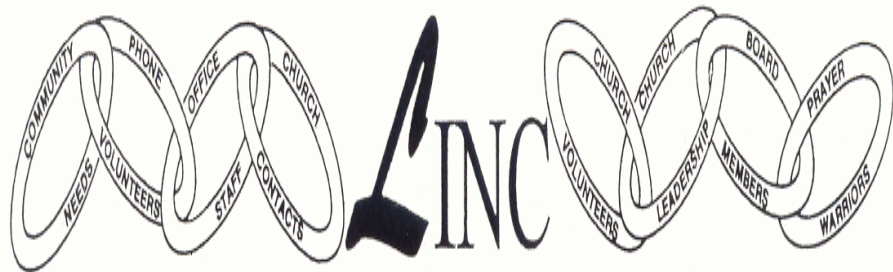




Love INC
Love In the Name of Christ



VOLUME XXI ISSUE IV

WINTER 2012

Tutoring For Years — The Rest of the Story

For many of our readers the name of Paul Harvey will ‘ring a bell.’ Among other reasons, Mr. Harvey, a well known radio commentator and syndicated columnist for more than five decades, was famous for his “The Rest of the Story” additives to the already known facts of news and human interest features.

Well, in the Fall issue of the *LINC*, we published a love story about a volunteer that was engaged in tutoring a young lady for years, a story that Ray Klein “stumbled” upon while talking with her mother at the Love INC table set up for the African American Pastor’s Council’s city wide event in Washington Park last August.

While the Love INC staff had been initially unable to identify the volunteer, when the story was read by someone acquainted with the situation, she checked and her assumption proved to be absolutely correct. So, with the “mystery” volunteer identified, we made contact and asked her whether she would be willing to share “the rest of the story.” So, here it is in Melva’s own words:

“It began, appropriately enough, in church when I responded to a talk by a young man affiliated with Love, INC and then was spurred on when a flyer in our church bulletin listed possible ways we might help. I checked “Mentor a parent” or “Tutor a child” since I was a part-time teacher in a reading tutoring program. I had no idea what that might mean, but it matched my interests and experience.

“A few weeks later I got a call from Love INC with information about a woman who had custody of her 4-year-old granddaughter who was in need of support. I made a call and the relationship began.

“Because Sabrina’s* mother was a young teenager when she was born, her grandmother was in the process of raising them both and was very stressed. Sabrina was having lots of trouble in her preschool program, and her grandmother was overwhelmed by the problems she faced and prospects for the future.

“So we talked, I visited the school and met with the teacher, and began to take Sabrina out on excursions. We went to the

mountains, went to Bodo’s for her first time, baked cookies, got ice cream, took walks and visited parks. She became my “Thursday child”.



“Both of us enjoyed it, and so we just kept on. I spent some time talking with her grandmother, and listening, and I think it helped her not to feel so alone. I have spent my life with boys - brothers and sons - and so I loved having a girl to hang out with. There was actually very little tutoring involved, but reading stories and visiting the library were part of our routine. I really had no pre-conceived notion about any time frame, and so we sort of grew into a continuing relationship, as if I were an extended family member. She calls me her “Godmother” and that’s what it feels like to me.

“Over several years, our relationship grew and changed. There were gymnastics lessons, piano lessons, music lessons, swimming lessons. I had the means and the time to do things with her that her grandmother could not. We baked Christmas cookies and decorated Easter eggs. I went to some of her -

school programs and occasionally talked with teachers

“As we rode around in my car, she learned the words to many Mary Chapin Carpenter songs, and so she actually went with us to see her at Old Cabell Hall. Sabrina settled down into school and did well through elementary school.

“Over the years, our activities were different, but we never lost touch. She is truly a delightful person, and I really enjoy her company. When occasional problems arose in her life, her grandmother and I, and often Sabrina, had conversations looking for solutions.

“As Sabrina became a teenager, I was unsure about how to keep the connection with her. She was active at school, in peer groups and with her grandmother’s church, but the days of baking cookies were over.

“Then the perfect opportunity arose. Her cousin was attending an Albemarle County private school on a basketball scholarship, and her grandmother realized that would be an ideal place for Sabrina who was alternating between her grandmother’s and mother’s houses. Our son had finished high school there, and

we encouraged her to apply. She received a scholarship and began attending in the 8th grade.

