



Love INC
Love In the Name of Christ
Of Muskegon County

Love Letters

November/December 2011

Thanksgiving & Christmas Issue



Core Value #10

“We Value continually maturing in our capacity to meet people’s needs.”

I recently attended the “Love INC 2011 National Gathering”, a conference for all staff, volunteers and board members in Gurnee Illinois. The theme was “The Defining Difference”. What I heard encouraged, stimulated and recharged my commitment to lead this organization to continually mature in our capacity to meet people’s needs as this core value states. Sometimes we need to have our batteries charged – we get so busy doing that we don’t have time to think about why we do what we do. But, here’s why we believe in this value: 1. The difference between “good” work and “God’s” work is PRAYER – we pray with and for people. 2. We believe God is intimately involved in every person’s life and has great value to Him – we treat people with dignity. 3. We value people in need, so we invest in them – we invest time and resources because we know God has a plan for their lives. 4. We focus on the person, NOT the need. 5. We believe that we are the mirror that reflects Christ to those who come to us, we help them see themselves as God sees and values them. 6. We believe God works through trials and moves us closer to who He has created us to be through those trials.

How does this relate to our core value? We are always seeking better ways to help, forming partnerships, changing, allowing God to mold us and use us to give the hand-up, to teach, to train, to help people grow. Are we there yet? No, but we are moving. Please join us by praying for us, volunteering with us, supporting us with your time, talents and treasures so we can together mature in our capacity to meet people’s needs. Call me at 773-3448 for more information on how you can do that. May you be blessed with a Happy Thanksgiving and a joyful and blessed Christmas.

Gail Kraft

Executive Director

Love INC Core Values

Love INC has 10 core values that define who we are and why we do what we do. The core values are:

1. We are **Christian**. Everything we think, say, and do is in the name of Christ.
2. **Prayer** is an integral part of who we are.
3. We follow Christ’s example of valuing **those in need**.
4. We value **unity** of the Body of Christ.
5. We value **transformation** in the lives of people and communities
6. We value **churches** living out the two great commandments to love God and love their neighbors.
7. We value building Christ-like **relationships**.
8. We value the **connectedness** of the Love INC movement.
9. We model **excellence**.
10. We value continually **maturing** in our capacity to meet people’s needs.

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

Love INC Program Classes

Classes are currently being held at most locations. New classes will begin in January 2012. Dates will be scheduled in the near future. The times and locations of the classes are listed below.

Manage Your Money

Bethany Christian Reformed Church – Thursday 6:00 PM
(Four 2 hour classes)

Fifth Reformed Church – Wednesday 7:00 PM (Eight 1 hour sessions)

Forest Park Covenant Church – Thursday 7:00 PM (Nine 1 hour sessions)

Holton Community Center – Saturday 1:30 PM (Four 2 hour classes)

Immanuel Lutheran Church – Tuesday 9:00 AM (Eight 1 hour sessions)

Powerful Parenting (Eight 1 ½ hour classes)

Fifth Reformed Church – Wednesday 6:30 PM

Forest Park Covenant Church – Thursday 7:00 PM

Immanuel Lutheran Church – Tuesday 9:00 AM

Samuel Lutheran Church – Tuesday 10:00 AM

Healthy Eating Made Easy (Six 1 ½ hour classes)

Forest Park Covenant Church – Thursday 6:30 PM

Stress Management (Four 1 hour classes)

