



Love INC
Love In the Name of Christ

Love Letters

February / March 2009



A Message from the Director

Gail Kraft

There is much that I could say in this newsletter but my focus to our Love INC friends is to thank you for helping us do this ministry by providing the donations both material and financial and the prayer support we know we get from so many of you.

I often write a "Love Story" about how our ministry impacted a person or family but quite frankly there have been so many stories over the past couple of months, it is difficult to pick just one. But, we keep hearing little vignettes from our pantries and/or volunteers about how our mission of "Transforming Lives in the Name of Christ Through the Church" is being carried out. I heard this morning about two families we sent to our Baby Pantry at Immanuel Lutheran Church – they have started attending church there, praise God. I heard last week that a young mom who received a layette through our partnership with Westwood Reformed Church has started attending that church. The church also helped her with some furniture and contacted us about some other needs we were able to help with. Through some other connections, this young woman may get a scholarship and work-study at Baker College – we know God is at work there! And then there is the couple with seven children that are moving into their Habitat Home this week – what a story of miracles from the day they began budget classes at Fifth Reformed Church to the help they received from their mentor from Calvin CRC to prepare them for home ownership. And the gentleman attending the Forest Park Covenant Church budget class who said through the help of his mentor and his new friends at the church he is getting his financial situation stabilized and was looking forward to Christmas with his three children. I also heard recently about a new Mom attending our Parenting class who went back to church as a result of attending the class, and several people in our Budgeting classes who have done the same. God has been so faithful and none of these miracles would have occurred if we were not here doing the ministry that God has given us to do. So, thank you again for all the support you have given, the prayers, the monetary donations to keep us in ministry, the material donations of food, clothing, furniture and more to help people like those mentioned. We look forward in anticipation of what God will do in 2009. Happy New Year and God Bless you.

January is National Mentor Month

Love INC mentors, teachers and volunteers are the heart of our **New Directions Programs**. Thank you to everyone for the time, love and commitment you give to this program. We extend special thanks to Gary Tidball and Jan Wolf who helped develop this program more than 6 years ago and continue to volunteer countless hours each week to ensure its success.

The dictionary defines a mentor as "a wise and trusted counselor or teacher". I think our mentors have learned that they receive as much or more than they give when they commit to working one on one with our Budget class participants. Mentors help students discover something money cannot buy. A greater sense of their own ability, dignity and control over their lives.

We are recruiting new mentors and teachers for our ever expanding program. Please consider sharing your experiences and time as a mentor. You can work with only one student or more than one if you want, once you experience the joy.

The next Mentor training is scheduled for Tuesday evening March 31, 2009.

Call Eileen at 773-3448, ext. 106, for more information.

Our mission is transforming lives In the Name of Christ through the church

Love INC News

Exciting New Collaboration

Love INC is partnering with Senior Resources to present a new Monday Morning Money Management series for seniors at Tanglewood Park. The class begins March 16th at 10:30 and will be held on consecutive Mondays through May 4th for one hour. For information about the class, call Eileen at Love INC at 773-3448, and to register call Amy at Senior Resources at 733-3519. Class size is limited so call today!

Board Member Changes

We thank Pastor David Sieplinga, Lori Ray, John Terrell and Kate Lillie for their service to Love INC over the past several years. We welcome Leon Van Rees from Bethany CRC who was appointed in January. Mr. Van Rees taught at West Michigan Christian and Muskegon Community College for many years and currently is one of the teachers of our Love INC budgeting class at Bethany Church. He states that "Love INC enables me to serve Christ in as much as you have done it unto the least, you have done it unto me". Welcome Leon!

Give the Gift of Music

We are pleased to announce the new Pantry Ministry partnership between Love INC and Our Saviors Lutheran Church at Southern and Barclay. The new pantry "Noteworthy Donations" will be collecting musical instruments for students in music programs. If you have a musical instrument ready for a new home please consider donating it to Love INC for this new program. Imagine being a parent who can not afford to rent an instrument for a student interested in participating in band. **You can help** make this important connection. For more information, contact Eileen at 773-3448.

"Share a Little Warmth From the Heart"

Thank you to Ruth and Roy Seelye, their daughter and son-in-law, Jennifer and Paul Maclaren, and their grandchildren, Kendahl and Tristan. This wonderful family raised the funds and purchased enough pajamas, slippers and blankets to be distributed to over 1,000 children through Love INC.

DONATE ONLINE — www.LoveIncofMuskegon.com

YOU make a difference in the lives of people in need.