“As of now, in her junior year, she makes A’s and B’s, is Co-Vice President of the Student Government Association is on the Disciplinary Review Board, plays sports and has developed a real interest in photography. She has received awards for her persistence and has many friends.

“Her advisor describes her as having “a strong concept of what is good and true”. That is what I see in her as well. I have kept in contact by attending her games, occasionally helping with studying, admiring her photography and enjoying peaceful conversations in the car when I drive her out to school. Our own involvement with the school keeps us in close touch with how she’s doing. It’s very likely that she will be able to go to college, a first for her family.

“There is so much more I could write. We were brought together by faith – her grandmother’s and mine. It is intuitively understood by all of us that our time together has been based on that. She has continued a connection with her grandmother’s church and has a strong moral com-

pass. When difficulties arise, such as the death of her grandfather who was really her father figure, we have conversations about faith and how God helps us through the hard times.

“Because of her different school schedule, she has sometimes been able to assist in the Abundant Life Tutoring program where I work, and her gentle spirit makes her wonderfully patient with the little ones.. Last summer, she was a counselor at the Abundant Life Bible Camp at Trinity Presbyterian. She described that as “the highlight of her summer.” It is wonderful to see how God has given her a willingness to serve in Christ’s name.

“I’m not sure what has kept this relationship growing for so long. Somehow, it just feels like it was meant to be, and it has created blessings in all our lives.. It has more evolved than been planned. It has always seemed to me that God is leading and we are just following along. Perhaps that is what I have realized the most – that if we are willing to respond to a need, God has the plan and will facilitate it. I can’t wait to see what will happen next!”

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

A “Lost Sheep” Finds Her Way Back Home

For her 27 years, Diane has had more trouble than one would hope for in a life time. She lost her parents, then a beloved uncle. Next, her grandfather, who raised her, was left an invalid from a massive heart attack.

Despite those trials, Diane, found strength in her faith. A church-going girl, she believed that getting married mattered, so she and her Hispanic boyfriend wed and soon thereafter she was pregnant.

Her pastor said that they were a

quiet, hard working and respectful couple. The husband bought a trailer for a several thousand dollars and fixed it up for his new family. But the difficulties were not over.

Diane’s pregnancy was plagued with gestational diabetes that did

not disappear after the little girl was born. Over and over Diane's 'sugar' spiked to over 600. She was hospitalized again, and again. Three different kinds of insulin did not help.

Only in her 20's, she applied for Medicaid to cover all the expenses, and then she applied for disability. But the problems were not over even then.

The climate in our country had changed for illegal or undocumented Hispanic workers. It became increasingly difficult for her husband to get a job, no matter how hard a worker and how conscientious he was.

So, eventually Diane's husband returned to Mexico in fear of deportation, leaving his family to fend for themselves. Diane babysat for families in her neighborhood, but with her uncontrolled diabetes, her income was sporadic at best.

She was not one to run up large

electric bills, but she got behind on her payments for the second time in a year and no agency would assist. It was suggested she call Love INC.

On the phone Diane just cried. Our staff had to ask her several times to go over what had happened that upset her so badly. She said she was going to have her electricity shut off at 5 o'clock that afternoon.

In response, she was asked if she went to a church or if she had spoken with her pastor. "Oh, no!" she said. "I go to a little tiny country church. They can't help me. Besides, I would be embarrassed to ask them for help."

But after praying with Diane and hanging up, the staff immediately called the pastor of the small country church. Pastor Frank confirmed all that Diane had said, but added that Diane's spiritual needs were as important as her financial needs.

He said that he had no money at his church, but that he would help pay for her electric bill out of his own pocket if Love INC was able to help this young mom. After sharing some of Diane's family background, Pastor Frank expressed his gratitude that Love INC would take such an interest in the life of one of his own flock.

He took her phone number and agreed to call her as soon as he got off his day job. "She needs to get reconnected with our church," he said. "She is a good girl."

