



Love INC
Love In the Name of Christ
Of Muskegon County

Love Letters

May/June 2012

From the Desk of Gail Kraft, Executive Director



It's ALL about the VOLUNTEERS

“The body is a unity, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body”, (I Corinthians 12:12)

In this issue, Love INC gives special honor to all our volunteers, but the fact is, this ministry depends on volunteers every day, all year long. There is no way we could provide the services we provide without the wonderful volunteers who make up the “one body” of Love In the Name of Christ – Muskegon. April has been widely known as National Volunteer Month and during April, each and every day we celebrated our volunteers with treats, flowers, lunches and ended with a banquet on Tuesday May 1 where we formally honored them and gave our highest honor to our Lord for bringing our wonderful volunteers to us.

The many different volunteers at Love INC make up the “body.” Each part is unique and serves a specific purpose.

- Intake assessment volunteers – (ears)
- General office volunteers and receptionists – (mouth)
- Church ministry volunteers – (hands)
- Manage your Money teachers and mentors – (hands)
- Life Skills classes greeters, refreshments and more – (hands)
- Powerful parenting teachers – (mouth)
- Bridges to Motherhood – (hands)
- Kids Care and Share the Warmth – (hands)
- Warehouse volunteers – (legs)
- Furniture pick-up and delivery – (legs)
- Newsletter deliverers – (legs)
- Ramp ministry volunteers – (legs)
- Prayer partners – (heart)

The Love INC body needs each and every part to function as a whole. No part is more important or crucial than another. God determines and directs each part. We praise and thank our creator God for forming and sustaining this unique body that ministers to those in need in our community.

Is God calling you to be an “arm” or a “foot” in the Love INC body of believers dedicated to serve in the Name of Christ?

Gail Kraft, Executive Director

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

A Volunteer's Testimony

By Cheryl Pollice

"Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink? When did we see you as a stranger and welcome you, or naked and give you clothes? Then the king will reply to them, 'When you have done it for one of the least of these, you have done it for me.' Matt 25:37-40.

God is always so faithful - in the good and bad times. Over and over He has provided for me and my family, meeting needs not often shared with anyone else. His answers show His true power and awesomeness! This deeply implanted in me a desire and understanding of the importance to be His tool to help others. There are many volunteer opportunities – how would I pick the right one?

In our weekly church newsletter, there was an ad for Intake Volunteers at Love INC of Muskegon. I thought and prayed about it. I shared the idea with my husband, who thought it would be a good fit. Following God's direction, I contacted Love INC about the position. I wanted to be there, and it shows in my commitment. More important than having skills and ability is having the **DESIRE** to serve and help others. God supplies everything else.

When a Neighbor in Need calls or comes into the office, they provide information about their situation, need and finances. I ask additional questions to clarify if needed. After assessing their information, I am better prepared to know how I can help, whether it is referring them to a pantry or a class Love INC offers, or by providing additional services for someone who has lost everything in a fire or has other extenuating circumstances.

The tightening economy has brought many first time Neighbors to Love INC. Some are embarrassed to ask for help. I offer reassurance that they do not need to feel embarrassed; we all need help sometimes. In some situations, I gently tell them that I understand because I have been there. Then, I reiterate Love INC's commitment to provide assistance whenever possible.

Some requests are beyond the scope of what Love INC can do. In those situations, we may refer to another resource, suggest eliminating unnecessary expenses and/or suggest pantry visits to free up cash. Everything in me wants to help in desperate situations but sometimes the best help I can give is the hope we have in Christ by praying with and for them.

I have been a volunteer since early 2011, and it is a privilege to be part of this ministry team; team members who are now friends. It is humbling to be used as God's tool to help others, and perhaps lighten their load by giving them encouragement. I have learned so much, and have more to learn.

I prayed about this decision, God answered, and I am helping to make a difference for our Neighbors in Need in Muskegon County.

Prayer Partners

Did you know that Love INC has a prayer ministry? Each month we send out a prayer guide with our prayer requests and praises for our staff, volunteers, board, ministry and our neighbors in need to our prayer warriors. These are folks who lift us up behind the scenes to our Lord God. We can feel those prayers and would love to have more people out there praying for us. If you would like to receive that prayer guide, send your e-mail address to gailk@loveincmuskegon.com.

