



**Love INC**  
Love In the Name of Christ

# Love Letters

February / March 2008



## A Message from the Director Gail Kraft

As a protestant growing up, I often attended church with my Roman Catholic friend on Good Friday and went through the Stations of the Cross. As I reflect back on that experience, I know it had a great impact on my life. I cannot begin to imagine the price Jesus paid for my sins. I cannot imagine the sacrifice and the pain He bore so that you and I could someday stand guiltless before our Heavenly Father. I cannot imagine His suffering as He watched the disciples deny Him. "Oh, how He loves you and me".

Everyday at Love In the Name of Christ, we have the awesome duty and privilege of following Christ's example of denying Himself to serve others. Every person here, both staff and volunteer takes up the Cross daily to serve people in need. Every donor who sacrificially gives to the work of Christ whether it is here or elsewhere is following that example of denying ones self to serve people in need. How can we do anything less?

Our prayer this Lenten season is one of thanksgiving. We thank God for His blessings on this ministry. We thank Him for all the volunteers and donors who make this ministry happen. We thank Him for the privilege of serving Him in this place. But, most of all we thank Him for the empty tomb for which we will soon celebrate. It is that hope and confidence that we have to share with a broken world that makes every day a day of hope and celebration. We are Easter people, "Let us rejoice and be glad..."

## LOVE INC CELEBRATES OUR VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH



Dave, Margo, Gail

### December 2007

Margo DeHaan - Fruitport Congregational UCC  
Stan Heeres - Calvin CRC  
Corny VanTol - Calvin CRC



Corny VanTol  
Stan Heeres



Jan Wolf

### January 2008

Jan Wolf— Dr. Martin Luther Evan. Lutheran



Kathy and Yvonne

### February 2008

Kathy Nielsen—Hope Reformed

*"I wanted to do something rewarding in the community; I enjoy working with the public and being helpful – filling a need recommended through our church!! God works through us in so many different ways!"*

*Kathy*

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

# Love INC News

## LOVE INC CELEBRATES OUR VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH *con't...*

For over 20 years, Margo DeHaan has managed the Love INC food and warehouse ministries as a volunteer and in February, the city of Muskegon chose Margo as a recipient of the "Outstanding Citizen of the Year" award. Nominated by her daughter, Elaine White, Margo was praised for her selfless dedication to the ministry of Love INC and people in Muskegon County.

Margo's daughter writes:

*"For as long as I can remember, she has been involved with Love INC as a volunteer, more than twenty years in fact! No matter what the task she always has a helping hand. There is no limit to her kindness, she makes quilts for those who need warmth, she organizes food to feed the hungry, she knits and prays for those who need comfort, she crochets tiny hats for preemies in the hospital, she organizes volunteers for Toys for Tots (among other things), she takes in, sorts, and cleans donated items for distribution, she greets warehouse clients and helps them get their furniture or appliances, she supervises volunteers, all of this and more with a smile on her face and without a desire to be noticed."*



## VOLUNTEERS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

Love INC has been blessed with many tremendous volunteers who are serving the Lord in different ways. We welcome our newest volunteers:

### *New office volunteers:*

- Karen Evans - Trinity Lutheran Church
- Jacqueline Bennett - Calvin CRC
- Ruth Vanderstelt - Lakeshore Community
- Kathleen Wynne - Lakeshore Community

### *Love INC Title V Receptionists:*

- Marilyn Brewster - Life Changers Christian Center
- Linda Reimer

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

As the need increases, so does the need for volunteers. Love INC has many volunteer opportunities: furniture pickup, donation sorting, answering client telephone calls, building ramps and the list goes on! Could you spare a half day per week to help in one of these roles? If so, please call our office at 231.773.3448; we would LOVE to partner with you in being the hands and feet of Jesus to those in need.