The electric bill was covered, forestalling the evening shut-off. Diane was informed that she no longer had to worry and that her pastor would be calling her. She cried again, but this time because she found out that God and her church actually cared about her. Another 'lost sheep' found her way back home. ■

A Sweet Presence and Wonderful Helping Hands

God blessed us this past June and July by sending Lauren Sallee to intern with us and provide a sweet presence and some wonderful, helping hands. Lauren grew up in Portsmouth VA and is a member of **St. John Baptist Church** there. Here at UVA for her undergraduate degree, she attends **Mt. Zion First African Baptist Church**.

She wrote about her experience with Love INC, which we share with you:

"I grew up in church and around family members who are believ-

ers, so I knew all about Jesus, Noah, Adam and Eve, Jonah, etc. But one day everything clicked. I realized that Jesus loved me and all I had to do was to invite Him in. So I asked my pastor what I had to do to be saved. It was so comforting to know that once I let Him in, He would never leave.

"During a winter service trip with several Christian fellowships at UVA, Sharon Root, who works with migrant and homeless families in the Albemarle School System, spoke to our group. She referred me to Love INC after I expressed my desire to

learn more about non-profit organizations and counseling.

"What I like especially about Love Inc is working with a group of people who are passionate about their work and are compassionate toward others. At Love INC I get to be part of a team that helps people not only physically, but spiritually. I love the idea that you work and do God's work at the same time by showing Christ's love through giving, listening and praying.

"I have learned that not every person that calls can be given exactly what they ask for, but

that is all right because God is still in control. Even if we are not able to help then, God can provide for every client far beyond what we could ever think of doing.

“So at Love INC I have been challenged to pray unceasingly. We come across so many people with difficult situations and on a few occasions my heart has been broken and all I COULD do was pray. I get to pray with and for clients some-

times when I am at the office, but I have often found myself praying for clients when I am at home as well. I may never see the results of my prayers, but I know that God is faithful and will answer.

“I have received many calls from people who have expressed how blessed they have been by Love INC and it is evident that God is at work in the hearts and lives of those impacted by Love INC. God has

also been at work in me while I have been here. I am learning that no matter what my ultimate goals and plans are, they are irrelevant if God is not involved.

“No matter how successful I may become or how many material items I acquire, they can be gone in a matter of seconds. It is the work that I do for Christ that matters in the end. God is showing me that without Him, my ‘work’ is in vain.” ■

A Single Dad

Dead-beat dads may be in the news and most of the folks Love INC assist are single mothers, but nevertheless there are many single fathers raising children alone, though the public might not be as aware of them. One such single dad in Charlottesville has been struggling to keep his five children fed, housed, clothed and on a good path.

Sadly, the struggle grew worse when one day he came home to find that raw sewage had flooded his rented home, contaminating furniture, clothing, food – in short, everything. At once he moved his flock to a new home, but they were without beds, furniture, clothes, or their school supplies. He contacted a couple of churches, almost in tears. Could anyone, ANYONE, help him get clothing and beds for his children? Finally, he was referred to Love INC.

So first thing on Monday morning he came to the Love INC office with expectations, only to have his hopes dashed. He had thought there would be furniture immediately available, but there were no beds or dressers in the office.

The staff did find him some boys clothing, and a few household items and put him on the waiting list for the furniture items.

But God heard his cry for help. That very week several donors telephoned the office, two from the **Church of the Incarnation** with large amounts of furniture for donation. Furthermore, **Calvary Chapel of Charlottesville** was scheduled for furniture pick up that very next weekend.

Another donor, on hearing the single dad’s plight, added to her list of donated furniture several bags of clothing and four backpacks of school supplies. And when the good folks at Calvary heard of the man’s troubles, they added several boxes of food, some children’s clothing and an additional bed to what they already would be transporting to the family.

The Calvary chapel movers reported on Saturday afternoon that they had filled the man’s



house with furniture. “I don’t think

we could have fit anything else in there,” said Chuck; “they’re all set now.”

He went on to say how helpful and well-behaved the children were. “There was a real good feeling in that house,” he added. “He does a fine job with those kids. We prayed with all of them. We would have liked them to come to Calvary, but seems they already had a church.”

We also want to thank the folks from **First Baptist Church** and **Mt. Zion First African Baptist Church** for alerting us to this single dad’s plight. Without their calls to Love INC we might never have been able to assist this family.

