



Love INC  
Love In the Name of Christ  
Of Muskegon County

# Love Letters

September/October 2011

## From the Executive Director, Gail Kraft



### Core Value #9 “We Model Excellence”

On Saturday, August 27th, the board and staff of Love INC met at Calvin Church for a Strategic Planning Retreat to discuss how we can transform Love INC from a “good” organization to a “great” one. The retreat was facilitated by Karen Woods, who discussed the importance of planning. You may have heard the saying, “If you fail to plan, plan to fail”.

The group discussed our Vision, Mission and Core Values and felt they are great and represent not only who we are but who and what we want to be. We looked at our past trends and at graphs showing unmet needs in Muskegon as reported by CALL 2-1-1. We discussed our Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats. These were captured by Karen and will be discussed at a future meeting of the Planning Committee. Their goal will be to prioritize, develop objectives and action plans and get input from other stakeholders including church leaders, volunteers and donors.

We continually strive to grow and serve people better and meeting like this on a Saturday morning shows the commitment that we as staff and board have to make this happen. God expects us to model excellence and when acts of service are rendered in that manner, excellence has a way of showing through; it has nothing to do with “self”, but everything to do with “whatever you do, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ”. In some cases, this means discerning the difference between enabling and empowering. Excellence has nothing to do with how big or even how many, but how well. It is found in the details, not just the programs or ministries. Please pray for us as we continue to seek and model excellence and join us however and whenever you can.

*Gail Kraft*

### 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 the **poor and needy**.
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 Schedule Start Dates , Time & Locations

### **Manage Your Money:** (Eight 1 hour classes)

Sept. 10th at 1:30 pm at Holton Community Center  
 Sept. 21st at 7:00 pm at Fifth Reformed Church  
 Sept. 22nd at 7:00 pm at Forest Park Covenant Church  
 Sept. 27th at 9:00 am at Immanuel Lutheran Church  
 Oct. 6th at 6:00 pm at Bethany Christian Reformed Church

### **Powerful Parenting:** (Eight 1 1/2 hour classes)

Sept. 20th at 9:00 am at Immanuel Lutheran Church  
 Sept. 13th at 10:00 am at Samuel Lutheran Church  
 Sept. 8th at 7:00 pm at Forest Park Covenant Church  
 Sept. 21st at 7:00 pm at Fifth Reformed Church

### **Healthy Eating Made Easy** (Six 1 1/2 hour classes)

Sept. 8th at 6:30 pm at Forest Park Covenant Church

### **Stress Management** (Four 1 hour classes)

Oct. 6th at 7:00 pm at Forest Park Covenant Church

### **Healthy Eating Made Easy** New class starts on Sept. 8th, 6:30pm

#### **Forest Park Covenant Church** Covers the following:

- Nutritional Meals
- Proper Portions
- Food Pyramids
- Nutrition Labels
- Calories
- Good fats—Bad fats
- Carbohydrates
- Sugar—how much is too much
- Grocery Shopping
- “Supersize Me” Movie Night
- Meats & Proteins
- Fresh Fruits & Veggies

Call Matt Kaley, 773-3448, ext. 2303, to register!

## *Update on National Love INC*

Last year about this time, we informed you that our National Love INC might close for financial reasons. The offices in Minneapolis did close at the end of 2010, but the National board has been working diligently since then to make a stronger Love INC National Headquarters. They have restructured, added board members from existing Love INC affiliates, sought out suggestions from the 150 current affiliates, made a strategic plan, created a new budget and working on strategic objectives and action plans. Instead of expensive travel for everyone, most of their meetings are virtual using modern technology. Their main function continues to be assisting new and developing affiliates and meeting the needs of established affiliates like Love INC of Muskegon. We appreciate being a part of a larger entity and knowing that some of our dues help start new affiliates to help people in need in other parts of our state and country. A Love INC National Gathering will be held in late October in Gurnee Illinois and we look forward to hearing more about the new national headquarters and how we can all work together to improve the lives of people struggling in our communities. For more information about the restructuring, contact Gail Kraft at 773-3448.

## **Volunteer & Church Ministry Opportunities:**

- Are you interested in starting a bike ministry at your church? We can help you in this vital ministry. Contact Gail at 773-3448
- Volunteers needed for phone intake during the fall and 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****Bill McKinley by Susan Pier****"In Honor of" Gifts****Mrs. Katie Jackson by daughter, Sharon Jackson***MUSKEGON AREA CROP WALK FOR HUNGER**

Sunday, October 2, 2011

It's not too late for you to get your church, your office, your friends or just you involved in the 2011 Muskegon Crop Hunger Walk. The walk will begin at 2:00pm on Sunday, October 2 at Central United Methodist Church and end at St. Paul's Episcopal Church with options for a short walk around Hackley Park, or longer 3 and 7 mile treks. Youth have a special incentive – a match of \$25.00 from a generous donor.



The walk helps support eight agencies in Muskegon and Church World Services who help disaster victims around the country and in the world. If you wish to walk on our Love INC team, call Gail at 773-3448 or to register a team, contact Delphine Hogston at MCCC, 727-6000.