Thank you.

THANK YOU TO OUR NEWEST VOLUNTEERS:

Deanna Kay Gaylord-General Office

Thomas Williams-Money Management, First Congregational Church, Muskegon

William Josephson—Project Ramp, St. James Catholic Church

Love INC depends on volunteers; if you are interested, please call 231.773.3448

Volunteer Banquet Pictures

Entertainment



Drawings for Prizes

Kitchen Volunteers



Free Massages



Pictures of Volunteers and Staff



Love INC of Muskegon Anniversary

This year in 2012, we celebrate 30 years of doing ministry in Muskegon County. I wish we had the stats from those 30 years, but we do know that because of YOUR support, we have served literally thousands. Please watch for special events as we plan for our special year! Contact Gail if you want to help.

Upcoming Events

Celebrating 30 years and Beyond

Michigan Adventure Day of Sharing.....Friday, June 15th
 Love INC Open HouseFriday, June 22, 2-6pm
 Unity Christian Music Festival...August 8, 9, 10 and 11
 Hampton Green Farms.....October 6th
 Hike for the Hungry.....October 13th

Hike for the Hungry

Would you like to participate in a walk where 100% of the money stays right here in Muskegon County? Now, you can. The Muskegon Rescue Mission and Love In the Name of Christ are teaming up this year to make a difference right here at home. Our walk will be held Saturday morning, October 13th at Heritage Landing in downtown Muskegon. We are still in the planning stages but it looks like it will be a fun-filled morning. We are looking for businesses, civic groups, individuals and churches to form teams to help us reach a goal of not having one person hungry in our community if we have anything to do with it!

Michigan Adventure

On Friday, June 15 each person who brings two non-perishable grocery items with them to Michigan's Adventure will receive a \$5 discount on one General Admission ticket for that day (discounted price \$23). The donated items will go to Love INC of Muskegon who will distribute the items to those in need.

Come kick off the summer with a fun day at Michigan's largest amusement and water park, featuring over 60 rides and attractions including our world-class wooden roller coaster, Shivering Timbers which is over 1 mile long and 125 feet tall. Experience six other great roller coasters, Corkscrew, Thunderhawk, Wolverine Wildcat, Mad Mouse, Zach's Zoomer and Big Dipper. WildWater Adventure offers Beach Party, three wave pools, tube slides, body slides, Funnel of Fear and a family play area. Michigan's Adventure also offers thrill rides, and kiddie rides. Take a ride on Thunderhawk, Michigan's first suspended looping roller coaster, RipCord, Grand Rapids, Go-Karts, Dodg'em Cars, Be-Bop Blvd, Timbertown Railway, and HydroBlaster. Food stands, miniature golf, games and gift shops round out a whole summer of fun for all ages.

Board News

Welcome to Char Boertman who joined our board in April. Char is a member of Olivet Evangelical Free Church. Char sees Love INC as "a group of believers striving to do the will of God—helping those in need—as always you look for ways to improve all aspects of what you currently do". Char plans to help us do that by using her gifts of planning, organizing and networking. Char has already joined the Fundraising and Event Planning committee and is helping with the Hike for the Hungry event. Welcome Char.

Strategic Planning

The work of the board and the planning committee continues. We are gleaning much information from our surveys. We would still love to have your input into our strategic plan so if you would like to speak to a board member and let us know what you really like and suggestions for improvement over the next 3 years, please contact Gail Kraft at the office and she will get you connected. As always, a Strategic Planning is a working document that can change as the need demands so it will never be a "finished" product. Please pray for wisdom as we move in the direction we feel God is leading us.

Love INC Program Classes

A recent evaluation received from a Powerful Parenting Class student is a wonderful example of the effectiveness of the classes and our great teachers. Some quotes from the evaluation follow: "My teacher gave me a lot of good advice about all ages of a child's life. She didn't stick to one age group. We had handouts. The work was so easy and helpful. I got to take lots of notes that I will be using with my child. I learned so so so much. I am so happy I took this class. The teacher was amazing." She closed by saying she had already recommended this class to her friends.