Each need brought to Love INC represents an opportunity to connect with one of God's children, to bring a message of God's grace. **We urge everyone to give to their home church first.**



- I want to help with a monthly pledge of ____ \$50 ____ \$75 ____ \$100 ____ Other
- I want to become a Millennium Partner by donating \$1,000 or more annually
- Please send me information about volunteering with Love INC.



Mail to:

Love INC of Muskegon
County
2525 Hall Road
Muskegon, MI 49442
Phone Number:
231.773.3448

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone (_____) _____

E-mail _____

Church Affiliation _____

Board of Directors

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Central United Methodist Church

Sherry Becker, Vice President

Covenant Life CRC

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Clearinghouse Coordinator

Eileen McCormick, Relational Ministries

Marilyn Brewster, Senior Program Staff

Linda Reimer, Senior Program Staff

Ruth Johnson, Senior Program Staff

Thea Brown, AmeriCorps Member

MEMORIALS



Thelma Bergman

In memory of Brian Sweet

Robert & Patti Ritcheske

In memory of Kyle Ritcheske

IN HONOR

Lakeshore Eyecare Employees

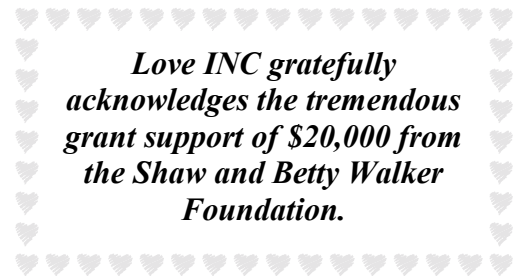
In honor of Doctors Mark Ventocilla & Doug Totten

Thank You for the Donations!

Love INC is very thankful to the following churches, organizations and businesses for their November and December donations:

- Allen Ave. CRC
- Bethany Women's Fellowship
- Bridge Bible Church
- Calvary Church
- Calvin CRC
- Church of God United
- Fellowship Reformed Church
- Fifth Reformed Church
- First Christian Reformed Church
- First Presbyterian Church
- Friendship Baptist Church
- Fruitland Baptist Church
- Fruitland Evangelical Covenant
- Fruitport CRC
- Gateway Church
- Grace CRC
- Hope Lighthouse Church
- Hope Reformed Church
- Immanuel Lutheran Church
- McGraft Memorial Congregational
- Mona Shores Baptist
- Olivet Reformed Church
- Orchard View Congregational
- Our Lady of Grace Church
- Prince of Peace Church
- Samuel Lutheran Church
- Unity Reformed Church
- Westwood Reformed Church
- Whitehall United Methodist

- AMBUCS
- Red Hats (nuts) Group
- Anesthesia Associates
- Community Shores Bank
- Excel Propane Company
- GTE Retirees
- Harbor Steel
- Herman Miller Foundation
- Lake Welding Supply
- Mabrito's Motors LLC
- Mabrito's Garage
- Mahle Engine Component
- Martin J. Nolan Agency
- Molitor and Molitor
- Newkirk Electric Co.
- Noble Company
- O'Malley Pest Control
- Oceana Paint and Glass
- Shoreline Insurance
- Timberline Estates Mobile Home Park



Love INC gratefully acknowledges the tremendous grant support of \$20,000 from the Shaw and Betty Walker Foundation.



www.LoveIncofMuskegon.com

 The newest way to make donations, learn of volunteer and ministry opportunities!

NEW DIRECTIONS NEWS

New Programs

New Directions Budget and Powerful Parenting Classes are already underway for 2009. We are very excited to announce two new partnerships. First Reformed Church of Ravenna started their first budget class in January. Our Saviors Lutheran Church will start their first budget class in March.

We are interested in adding a new partnership in Whitehall/Montague, Fruitport and possibly Hesperia. If your church is interested in learning about this wonderful outreach program, please call Eileen at 773-3448. The New Directions classes with the mentoring option really make a significant difference in the lives of our Neighbors in Need. In 2008 we provided more than 2450 hours of individual Budget, Mentoring and Parenting classes to clients. Everyone can benefit from the Budget Class. Please promote this wonderful program in your churches. Call Eileen for more information at 773-3448.

Current Class Schedule

Money Management

Evening Classes: 7 pm

Fifth Reformed — Wednesday Evenings
Bethany CRC — Thursday Evenings
Forest Park Covenant — Thursday Evenings
First Reformed of Ravenna Thursday Evenings

Daytime Class: 9 am

Immanuel Lutheran — Tuesday Mornings

Powerful Parenting

Immanuel Lutheran — Tuesday Mornings

New Classes Starting in March!

Call now to register for any of these *free* classes, Call Love INC at 773.3448.

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Muskegon, MI