**TRINKETS AND TREASURES SALE**

Saturday, October 15, 2011

Each year the Women's Division Chamber of Commerce sponsors a HUGE sale with the income supporting a non-profit organization or project. Project Ramp which Love INC administers and McLaughlin Grows Urban Farm under Community encompass were the projects selected for this year. We anticipate these funds will help Love INC build up to three handicap ramps for people in need in our community. What a blessing! The sale will be **Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 5pm**. Please consider donating your gently used "trinkets and treasures" for these causes. Items can be dropped off at Love INC clearly marked for the "T & T Sale". Items can also be dropped off after October 1<sup>st</sup> at the location of the sale – call Gail at 773-3448 for complete details.

***Project Ramp***

As of September 1st, there have been 9 ramps built in Muskegon County by Love INC volunteers. Thanks to the following:

**Alcoa Howmet, Kaydon Corp., N. Muskegon Lions, and Project Serve for building the ramps. Also thanks to Ron Hayward and Dave Southland for drawing the ramps.**

Funds have been tight this year; However, God *always* provides. Project Ramp will receive funds from the City of Muskegon to build up to 3 ramps in the city.

We are also thankful to Ted and Francine Anton for their \$3,000 contribution through their Community Foundation fund. Project Ramp will also receive funds from the "Trinkets & Treasures" sale sponsored by the Women's Division Chamber of Commerce on October 15th and other funding sources are always being sought.

***God is so Good!*****WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MILLENIUM PARTNERS:**

Paul & Libby Kara  
Excel Propane Company  
Dr. Mark & Bonnie Meengs

Thank you for your generous support!

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



*Hampton Green Farm  
Invites You  
to a Benefit Open House for*

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

Saturday, September 17, 2011

11:00 am—3:00 PM

Adults \$10.00

Children 11 & under \$5.00

5440 E. Farr Road  
Fruitport, Michigan

Enjoy a delicious meal prepared by Chef Frederic Boyer  
Tour Hampton Green Farm's beautiful facility  
Watch a fantastic Dressage Exhibition by Olympic-trained horses

For more information, please call Love INC at 231.773.3448

# HAMPTON GREEN FARMS

## Fundraiser Open House

### 2010



## Love INC Staff News



Welcome to **Matt Kaley**, who joined Love INC in August. Matt worked for Muskegon County for over 30 years and has a wealth of knowledge and experience working with youth and families. Matt attended St. Joseph Seminary in Oak Brook, Illinois where he received his High School Diploma and received his Bachelor of Science degree in Social Work from Ferris State University.

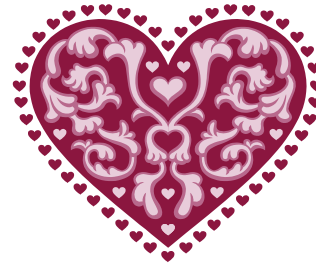
Matt is an active member of St. James Catholic Church in Montague. His faith is very important and is the cornerstone of who he is. He feels strongly that we are all called to be of service to one another and carry out Christ's work while we are here on this earth. He sees working at Love INC as a wonderful opportunity to be of service to others and use the gifts God gave him.

Matt is responsible for our New Directions Life Skills Ministry, which includes classes in Manage Your Money, Powerful Parenting, Stress Management, Healthy Eating Made Easy, Bridges to Motherhood and any other classes that we are able to bring to help individuals and families become stronger. He can be reached at 231-773-3448, Extension 2303.

## 2011 SUPPORTIVE CHURCHES

### August

- Bethany Christian Reformed Church
- Bridge Bible Church
- Calvary Church
- Calvary Bible Church
- Calvin CRC
- Church of God United
- Fifth Reformed Church
- Forest Park Covenant Church
- Fruitland Baptist Church
- Gateway Church
- Greatest Harvest Baptist Church
- Immanuel Lutheran Church
- Life Change Church
- Our Lake of Grace Church
- Samuel Lutheran Church
- St. Luke's Lutheran Church



## Up-Coming Events

- **Hampton Green Farms Open House Benefit for Love INC**  
Saturday, Sept. 17th  
(See Flyer Insert)
  - **Crop Walk for Hunger** —Oct. 2nd
  - **Trinkets & Treasures Sale** - Oct. 15th  
A community benefit "yard sale"

For more information on any of these events, call 231.773.3448, and ask for Gail Kraft or Yvonne Ramos.

\* \* \* \* \*  
 \* **Welcome to Our Newest Volunteers:** \*  
 \* **Marietta Barrett**—Office/Receptionist, \*  
 \* Crestwood United Methodist Church \*  
 \* **Robin Vriesman**-Office/Phone Intake, \*  
 \* Calvin CRC \*  
 \* Love INC depends on volunteers; if you \*  
 \* or anyone you know, are interested, \*  
 \* please call Yvonne Ramos at \*  
 \* 231.773.3448, for more information! \*  
 \* \* \* \* \*

## Love INC News



### Clearinghouse News by the Numbers July-August 2011

Actual Services Provided: 1987  
 Number of individuals impacted: 3,815  
 Value of Services Provided year to date: \$408,540

#### Breakdown of Services by numbers:

Food Requests Filled: 627  
 Clothing Request Filled: 121  
 Personal Care Requests Filled: 407  
 Household Requests Filled: 32  
 Baby Needs Requests Filled: 49

New Directions Class Participants: 65

Total volunteer time estimated at 3,582 hours to date!  
 Total value of Gift in Kind (non-cash donations, etc.): \$15,724

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 five classes in our New Directions Money Management classes are able to shop, purchasing new and very 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're 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](http://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](http://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  
 Geoffrey Nolan, Prince of Peace Catholic 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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 Muskegon, MI

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