



Love INC
Love In the Name of Christ



SUMMER 2015

VOLUME XXIV ISSUE II

A Look Back at 2014

The year 2014 was busy but successful on many fronts for the ministry of Love In the Name of Christ. New churches continue to join the network, partnering with other fellowships to help people in need. There was no letup in clients — our neighbors in need — calling Love INC seeking assistance. Social and government agencies also continue to call Love INC seeking assistance for their clients. And, churches, both in and out of the network, continue to call and refer people to Love INC who are asking for their assistance.

The numbers of those helped continued to grow and you have been a vital ingredient in that growth through your prayers, financial support and volunteering. In fact, in 2014, you helped serve 4,090 people (1,953 adults and 2,137 children). Love INC also worked with 107 different churches and 85 different agencies providing assistance for our neighbors in need. We fulfilled a total of 1,841 requests for help, among them the following:

- 410 households received furniture and household goods; 10 others received medical-related items.
- 151 families received as much clothing as they could use.
- 104 authenticated emergency financial needs were met.
- 495 families received Thanksgiving meals, 136 families received Christmas meals, and 51 families received Christmas gifts through programs Love INC helped coordinate. In addition, 405 children received school supplies.
- 13 people received household repairs, 5 received help with housecleaning, 3 received auto repairs, and 14 received firewood.
- 14 families received help moving to a new residence.

- 12 homeless individuals or families received supplies, such as tents, blankets, food, and/or outdoor equipment.

Six hundred eighteen of you volunteered 4,852 hours to assist and make life better for your neighbors in need. Many thanks as well to the 432 donors who gave generously to fund Love INC's work to bring churches together to transform lives and communities in the name of Christ.

We also are excited about working with churches to add new Gap Ministries to the network. These ministries are designed to meet a need not already being offered (or not offered enough) in the community. Gap Ministries are relational, and most are designed with a mentoring component that gives a hand up to people, while helping them with immediate material needs. The current and developing Gap Ministries are:

- Laundry Mentoring Ministry - **Belmont Baptist Church**
- Diaper Mentoring Ministry - **Olivet Presbyterian Church**
- Personal Care Ministry - **Word of Faith Church**
- Medical Equipment Ministry - **Ruckersville Baptist Church**
- Children's Clothing Ministry - **Immanuel Lutheran Church**
- Furniture Delivery Ministry - **Calvary Chapel of Charlottesville**
- Bunk Bed Ministry (New!) - **Multi-Church**
- Firewood Ministry - **Ivy Creek UMC, St. Paul's, Ivy & Scottsville UMC**

Another plus that grows out of the relational ministries is that volunteers often become aware of additional issues within the families they minister to. >>>

And in communicating these issues to Love INC, the other revealed areas can be addressed by caring volunteers, further building relationships between God's people and those being served.

Also imperative to the Love INC ministry is the small army of loyal volunteers that come to the office, sort through donations, help with mailings, do data base projects, make deliveries to shut-ins and assist with

phone calls. Would you consider joining them? We will communicate new needs as they develop through the coming year.

Now, to wrap up this summary, we want to express our appreciation to all those who have contributed their time and resources to the Love INC movement to help people in need. We have been blessed, but so have hundreds of others in our community. ■

Following the Spirit's Leading

In what began as a rather typical request from one of our clients, the expressed need proved to be "just the tip of the iceberg." After sustaining an injury that seemed to defy healing, her nurse requested that Ira* sit so as to keep her injury elevated. In turn, she called Love INC, asking us for a suitable chair to make that request more feasible — and possibly some clothing.

Good news followed when a recliner was found, along with some clothing. A volunteer was also found and the items were delivered. But something kept prompting this volunteer to visit Ira again and pray with her regarding the injury — which she did. The prayer was short and to the point and the visit was not a long one. But there was enough time to see that this client had MANY more needs than she initially requested.

The bathroom was quite dirty: In fact, Ira had no cleaning supplies, not even the basic items. Further, she was doing her laundry in the bathroom sink.

She had no table at which to eat, or sofa, lamps or bookcases.

The kitchen had no dishes, utensils, pots or pans, or even a trash bin.

Boxes were still piled about, still packed — or perhaps empty? It was difficult to walk through the apartment. Items we had found for her appeared to be un-utilized as yet and

stacked on top of the boxes.

While Ira had a bright and cheery tone to her voice and demeanor, she seemed almost TOO cheerful given her circumstances. Questions seemed to abound. Was she really quite depressed? Did she need inner healing as well? Even by casual observation, Ira's apartment appeared like that of a very depressed person.