Forest Park Covenant Church – Thursday 7:00 PM

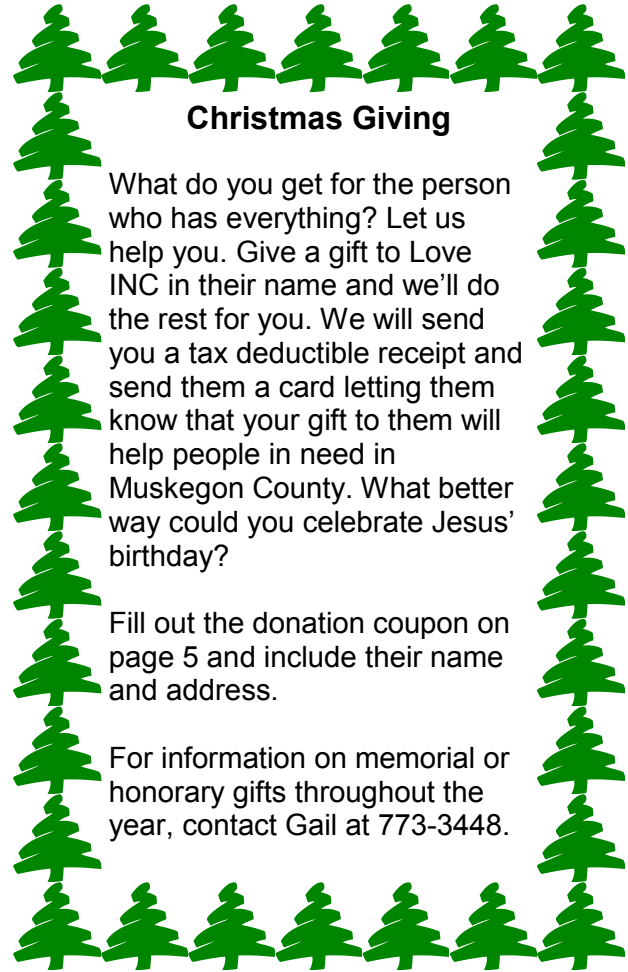
Please call 777-3905 after December 1, 2011 to register for any of the above classes.

Is your church interested in partnering with Love INC and hosting a New Directions class? Prayerfully consider this and if you would like to discuss it further please call Matt Kaley at 773-3448.



Board News

Geoffrey Nolan regretfully resigned but plans to return to the board in the future. Leon VanRees completed his 3 year term. We thank both Geoff and Leon for their commitment to Love INC and to those we serve. They served with what we call the 4 W's; Wisdom, Witness, Work and Wealth. Love INC is a better organization because of them and was blessed by their service. Thank you Geoff and Leon.



Christmas Giving

What do you get for the person who has everything? Let us help you. Give a gift to Love INC in their name and we'll do the rest for you. We will send you a tax deductible receipt and send them a card letting them know that your gift to them will help people in need in Muskegon County. What better way could you celebrate Jesus' birthday?

Fill out the donation coupon on page 5 and include their name and address.

For information on memorial or honorary gifts throughout the year, contact Gail at 773-3448.

Volunteer & Church Ministry Opportunities:

- Volunteers needed for phone intake during the winter—Call Yvonne at 773-3448.
- Can you help pick-up furniture with our trailer? Furniture is a huge need for our clients.

Love INC Around Town!



Become a fan on Facebook: search for Love INC of Muskegon

Or watch us on Comcast Channel 7, usually the first Tuesday and Thursday of every month.



