved! If you can help in any of these areas, please contact our clearinghouse at 231-779-1888. We are always looking for volunteers in both resale stores: In Reed City contact Lynda Remus at 231-832-9495 or in Manton contact Michelle Bora at 231-824-4500

TO ALL AREA CHURCHES

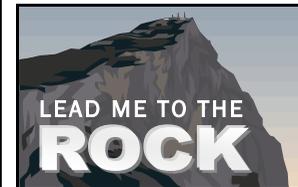


We hope you are reading this and love being a part of our Love INC ministry! If you are not part of one of our member churches and would like to be, please contact Carol @ 231-779-1888. We would love to have you join us! What value does Love INC bring to your church?

- ◇ We unify the Body of Christ by bringing local churches together and coordinating their vast resources of expertise, talent, time and product.
- ◇ We empower dozens of volunteers to use their gifts and talents for legitimate, manageable service opportunities.
- ◇ We oversee a central clearinghouse to receive, screen, clarify, and resource needs, tracking client history for reference.
- ◇ We develop a working knowledge and awareness of existing community resources, identifying service gaps, and pursuing possible solutions.
- ◇ We provide free services and donated products to assist needy families with both immediate and long-term help.
- ◇ We transform lives by offering life-changing opportunities through accountable incentive based long-term programs that move people from need, to living independent full lives.
- ◇ We promote good stewardship by focusing on the person, not just their expressed need, seeking to offer people a hand-up not just a hand-out.
- ◇ We offer unique value because no other business, entity, or organization has the manpower, resources, time or expertise to provide this type of voluntary service – only the unified Body of Christ.

BUDGET BASICS: One of our recent experiences is that of a single working woman who was referred to us by DHHS. She had never been a client of ours, but was requesting tips on how to control her spending and save money as she was getting behind on her bills. She was set up with one of our budget counselors and met with them several times until she felt comfortable implementing what she had learned. About three months later, she reached out once more for additional help and has successfully been on her own since!

Available year round and offered in both Wexford and Osceola counties, Love INC has four budget counselors available who are happy to meet with anyone in need of some good advice and tips about spending money wisely. We will help you organize your finances and create an individualized budget. If you know of someone who could use some "one on one" mentoring, please call Corinna at 231-779-1888 and we'll gladly make arrangements.



HIGHER GROUND FAMILY LEARNING CENTER

is empowering people to make a difference in their life! As people begin to believe in themselves and see themselves through God's eyes, they are transformed. Each individual transformed will impact their sphere of people around them and they become a role model to those who look up to them. They move from being in need to being part of the solution. They want to pass it forward to someone else caught and imprisoned in a need situation. If you know of a family who would benefit from such a program, please contact Deb Booher or Jan Kage by phone at Love INC 231-779-1888 or email us at highergroundwex@loveinccadillac.org. Classes are in session right now and everyone is welcome!

OUR LOVE INC BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Pastor Tom Reinertson (Chair), Berniece Verbrugge (Vice-chair), Mark Featherston (Treasurer), Pastor Melodye VanOudheusden (Secretary), Pastor Tom Ball, Pastor Jim Mort, Gary Pullen, Marlene Puska, Jennifer Mitchell, Jessica Kroes and Carol Dolan (Executive Director).



EASTER HAPPENED

The calendar at Love INC is filled with board meetings; plans for fundraisers in the fall and spring; management of two retail stores; Director and staff meetings and various items of business to keep the organization running smoothly. The idea that "it takes a village to raise a child" can be extended to apply to our Love INC team.....it takes a "village" of staff, volunteers, board members, churches and community to meet the needs of those within it. Each phone call is answered with compassion for the caller's situation and assistance is put into action by an outreach to the many different churches, organizations, and caring individuals both in Wexford and Osceola counties.

There would be no Love INC without you - without your help - without your donations of either time, talent or financial assistance. Love INC, through this help, provides a bit of solid ground for those who have lost their footing and need a caring hand up.

The crosses standing in front of the Love INC office remind those who pass by of the love given for us all and how it permeates into the caring hands and hearts of those within this organization. As we're drawn to the foot of that cross this Easter season, we remember "EASTER HAPPENED" because of the greatest love of all, and that love continues to be experienced and shared through the vehicle of Love INC.

With gratitude and thanksgiving we share with you the message of Easter.....HE LIVES through each one of us. Live life full out. You are a magnificent expression of the Divine. What a blessing it is to be in the service of Love INC with you.

Written by one of the many Love INC volunteers,
Judie Sprague



Looking for a faith based non-profit to make a tax deductible gift? Please consider making Love INC of Wexford & Osceola Counties your non-profit of choice. Your donation will provide much needed support to help us meet the unexpected crisis of our clients. Be blessed and be a blessing all the same! Please use the enclosed envelope.