Thankfully, the volunteer was attuned to the situation and quickly passed her observations into the office so that the other needs could be addressed. In fact, this is just the type of situation pointing to why Love INC is not "need oriented" but looks at the WHOLE person: spiritually, socially, and physically. Our goal is to get to the root problem, recognizing that sometimes the need expressed is not the actual need of the person who calls. We are blessed by the fact that many of our church and office volunteers have the same perspective, doing their best to not only be the hands and feet of Jesus, but also an extra pair of eyes and ears, alert to other needs clients may have. ■

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

The Rest of the Story — With a Beautiful Ending!

Rachel first came to our attention several years ago when she asked us for help with yard work and repairs. Because it was contended that there were poisonous snakes on the property, volunteers had been reluctant to help, but after waiting months on our "needs list," a church

was finally found to assist her.

But, there is so much more to the story than yard and repair work that bares sharing, because of the impact on Rachel's life. In fact, if you have ever wondered what happens to the people helped by the

churches through Love in the Name of Christ, here is a “rest of the story” example in the words of the volunteer:

“Three years ago, a team from our congregation responded to a need through Love INC. Rachel had gone through a divorce, and was subsequently defrauded by someone hired to remodel her home. She had only a gutted home, without proper plumbing or kitchen facilities. Rachel had attended church as a young person and walked with the Lord, but it seemed like bitter circumstances in life had left her vulnerable, alone, and far from Him.

“Our church helped her as much as we could. We installed kitchen cabinets and gutters. We rebuilt her shed and hired a plumber to install the bathroom fixtures. But it wasn't meeting the material needs and living conditions that was the most important part of this story. Because we came alongside her as friends, we became people she could trust when she felt

like there was no one else.

“We invited her to fellowship events at our church. Reluctant at first, Rachel finally attended and began to make new friendships. In the spring, one of her new friends invited her to attend Easter service. Rachel went — and has attended church ever since. She began attending prayer meetings regularly as well as other church events. We've seen her flourish and her life truly turned around. Her family relationships have been mended, and the Lord has shown Himself strong in her life.

“Without the opportunity to reach out to Rachel in her need we would never have had the privilege of watching her re-connect with her Lord.” ■



Giving Back

Salome first came to us after she and her children lost their housing in another county. In the housing crash of 2008-09, her landlord's property had been foreclosed on and the repercussions hit her hard. In fact, she became aware of the crisis when the sheriff came to her door and made them leave without anything but a few photos and some personal paperwork they were able to salvage.

Fortunately, social workers found her emergency housing via Section 8, but she had to move to Charlottesville. With her family all living at a distance now, she was left without even beds to sleep on. But, between her Charlottesville Department of Social Services worker and Love INC, her home was gradually furnished.

She also received holiday meals and gifts for her children that year, including coats and clothes. But there was no job for her anywhere. She went into the VIEW Program through social services, so that she could gain some job training and hopefully a new job in Charlottesville. But it was an uphill battle all the way.

First there were issues with the father of the children, who was incarcerated and no longer paid child support. In some ways that was a relief as Salome had been trying to distance herself from him. Then

some old fines resurfaced to haunt Salome. A new man in her life brought some ‘baggage’ that was potentially threatening to herself and her children. And she was still unable to find good employment.

Later the following year, Love INC got a phone call from Mary Grant who runs classes for the VIEW program in CDSS. Would Love INC be willing to take a lady for job training? With considerable hesitation, stemming from some previous attempts with other VIEW participants, Love INC agreed.

What a big and pleasant surprise! Salome, whom we already knew, turned out to be one sharp lady, with a knack for finding information via the internet. She was particularly good at taking intakes and referring needs to just the right place. The Love INC staff begged to keep her on, but she was hired for competitive employment with a dispatching agency and, regrettably, we lost our lady wizard! Salome came back briefly to work with us, but then she moved her whole family out of state, where she found an even better job and was married. She sent us pictures.

Now, nearly six years later — with many miles between us — she continues to keep in touch via social media. Her family attends a large church near her home. Both she and her husband have jobs >>>

and they are doing well. Recently a message came from her:

“hey Susan ..I’m going to start sending donations every pay period is it better to use the PayPal i see on your site or i was going to set it up to automatically come out of my account..Im finally in a place where i can give to you all it has been on my heart for a long time and i want to be a faithful donor to you all. It’s not much but I want to give something every

two weeks. I’m grateful that you all were there and were a part of my life and I thank you all, because you and Ray inspired me to stay on the right track. Love you all” ■

NOTE: due to some threats she received from the father of her children, we have not disclosed her Charlottesville church or other information. Her information from our office has been archived.

A Little Worried About Helping a Stranger

As a regular occurrence here at Love INC, a social worker from some agency will call looking for a volunteer to give a ride, a meal or some kind of one-on-one assistance for one of her clients. On this particular day, the social worker looking for assistance was from a healthcare insurance agency.

Her request was for an elderly woman who had been quite ill and was still unable to stand for long periods of time. She needed to get an identification card from the Department of Motor Vehicles, so that she would be able to get her medications through a less expensive program. However, she did not drive, and was too weak to go through the rigors of taking public transportation from her home to the DMV.