"In Memory of" Gifts

Kay Van Rees

by Abe & Rosalie Bangma

Ernest Sr. & Rosemary Sesselmann

by Gregory & Teri Sesselmann

Betty Meier

by

Beatrice Hill

Tom Hammond

Mary Loy Sagan

By

William & Debra Born

Deb Cozzone

Robert & Mary Davis

Joan Dion

Joseph & Sandra Drost

Daniel & Kelly Harris

Fritz & Barb Kletke

Ruth Ruby

Ken & Carol Scholten

Arthur & Katharine Sierminski

Rosemary Sleak

Edna White

John & Gerrie Young

Henry & Susan Zack

Robert Owen

By

Douglas & Gayle Amstutz

Robert & Cathy Tejchma

Timothy Erickson

"In Honor of" Gifts

Doug & Georgia Clark's 50th Anniversary by

Sharon & Gary Ransom



SUPPORTIVE CHURCHES

For the months of Sept/Oct 2011

Bluffton Church

Bridge Bible Church

Calvary Church

Calvary Bible Church

Calvin CRC

Church of God United

Fellowship Reformed Church

Fifth Reformed Church

First Presbyterian Church

First Reformed Church of Ravenna

Forest Park Covenant Church

Fruitland Baptist Church

Fruitport CRC

Gateway Church

Hope Lighthouse Church

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Life Change Church

McGraft Memorial Congregational Church

Mount Herman Zion Baptist Church

New Bethel Baptist Evangelistic

Orchard View Congregation Church

Our Lady of Grace Church

Prince of Peace Parish

Westwood Reformed Church

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MILLENIUM PARTNERS:

Dr. Ralph & Denise Ryan
Ronald & Catherine Aulerich
Fred & Joyce Hoffman

Thank you for your generous support!

ALL of our donors are a critical part of our ministry!

Love INC Letters

Giving Back—a donation was received from a former client of Love INC. The client writes “Hopefully this will be helpful to the underserved here in Muskegon. I was once on ADC after a horrible divorce and I needed the people who helped me—I’ve never forgotten the kindness of the organizations in Muskegon. I went on to get a Master’s Degree and am the new owner of a Curves in Muskegon. Hopefully, this can inspire others to reach for the stars especially when they need help at this time.”

EARLY YEAR-END GIVING PLANNING

It’s hard to believe, but tax time is just around the corner and it’s time to think about your year-end contributions. You’ve been a tremendous support to Love INC and here are a few donation ideas, not just for this year, but in the years to come: We accept:

- ♥ Cash and Checks
- ♥ Mutual Fund Shares
- ♥ Life Estates (home deeds)
- ♥ IRA/Retirement Plan Assets
- ♥ Publicly traded stock
- ♥ Real Estate
- ♥ Life Insurance Policies
- ♥ United Way and other Employment designated giving plans.

Please be sure to seek the advice of a financial professional.

Your generosity will ensure Love INC’s ability to be the hands and feet of Jesus to people in need for many years to come!

Local Churches “Trick or Treat So Others Can Eat”

Laketon Bethel and Forest Park Covenant each held Halloween food drives this year to benefit Love INC’s food pantry. One participant at Laketon Bethel wrote, “This is a great service opportunity to show kids how good it feels to give and help others. Some people who weren’t home had food out on their porches for the kids and some of them just dropped their donations off at church. We had one family come in and deliver the food that night because they didn’t get to the door in time...they couldn’t catch the kids so his wife made him bring the groceries to us! This is our 15th year doing Trick or Treat so others can eat and there are many cool stories.

Some that didn’t have food gave cash and last year, one man said he had no food to give because of his situation...without missing a beat the child at the door went to the car that had the food and brought him a bag.”

Between the two ministries, approximately 100 bags of food was brought to Love INC. Thank you to all of those who participated!!

This is creative compassion in action!



Project Ramp

Project Ramp teams up with several organizations in Muskegon County. One of those organizations is Senior Resources. They referred one of their clients to Love INC for Project Ramp to build a handicap ramp. After the ramp was built, one of the case workers visited the site and then called to tell us that the “Ramp is just beautiful!” She visited the home and the ramp was “beautiful, so nice, so perfect, really works for her, it’s gorgeous and I just want to really commend your guys on what a wonderful job you did, all of the volunteers and everyone involved. It is just fabulous! Good Job!”

Thank you to all of the organizations that partner with Love INC of Muskegon to serve the community with Project Ramp. The organizations include Senior Resources, CMH, HHS, Disability Connections, DHS, and Hackley Visiting Nurses.

Project Ramp volunteers built a total of 17 ramps this year. Alcoa Howmet (7), Northside Lions (5), Project Serve (2), Kaydon Corp. (1), Journey Church (1), and Dick Kraft & grandsons, Cal Jacob and son and Tom Veldman (1). All of the drawings were done by Ron Hayward and Dave Southland.

