



Love INC
Love In the Name of Christ



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VOLUME XXVI ISSUE I

Love INC links people in need to volunteers from a network of area churches. Our mission is to transform lives and communities, In the Name of Christ.

More Than Just Community Service

Some Love INC requests are downright complicated. From time to time, persons who are required by the court to perform community service will contact Love INC to volunteer. Often these requests are difficult to honor within the Love INC structure due to confidentiality issues or our inability to accommodate evenings or weekends. With the state of Virginia's practice of removing driving privileges with certain offenses, these people often do not have driver's licenses. Others, due to the nature of their offenses, are not appropriate for client contact. Generally, we help those who are already part of a church family and for whom we have references.

A request for community service came to us this past fall. Offender Aid and Restoration (OAR) referred Mr. Jenkins to Love INC.

Mr. Jenkins was a lawn-care specialist with reliable transportation. He needed only five hours of service to complete his community service requirements. We consulted the probation officer and he reassured us that the man would be ideal help, and that he went to a church in the county.

Mr. Jenkins agreed to go to five different client homes and complete the jobs asked. Two needs were for extensive bush-hog mowing work, but Mr. Jenkins was finished in short order. He said that he knew both the recipi-



ents because he lived nearby.

Another task was to examine a mold issue for an elderly woman who had been on the needs list for months. Mr. Jenkins sent back a detailed description of the problem, along with some possible solutions so that any volunteer group would have a clear idea of what might be involved.

Another request entailed gutter cleaning and trimming bushes, and again, Mr. Jenkins took care of all of it. He called the office to say that he still had one more hour of service to fulfill.

The final client's yard-work requests had remained on our needs list for more than two years. Church volunteers had reportedly gone to the woman's home on several different occasions, but the volunteers never had been in touch with the Love INC office to say why they had not been able to do the work.

So, Mr. Jenkins went to the home and then realized he had gone to school with the woman's son. He did the yard work for her, thus fulfilling the last hour of his obligation. But, when it came to the tree trimming, he knew right away that the task was too big for him. He telephoned our office to explain that it was NOT a small trim job; in fact, there was a huge pine tree overhanging the home. The entire tree needed removal — no job for a volunteer or even a church group.

He spoke at length about his concerns for the woman who was on oxy-

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gen and quite disabled. Those worries prompted Mr. Jenkins to go the extra mile. In the coming days, he called on another friend, an arborist, and described the potentially dangerous situation, then he set up an appointment between the arborist and the home owner where she was of-

fered a rate well below the usual price!

This is an ongoing case and Mr. Jenkins will be checking back periodically. Love INC is looking forward to hearing the rest of the story. We are so grateful for the caring shown by this volunteer.

The Perseverance of the Saint

Roger, one of our most faithful volunteers now attending Christ Episcopal Church in Charlottesville and one of the men behind the Bunkbed Ministry does not give up easily. Years ago, he had worked patiently to get one of our clients into a Habitat Home when it became apparent that her dilapidated trailer was beyond repair. He had gathered a men's group from First Presbyterian Church to assist with construction, staying with the task until our client was in her new home. Roger is also the sort of volunteer who delivers something to a client, but telephones them later to see if all is still going well. Clients have told us the Roger "really cares" about them.

Love INC did not intend for Roger to take on the task of repairing another home, but only that he lend his wisdom. Jenny from Trinity Presbyterian Church had contacted Love INC about getting her friend, Carol, into a Habitat Home. Carol, a widow, owns an unpretentious, somewhat neglected, 1950's home built in the county on a back road. Love INC connected Jenny with Roger as he had guided a previous client in procuring a Habitat Home. Roger's kind heart does not allow for mere advice, however. Roger went out and inspected the home and concluded Carol did not need a new place to live!

- "Carol owns her home without a mortgage. It stands on a 2-1/2 acre lot. She wants to stay in the house. She has daughters and their children in the home. The house is structurally sound, but is in need of repair:
- AHIP rewired (parts of) the house about 20 years ago but the breaker blows when certain outlets are used. A qualified electrician must review the circuits and wiring.
- There are plumbing leaks and sheetrock removed to catch drips in pans. Plumber needed.
- After the plumbing and wiring issues, drywall

and finishing work needed.

- The only source of heat in the winter is a wood stove in the kitchen."

Encouraged, Jenny found a plumber willing to do the plumbing repairs at a reduced cost. Roger enlisted the help of Charlie at Christ Episcopal Church willing to help with critical electrical issues. Charlie finished the re-wiring in a couple weeks. The plumber was not as available. Jenny and Roger hounded the elusive plumber to complete the job. Roger called or emailed him daily until he completed the work. Now all that remained would be some sheetrock and patching. Love INC put out a call for someone to assist with the sheetrock, but the plumber had already given a referral for a sheetrock man and Jenny's church had promised to pay him for the work.