Our New Directions Life Skills programs can be life changing so give us a call to enroll or spread the word to your friends and neighbors. Following is the schedule of classes in session or to begin soon.

Manage Your Money: (Eight 1 hour sessions)

April 26th at 7:00 PM at Forest Park Covenant Church
 May 15th at 9:00 AM at Immanuel Lutheran Church
 May 16th at 7:00 PM at Fifth Reformed Church
 May 10th at 6:00 PM at Bethany Christian Reformed Church
 June 9th at 1:30 PM at Holton Community Center

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

May 22nd at 6:30 PM at Behavioral Health Services Bldg. (New site)

April 17th at 9:00 AM at Immanuel Lutheran Church
 May 9th at 6:30 PM at Fifth Reformed Church
 April 19th at 6:30 PM at Forest Park Covenant Church
 May 15th at 10:00 AM at Samuel Lutheran Church

Bridges To Motherhood: (Support group for single Moms)

2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 7:00 PM at First Christian Reformed Church

Healthy Eating Made Easy

April 26th at 6:30 PM at Forest Park Covenant Church

Stress Management

May 3rd at 7:00 PM at Forest Park Covenant Church

Job Posting

Love INC has an opening for a part-time bookkeeper. The applicant should be familiar with Quick Books and Excel. Responsibilities include reconciling bank account, entering checks and deposits, preparing payroll and state & federal filings, and preparing monthly board reports. Additional responsibilities include administration of Project Ramp in season and assistance with annual budgets and audits. Must be available 16 to 20 hours per week. Resumes should be emailed to Gail Kraft at gailk@loveincmuskegon.com no later than May 30th.



Love INC
 Love In the Name of Christ

2735 East Apple Avenue
 Muskegon, Michigan 49442

Client: 231-777-3905

Business: 231-773-3448

Fax: 231-773-4007

Email: loveincmuskegon@loveincmuskegon.com

Hours:

Monday - Thursday
 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Friday

8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Love INC of Muskegon
Ambassador

Love INC of Muskegon

Offers the Following Services

- ☞ Clearinghouse
- ☞ Furniture and Appliance Ministry
- ☞ Infant and Toddler Ministry
- ☞ New Directions Life Skills Classes
- ☞ Pantry Partners (food, clothing, personal care, household, etc.)
- ☞ Prayer and Spiritual Needs
- ☞ Project Ramp

Love INC Ambassador Cards are available for anyone to hand out to family and friends, or to someone that you might meet that may need our services.

Front and back of card is shown on the left.

Project Ramp

Thank you to AutoDesk for donating 2 AutoCAD programs for Love INC to use to draw handicap ramps. This is a large savings for Project Ramp and provides a great tool for drawing professional designs to build ramps for our clients.

Thank you also to our new volunteers who will be helping Ron Hayward ease into retirement. They include Dave Southland, Rick Workman, and Willy Josephson.

If you are interested in learning more about Project Ramp, contact Gail or Chris at Love INC. 773-3448.

Love INC Newsletter Options

Would you like to receive the Newsletter via email?

If so, please send your email address to:
chrisz@loveincmuskegon.com

Enter "Newsletter" in the subject line.

Receiving the newsletter via email will allow you to see it in color and save trees, and the costs of paper and mailing for Love INC.

Love INC Around Town!

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

And watch us on Comcast Channel 7, usually the first Tuesday and Thursday at 8:30 p.m. and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. of every month.