Without all of these volunteers, Project Ramp wouldn’t be able to help these clients that can’t afford to build their own ramps. Thank you to all of our volunteers!



The number of ramps built each year depends on finances, so please consider supporting our Project Ramp!

Thank You to Our Newest Volunteers:

Heidi Weipert-Parenting Teacher, Fifth Reformed Church

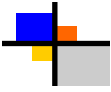
Brad Swain –Manage Your Money Mentor, Fifth Reformed Church

Danette Miller - Phone Intake, Calvary Church

Phyllis Blakeslee - Phone Intake, Lakes Community Church of the Nazarene

Love INC depends on volunteers; if you are interested, please call Yvonne or Gail at 231.773.3448

Love INC News



Clearinghouse News by the Numbers Sept. - Oct. 2011

Actual Services Provided: 1690
 Number of individuals impacted: 4,110
 Value of Services Provided year to date: \$502,500

Breakdown of Services by numbers:

- Food Requests Filled: 727
- Clothing Request Filled: 63
- Personal Care Requests Filled: 68
- Household Requests Filled: 18
- Baby Needs Requests Filled: 27

New Directions Class Participants: 42

Total volunteer time estimated at 4,478 hours to date!
 Total estimated value of Gift in Kind (non-cash donations): \$1,708,000

Love INC partners with area churches to provide 17 food pantries, 2 personal care pantries, a household goods pantry, 2 clothing closets, a crib ministry, a baby pantry, a layette ministry, a twin bed ministry and Life Skills classes.

YOU make these ministries and more, possible!!

4th Annual Love INC Christmas Store

It's not too early to start thinking about Christmas! Entering its fourth year, the Love INC Christmas store is a tremendous success. Those who've completed classes in our New Directions Money Management Ministry are able to shop, purchasing new and gently used items at ten cents on the dollar; plus, they usually receive food, gas cards, pajamas, coats and other items at no charge. In years past, shoppers left with smiles, as the value exceeded \$300 - and they spent less than \$30!

Our "store" is only a success because of generous donors like you who believe in the dignity that budgeting and shopping for your family brings.

We are accepting new toys, gift cards (great for teenagers), clothing, jewelry...anything a child ages 1 to 18 would enjoy. Cash donations are also accepted; just note your donation "Christmas Store". We have volunteers who gladly shop:)

Please bring your donations to our office at 2735 E. Apple Ave. or call 231.773.3448, for more information.

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 always 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
- I would like to donate \$_____ in honor of _____
- I would like to donate \$_____ in memory of _____
- I want to be a Prayer partner! Please send me the monthly Prayer Requests via: Email U.S. Mail



Mail to:

Love INC of
 Muskegon County
 2735 E. Apple Ave.
 Suite A
 Muskegon, MI 49442
 231.773.3448

www.LoveIncOFMuskegon.com

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____
 Home Phone (_____) _____
 E-mail _____
 Church Affiliation _____

Board of Directors

Sherry Becker, Covenant Life CRC, Board President
 Dick Nolan, Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, Vice President
 Megan Doss, Covenant Life CRC, Secretary
 Tina Root, Covenant Community Reformed Church, Treasurer
 Leon VanRees, Bethany CRC
 Pastor Brian Kyle, Fruitland Evan. Cov. Church
 Bruce Duiser, Unity Reformed Church
 Ron Nyenhuis, Calvin CRC
 Cynthia Shyne, Beacon Light Community Church
 Dick Morgan, St. James Catholic Church, Montague
 Tedd Bryson, Forest Park Covenant Church, Ministries Chaplain

Office Staff

Gail Kraft, Calvin CRC, Executive Director
 Yvonne Ramos, First Free Methodist, Clearinghouse Coordinator/
 Resource Developer
 Matthew Kaley, St. James Catholic Church, Relational Ministries
 Coordinator
 Chris Zeedyk, Unity Reformed Church, Administrative Assistant

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Love In the Name of Christ