Just before the holidays, with the plumbing still incomplete, Carol's electricity was disconnected. One of the daughters was to have paid the bill but had not. Love INC sent Carol to Energy Share from Dominion Power, now located at the Salvation Army. They were out of funding. Love INC began to explore other ways to assist. In the meantime, Carol had the power turned back on. We suspect that Roger had a hand in the reconnection. He confessed to having Carol do some expert hemming and needlework for him so she could earn the money. He says she is an expert tailor. During the holidays, an area business, World Strides, brought Carol a Thanksgiving dinner and Pastor Kenny Barrow with Piedmont Baptist Church brought gifts and a Christmas dinner. David from Ivy Creek United Methodist Church teamed up with Peter from St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Ivy to bring firewood when needed.



Almost a year has gone by since Jenny's first call to Love INC. Roger is still persevering; making sure the sheet-rock is completed. We wonder what other miracles can be wrought in this community. Roger and Jenny with help from several other churches certainly implemented a few around here!

Other church groups may wish to go in and do some additional work. There is still plenty to be done. From Roger's initial list, the following still needs completion: windows

and trim, new shingles on the roof over the kitchen, replacement/repair of soffit and trim around the outside of the house, and replacement of the kitchen floor. So if you or a group from your church sense that God is prompting to use your gifts and talents, contact the Love INC office!■

** Names of those served have been changed throughout the newsletter to protect confidentiality*

Cybercrime and a Merry Christmas?

Another credit-card fraud scam!!! We hear about these things on the news, but rarely do we see the lives it affects. One day, Michelle called Love INC looking for help. Her debit card had been compromised at a local gas station, and her bank account was somehow drained from a location in Florida. "Yes," said law enforcement, "that has happened several times here in our area."

The result of the fraud was that Michelle was not able to pay all of her rent. Since Love INC has no funding for rent or other emergencies here in the office, and because she lived out of our immediate area, we had very little to offer.

But that's where the story takes an interesting turn. Enter Cindy from **Westminster Presbyterian Church**. She arrived at the office with boxes and tubs of toys that her son, now in the Navy, had long outgrown. "This box," she said, "has some really high-tech type Legos. It isn't really for little children."

She also brought several other more standard Lego sets as well as trains and other toys. At the time, our staff was so short-handed that there was little time to organize all the toys, but the more advanced Legos were set aside.

A few days later, another call came from Michelle. The good news was that she had figured out a way to borrow the rent money, and her bank would be reimbursing her for the credit-card fraud — eventually —but she

couldn't afford a Christmas gift for her 10-year-old boy. She had older children who didn't really need anything, but her son was autistic and did not have the same understanding as his siblings.

Our staff had lots of little-kid toys, but for a 10-year-old? "The only thing we have left is a complicated Lego set," we told her. "It might not be suitable for your child." There was silence at the other end of the phone, then a couple of tearful breaths. "Legos?" she gasped. "I was praying for a way to get some Legos for my son. That's what he wanted more than anything else!"

Michelle soon came to our office. We could see the strain in



the lines on her face from caring for the children alone and especially for a special needs child. The gift was perfect. She hid it in a large black plastic bag so it would be a surprise on Christmas morning. Our staff prayed with her and gave her some encouraging verses to ponder. She said she couldn't wait to share the testimony at her church.

And now we share this with you. The Lord not only worked out Michelle's fraud case, but He gave her more than she could have hoped for as a Christmas gift. Doesn't the Bible tell us something about that? ■

2016 Overview Annual Report

Where does Love INC get its funding? Actually, it's a question we often hear and, in response — taking 2016 as typical — churches contributed 51% of our income, individual donors 40%, foundations 8% and businesses 1% of our total income.

The budget for 2016 was \$194,000 and, praise God, our ending actual was \$205,752. Furthermore, we managed \$27,180 worth of pass-through or designated funding for specific needs.

Our program costs amount to 83% of our contributions, administrative costs, 14%, with promotion and development, 3%. As noted in previous reports, a nonprofit is deemed efficient with administration/promotion expenditures being in the 25-30% range. And, of particular note, with our contributions, we were able to produce \$580,078 in goods and services to those in need in the community.

We engaged 86 churches and 72 agencies processing 4140 requests. We completed the needs

of 655 families through a small army (approximately 1000) of church volunteers. We met the needs of 2541 adults and 2306 children. Of further note, this year our affiliate weathered several 'storms.' For a time we lived out of two separate offices while mold remediation was done in the main office. Then complaints led to having to curtail donations of goods for several months, which took a toll on our clients and Love INC's donor base. Thankfully, we are happy to report that we are again taking donations, but request that items not be left outside our door to keep the landlord happy.