And as a side note to this story, we want to thank Carlis and her family, who donated a piano, which the Calvary Chapel moving team took to Crescent Hall to replace the badly damaged one that was unplayable. Believe it or not, the moving team took only three hours to pick up and deliver three households’ of furniture, including that piano. Amazing! ■

“Gleanings”

“**W**hen you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Leave them for the poor and for the foreigner residing among you. I am the LORD your God” [Leviticus 23:22].

In the scriptures, the Israelites were told not to pick every last scrap of produce from the land, but to leave some for those in need to come collect — and this principle of sharing from a position of relative abundance is a thread through the Old and New Testaments. Thankfully, Olivia and her husband do just that ... but their expression of generosity took on a different face than the typical form.

Olivia and her husband — long time members of **Trinity Presbyterian Church** and supporters of Love INC — were getting a new refrigerator, so they wished to donate their old one to a needy family. The Love INC staff knew of someone in their general area

who was greatly in need of one and was able to connect the two families. But this was not the end of the story.

Gianna needed the refrigerator, but she was in need in other ways as well. Her husband had worked for years at a local building supply, but had recently been incarcerated, leaving Gianna and her children to fend for themselves.

Not only was Gianna broken-hearted at this loss, but the rent was due, the electricity was in danger of being shut off, and everyone was hungry. Gianna had a part time job cleaning houses, but this was not enough. The Love INC staff explained all this to Olivia as they asked the donor to be a little patient with this client.

So Gianna came to get the refrigerator, then in Olivia’s garage. But, she got more than a refrigerator, for Olivia had attached to the appliance a food gift card for \$100. Gianna was very



grateful for this, knowing that her family could now get some groceries! She called Love INC staff to tell them about the extra gift.

Despite having done what was asked and even more, Olivia continued to ponder the situation. How might she indeed help Gianna without making Gianna feel beholden to “the rich benefactor?”

Then she had an idea. What if she asked Gianna to come once a week and help with housecleaning? That way Olivia would be able to stay in touch with Gianna, assist Gianna financially, monitor that situation for other needs, witness to Gianna, and be her friend.

So that is exactly what Olivia has done. Each week she is able to witness to Gianna as they talk about how things are going for Gianna’s family. We pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to work in Gianna’s heart! And, thank you Olivia for all you have done for Love INC clients over the years!

How Do You Fit In?

I am personally appealing to our supporters to be as generous as they can for this year end giving.

Today’s economy has had a major impact on all of us. Due to job lay-offs or reduced hours, many church members have suffered reduced tithing ability. We, in the non-profit ministry have had trouble keeping up with the increased demands of people who are truly in need because of our own budgets. We are wary of increasing our personnel expense structure to handle this extra work load and

at the same time, the stress level of our folks concerns me.

With our budget not even doubling in ten years, yet the number of requests will go up almost 5 times (from 1,031 to over 5,000) this year. I am concerned about the work load increase on Susan and how that is impacting her. We really need the reliable financial support to increase our budget in 2013 in order to hire one full time assistant for Susan to help her handle the increased work load. But we have to be good stewards and make sound decisions where the budget is involved. **To date**

through October, we are \$6,110.35 behind last year, so that doesn’t give us the confidence that we have that funds to hire the support person.

So, how do you fit in? Will you pray for the needed resources? Ask God whether He would want you to volunteer your time and talent? And, would you consider including Love INC in your giving plan — or, if you are now a donor, increasing your regular support?

Raymond H. Klein, Jr.
Executive Director





Love INC

Love In the Name of Christ

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

Return Service Requested

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

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: loveincoffice@embarqmail.com

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!

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
Fax Line: 434-293-4499

Board of Directors

Lynn Bell, Jay Knight
David Harris (Emeritus),
Raymond Klein, Jeff Kreeck,
David & Lorena Perez, Terry Woodworth,

Staff:

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

Office Volunteers:

Financial Assistant: Laura Woodworth,
Beth Fraser
LINC Editor: Bill Landes
Phone and Office Volunteers:
Betty Bradney, Marie Cotti, Darlene Groome,
Virginia Morris, Phyllis Penley
Yris Vaca, Joan Waller

Interns:

Fellows: Elizabeth Sumrall
UVA Med Interns
Raj Clark, Meredith Newton