## YOU can 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  
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

- Gary Sarut, President  
*Central United Methodist Church*  
 Pastor David Sieplinga, V.P.  
*Bethany CRC*  
 Lori Ray, Secretary  
*Ferry Memorial RCA*  
 Bob Keessen, Treasurer  
*Forest Park Covenant Church*  
 Jim Scott  
*The Journey Church*  
 John Terrell  
*Westside C.O.G.I.C.*  
 Ric Scott  
*Calvin CRC*  
 Kathy Hoogstra  
*Calvin CRC*  
 Pastor Jerry DePoy, Jr  
*Lakeshore Community Church*  
 Tina Root  
*Covenant Community RCA*  
 Sherry Becker  
*Covenant Life CRC*  
 Jessie Pearson  
*Bethany CRC*  
 Tedd Bryson, Ministry Chaplain  
*Calvary Church*

## WORKING TOGETHER TO BE THE HANDS & FEET OF JESUS

Church Based Ministry outreaches are located **IN** churches and operated **BY** these churches. Clients whose needs are verified through the Clearinghouse (Love INC) are served by the following churches who meet their specific needs.

### Food Pantry Ministries

- Apostolic Church of God – Muskegon
- Bethany CRC
- Fellowship Reformed
- Fifth Reformed
- First Evangelical Lutheran
- Fruitport Congregational UCC
- Hope Lighthouse
- Lakeside Baptist
- Lebanon Lutheran
- Loaves and Fishes
- Our Saviors Lutheran
- St. Thomas Catholic Church
- Sacred Heart Catholic Church
- Sullivan Community UMC
- Upper Room Ministry
- West Michigan Worship Center

### Baby Goods Ministry

- Immanuel Lutheran

### Personal Care Ministry

- New Life In Christ

### Adult Clothing Ministry

- New Life Christian Center
- Hope Lighthouse

### Household Pantries Ministry

- Calvin CRC
- First Congregational UCC

- Gail Kraft**, Executive Director  
**Gina Richardson**, Adm. Assistant  
**Yvonne Ramos**, Resource Developer  
**Kimi Zimmerman**, Relational Ministries  
 Coordinator  
**Marilyn Brewster**, Senior Program Staff

## LOVE INC WELCOMES NEW STAFF MEMBER

Love INC welcomes our newest ministry partner, Gina Richardson! Our new administrative assistant is the proud mother of three teenagers and a member of the Queen Esther Missionary Baptist Church, where she is also the Administrative Assistant.



Gina states:

*“Since I was a child, I’ve known that there is a calling on my life. I always knew I would be in ministry to some extent. Although I thought I came to Love INC. by chance, I now know it is part of my destiny, which is to show the love of Jesus by incorporating what I believe into my daily walk in life. Because ultimately, we are on this earth to serve others”.*



### NEW LOVE INC WEBSITE

Coming Soon: - a NEW way to volunteer, donate funds, Communicate and stay abreast of Love INC events!

**RECENT SPECIAL DONATIONS**

Sherry & Stu Becker, John & Kathleen Workman , Gifts of Stock Grant  
The Shaw and Betty Walker Foundation, \$10,000  
Church World Service 2007 Crop Walk, \$1,994.76



**RECENT MEMORIAL DONATIONS**

In Memory of **Lavern and Joann VanKersen from:**  
Bonnie Olivier, Ron, Bruce Joel and David VanKersen, Debbie Ireland, Kathie Jauregui, Melissa Driscoll

In Memory of **Wanda Cerchiori from:** Gary & Sharon Ransom

In Memory of **Nelson Scott from:** David and Barbara Kendall, Mike Pawlowski, Doris Jolly (Park Manor Senior Group), Karin Barnhard, Chuck & Fran Irwin, Bill Workman, Mark & Rose Barnhard, Ernestine VanderKooi

In Memory of **Angela Bosits from:** Lorraine Bohannon, P & Irene Crane, Ilse Bomers, Arlene Garton, Gary & Sharon Ransom, Ralph and Marva Carlson, Thomas Watkins, Eugene and Arlee Bodnar, Bill & Joyce Page, Raymond and Madelyn Hanslits

In Memory of **Ethel Kreifeldt from:** Betty Mottern, Betty Monte  
In Memory of **George Gashal from:** James and Eileen Nordhoff

**GOD IS MOVING US IN  
NEW DIRECTIONS!**

We are very excited about the direction we believe God is leading us through our Relational Ministries Program. Our budgeting classes are growing and now being offered at KPEP, TLC, and Hackley Community Care, in addition to our regular church budget sites. We are also in the process of expanding our Parenting Class to include an Alumni Group or support group to follow-up our 7 week class. As we develop the Alumni Group, we plan to offer Parent Mentors in the future.

If you are interested in learning more about any of our New Directions classes or would like to be a part of this amazing program, please contact Kimi at 773-3448 ext 106.

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