As we embark on a new phase of transformational ministry during the coming year, please pray that God will supply the volunteers, mentors and church support needed. ■



A Thank You to Pat

Who would have thought that Pat would become such an indispensable part of our office team here at Love INC! Of course, one never knows when God may send an unlikely angel unawares to fill a gap in His work. Look how so many churches worked together to help Pat and bring us a wonderful volunteer!

We first heard about her when Rev. Dot Melotte of **Free Union Church of the Brethren** called Love INC about a woman facing homelessness. Her husband had died the previous year and she had moved to the Charlottesville area to live with and care for an elderly invalid in the county. Then the patient died and the family asked her to move out as they were selling the home.

Pat had no children and no living relatives. All she had left was an old car, a meager Social Security check, and her little dog, who was in declining health.

Pat had been attending **Buck Mountain Episcopal Church** and the rector, Rev. Connie Clark, had been helping her. Connie filled in details for

Love INC and networked among church members for a new place for Pat to live.

Pat moved to a cottage on a farm in the eastern part of Albemarle County, renting from a couple attending **St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Simoleon**. She called Love INC because her dog was not doing well. Her words were heart wrenching: "He's the only family I have left, and I am just not ready for that. I am going to hang up now because I'm about to cry."

Clearly, Pat's dog would not live much longer. A Love Inc volunteer found Pat an affectionate, older cat that promptly took up residence on her bed. That didn't take care of all her problems, but it showed our caring and helped Pat know that she was not all alone.



Not too long after that, Pat called Love INC and

offered to volunteer. Starting with just one or two days a week, she soon became a permanent fixture in the office, answering the phone and volunteering with clients. While some people might rest in their “retirement,” Pat began to reach out to others and in the process made many new friends.

Several shut-ins even called Love INC asking when “that little lady in the red car” would visit them again! Our office staff and volunteers in turn reached out to Pat (as did St. Luke’s parishioners and Rev. Ann Willms) to make sure her own needs were met.

Pat had been here at Love INC answering phones every day except Tuesdays when she attended the St. Luke’s Bible study, *Bad Girls of the Bible*, and had lunch. Regrettably, last fall Pat be-

gan to suffer from stability issues, possibly stemming from repeated concussions as a horseback rider in her younger days. She became more and more unsteady on her feet and fell often. Unable to do housework or cook, she began to grow thin.

Alarmed, both Love INC and her church intervened. Pat was unable to maneuver in her apartment, and had to give up driving her “little red car.” At that point she went into a nursing care facility where she remains at this time.

We at Love INC are at a loss, bereft of her sparkle. We miss her smile and her dry humor; a great void is left in our office team. Her love for Christ and His people has truly blessed us all. We miss you, Pat, and we love you. ■

God Provides!

Here at Love INC, we can work hard and we can pray hard, but we can never ensure that all of our challenges are resolved—that’s the Lord’s work. The story that follows is just one of dozens of instances in which God moves the hearts of His people at the same time to coordinate with a need in the community.

A young single mom, who works as a care provider for a disabled woman, telephoned Love INC to see if she could get some clothes for both herself and her disabled client. We had none, but we suggested that she drop by the office to pick up a clothing voucher for the Belmont Clothing Closet. She said that she would visit us later in the morning.

Meanwhile, Marion, who was a petite woman and a frequent donor, happened to show up that very morning with her husband to give us several bags of clothing.

When our single mom arrived, we took a look at her and saw that she was *also* a petite woman.... Perhaps Marion’s clothing might fit! The care-giving mom told us that her client was also, coincidentally, very small.

The mom went away happily with all needs met: several bags of clothes and even some undergarments that would fit her disabled patient. In addition, she was able to pick up some girls’ clothing for her daughter.

A “Hands On” Opportunity

Melanie from **City Church** wanted to do something over the holidays, something tangible and hands on. So, our Love INC staff gave her Liza’s name. Liza needed help with housecleaning. We did not hear again from Melanie, but Liza called back a few days later to tell about her “new friend, Melanie.”

Liza said: “She cleaned the stove perfect and the bathroom so nice and she cleaned my rug too. It is a brown one. Thank God it isn’t white.

“She was very sweet to me. Love INC always sends me the best. She worked hard to be so

teenie and small. She is very strong, too. The stove amazed me! She got it white again!

“I’m keeping it up now, too since she helped me. I thank you all so much for sending such a special person to me.”

We think it was God Who sent the ‘special person.’ And, we are grateful as well. ■





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