Regrettably, as too often happens at Love INC, the request stayed on the Needs List for several months, without anyone stepping forward. Then one day Cherie, who worships at **City Church**, called. “Is that request for a ride taken yet?” It was not. But, Cherie seemed a little hesitant.

Then, she began asking questions. Would she have to lift the client? Could the client walk on her own? Was she safe to take in the car? Then she said she would get around to calling the social worker when she had a chance. But, at Love INC, we don’t wait long for chances!

The staff person called the social worker at once and asked her to call Cherie right away. “She may be a little worried about taking a stranger.” The social worker assured the staff person that she would reassure Cherie that the client was a lovely, sweet lady who would cause

no trouble.

Cherie sent an email a week later. She had been in touch with the social worker and had spoken with the elderly lady. They had an appointment for the following week. Cherie would pick her up for the ride to DMV. Cherie wanted also to make sure that the elderly lady had all the necessary documentation — and our staff commended Cherie for even thinking of this! “You should just call her and make sure of that,” advised the staff member.

The morning of the big day, Cherie called the office, concerned that she was unable to find the apartment! So again the staff person assisted (and prayed) and, as it turned out, soon thereafter a passer-by stopped, spoke with Cherie and pointed out just where she should look. The apartment was evidently in the rear of the building. Cherie did not call back, but later she wrote:

“It was perfect timing! God orchestrated it so amazingly! I even got lost several times. We got there and walked right up to the counter. A couple of minutes later lots of people came in. We had a wonderful talk. She’s a Christian and such a precious lady. They said that she won’t get her ID for 7-10 days, but she needs it before that to get her meds on Thursday. We’re praying that it will come early in God’s perfect time or for favor. They gave her a piece of paper saying that it was in the mail. Maybe they will give them to her with just that.”

Funny how these little encounters can bring such joy to both the giver and the recipient. God is truly in midst! ■



Donate Your Vehicle For a Good Cause



Help Someone
Succeed in Life

Tax Deductible at
Blue Book Value



Love INC
Love In the Name of Christ

Read the
Love Story!



We had a visitor at the office recently who relayed her story and appreciation for the impact Love INC had on her life. Some 10 years ago, she had requested a car from Love INC. She was about to lose her job due to the difficulty and distance to her work. There was no car readily available so she was placed on a waiting list. But the very next day, someone from one of our partner churches, **First Baptist, Park Street**, brought in a car to donate. She was called and the transfer made. Now, 10 years later, she returned to tell us "The Rest of the Story". Because she received the car, she kept her job. Because of her job, she met her husband. They now have three children and ...they have bought their own home! Just because someone donated a car!

Won't you help someone become self sufficient? Your old car can change someone's life for the better!

Vehicles must be in good running order with a current Inspection sticker.
Love INC is a 501 (c) 3 so you can deduct the actual market value of your vehicle.

Call Love INC: 434-977-7777
Email: office@loveincville.org



Love INC

Love In the Name of Christ

198 Spotnap Road, Suite C-1
Charlottesville, VA 22911

Return Service Requested

Love INC is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit ministry that links people in need to volunteers from a network of area churches.

Web Site: www.loveinccville.org
E-mail: office@loveinccville.org

I/We appreciate what the Lord is doing through
the Ministry of Love In the Name of Christ
of Charlottesville/Albemarle County
and want to share in its support with a financial gift.

Please indicate amount:

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$1000 \$ Other

Name: Date:

Address:

City, State ZIP:

Church/Business (Optional):

... Gifts to Love INC are Tax Deductible ...
You will receive an acknowledgment of your
contribution for tax purposes

Thank you so much for your support!

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
Paid
Charlottesville,
VA.
Permit # 532

Office Information

LOVE INC OFFICE

Monday through Friday
9 A.M.— 4 P.M.

Telephone Lines

Neighbor Help Line: 434-977-7777

Business Line: 434-293-6060

Board of Directors

Lynn Bell, Joyce Fredericks
David Harris (Emeritus),
Jay Knight, Raymond Klein, Jeff Krecek,
Larry Moore, David & Lorena Perez,
Ricker Polsdorfer, Bill Riesmeyer

Staff:

Executive Director: Raymond Klein
Clearinghouse Coordinator: Susan Shellito
Furniture Coordinator:
Lauryn Mathena-Armstrong

Office Volunteers:

Financial Assistant: Laura Woodworth,
Beth Fraser
LINC Editor: Bill Landes
Associate Editor: Jamie Miller
Phone and Office Volunteers:
Betty Bradney, Marie Cotti,
Pat Henley, Mary Mitchell
Virginia Morris, Phyllis Penley, Karel Seger

Interns:

Fellows: Mary Kathryn Sawyer