"In Memory of" Gifts

Margaret Veltman

By Mr. & Mrs. Robert Ludwig

Gary Gray

By Brinkley DeLong, PC

John Malda

By Dena Malda

Daniel M. MacLaren

By Dale & Jane Peterson

SUPPORTIVE CHURCHES

For the months of Mar/April 2012



Allen Avenue CRC

Bridge Bible Church

Calvary Church

Calvary Bible Church

Calvin CRC

Church of God United

Ferry Memorial Reformed Church

Fifth Reformed Church

First Presbyterian Church

Forest Park Covenant Church

Fruitland Baptist Church

Fruitport CRC

Gateway Church

Life Change Church

Mona Shores Baptist Church

Our Lady of Grace Church

St. Francis DeSales Church

United Methodist Women

Westwood Reformed Church

Feinstein Challenge

For those of you who made food and/or monetary donations in March or April, we were able to count those towards Mr. Feinstein's challenge to match one million dollars across the country. Our goal was \$15,000. Thanks to many of you, we actually raised \$27,800 towards the challenge in donations plus donated food. We'll keep you posted as to how much we receive from the Feinstein Foundation. Thanks to those of you who participated. It will help us immensely, however we are still short of reaching our budget for this year so if you can help us this month, it will be a huge blessing..

Does Love INC make good use of dollars received?

Love INC carefully watches how every dollar is spent, and we have calculated that on a regular basis. Love INC is able to provide at least \$25.00 of goods and/or services for each \$1.00 given to Love INC! Now that is a tremendous return on donated dollars... wouldn't you agree?

This tremendous return on the dollar is possible because Love INC:

- ♥ Involves hundreds of volunteers to accomplish ministry
- ♥ Makes extensive use of good, usable donated product to meet needs
- ♥ Remains committed to operating debt-free
- ♥ Makes thoughtful and careful use of all funds received.

WELCOME TO OUR MILLENIUM PARTNERS:

Calvin Christian Reformed Church

Fifth Reformed Church

Ferry Memorial Church

Forest Park Covenant

Bridge Bible Church

Westwood Reformed Church

Steven Rose

James & Virginia Sytsma

Jean Wolffis

Wendy's of Michigan

Thank you for your generous support!

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

Love INC News



Clearinghouse News by the Numbers January—March 2012

- 412 families received food impacting 1335 individuals
- 371 families utilized our personal care pantries impacting 871 individuals
- 212 individuals received clothing
- 53 families received household items
- 82 infants slept in safe cribs, received layettes, pampers and formula or received other services for infants
- 87 families & individuals participated in our New Directions budget series
- 109 families & individuals completed our Positive Parenting series
- 17,045 is the number of hours our volunteers have given.

Love INC partners with area churches to provide 21 food pantries, 3 personal care pantries, a household goods pantry, Muskegon Res cue Mission clothing partnership, a crib ministry, a baby pantry, a layette ministry, a twin bed ministry and Life Skills classes.

On May 1st we celebrated with our volunteers at their annual recognition banquet. This year it was held at Forest Park Covenant Church. We had over 140 volunteers attend and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. I just want to take a minute to thank the volunteer banquet sponsors who made that night possible. KL Industries/Ameriform, Lakeshore Document Services, Scott Publications, Excel Propane, Port City Group and Shoreline Insurance Agency. With their generous support we were able to honor the many volunteers that give so freely of their time to make our ministry possible. We could not do what we do without them!

May God Bless the Volunteer!

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,
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

Dick Nolan, Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, President
 Sherry Becker, Covenant Life CRC, Vice President
 Bruce Duiser, Unity Reformed Church, Secretary
 Tina Root, Covenant Community Reformed Church, Treasurer
 Pastor Brian Kyle, Fruitland Evan. Covenant Church
 Ron Nyenhuis, Calvin CRC
 Dick Morgan, St. James Catholic Church, Montague
 Joe Singerling, First Congregational Church
 Joel VanderWall, Forest Park Covenant Church
 Char Boertman, Olivet Evangelical Free Church
 Tedd Bryson, Forest Park Covenant Church, Ministries Chaplain

Office Staff

Gail Kraft, Calvin CRC, Executive Director
 Paula Scott-Stewart, Laketon Bethel Reformed Church,
 Clearinghouse Coordinator
 Matthew Kaley, St. James Catholic Church,
 Relational Ministries Coordinator
 Chris Zeedyk, Unity Reformed Church, Administrative Assistant

Nonprofit Org.
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Permit No. 12
 Muskegon, MI

Return Service Requested

Love INC
 2735 E. Apple Ave.
 Muskegon, MI 49442

Love INC
 Love in the Name of Christ

