



# Hearts in Motion

HELPING CHURCHES HELP PEOPLE

## *The First "Love" Letter*

After Love INC was first introduced to the community in the local newspaper in December, 2003, a woman wrote a letter to the paper explaining her needy situation. We reviewed the letter and felt that we needed to respond to this request by faith.

Lisa was newly confined to a wheelchair, and needed her furniture rearranged so that she could maneuver around her house. After many conversations and a personal visit, it was determined that there were many things that we could do for Lisa. Our initial goals included winterizing her home (to reduce heating bills), replacing a broken electric stove and hooking up her clothes dryer. Most importantly, we took time to listen.

Lisa shared: "I was so depressed because I felt like nobody cared and there was no hope of anything in my life getting better." Through a cooperation of volunteers from three different churches, we spent just a few hours in her home. We were even able to accomplish some additional items beyond our initial goals. We also shared with her how she could apply for heating assistance. Two school-boys, who were serving out-of-school suspensions, came to help as well and

learned some valuable life lessons.

A few days later, we received a card from Lisa, she wrote, "This is a thank you Christmas card to my new friends at Love INC. Your kindness will never be forgotten. When you came into my home, you changed my life for the better. I want everyone that helped to know how much it meant to me."

Several months later, while keeping in touch with Lisa, one volunteer was deeply touched to learn that Lisa



has a new outlook on life. She is working on becoming an advocate for people in wheelchairs. Her health is getting better and she is hopeful about her future. One of the boys that helped that day was so touched that he stops by to check on her and makes sure she is okay. He even mowed her yard this past summer. Also, by helping Lisa, it energized the volunteers to truly understand the meaning of sharing the love of Christ through serving the needy.

Is it amazing how the Love of Christ changes the hearts of those He touches directly and indirectly.... Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!!

## *What is Love In the Name of Christ (INC)?*

A lot of people have asked that question and I enjoy sharing my answer. Created in 1977, **Love In the Name of Christ** has been connecting Christians with struggling individuals and families within their own communities in a unique way.

Agencies are not equipped or capable of meeting all the needs in the community. Individual churches can be overwhelmed with needs and lack



"...individual churches can be linked to a network of churches to combine their skills and assets to be a more powerful and effective resource within their community."

adequate resources. With Love INC, individual churches can be linked to a

*Continued on next page*

*To mobilize local Churches  
to transform lives of those in our community.*

Love INC Mission Statement



Love INC  
Love In the Name of Christ



*WHAT IS LOVE INC continued from page 1*

network of churches to combine their skills and assets to be a more powerful and effective resource within their community.

As Christians, this is a great opportunity to stand united and love our neighbors in need as Christ commands. We can make a lasting impact—to change lives and communities. To love people in the name of Christ means to sacrifice ourselves for the benefit of others, who really need and want our help.

There is no better way to exemplify the meaning of Christ's love than to share His love with others in a tangible way. My hope is that Christians throughout the county will answer God's call to reach out and be His hands and feet.

1 John 3:17, *"If anyone has material possessions and sees his*

*brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?"*

#### HOW DOES LOVE INC WORK?

- Love INC works like a clearing-house for information. When the office receives a request, the office volunteers screen the extent of need and legitimacy. Then the request is referred to a local ministry, church volunteer, or community agency.
- Some church members are trained and linked through Love INC to individuals who need long-term mentoring. They provide spiritual and emotional support, along with goal setting. Budget counseling especially helps families learn to become independent again.
- By addressing deeper issues that contribute to poverty, Love INC helps neighbors grow closer and

financially strengthens our community.

#### WHO BENEFITS FROM LOVE INC?

- **Christians**, who are given a specific, manageable opportunity to put their faith to work by being a servant.
- **Individuals**, as they learn to break the cycle of poverty and dependence. Many have their lives transformed as they realize the love of Christ through our volunteers.
- **Churches**, as they have more manageable missions costs. Many churches have found that Love INC saves them money; and the sharing of information prevents those who might go from one church to the next asking for a hand-out.
- **Congregation members** who volunteer are blessed with a new-

found love for others as they act as the hands and feet of Christ.

- The **community agencies**. Love INC mobilizes human and program resources to supplement agency efforts. Funding for some programs has been stopped, or reduced. The church can carry out the Great Commission right here at home by filling these needs.

What is Love INC?  
God's love in actions!

*Brenda Rodgers  
Executive Director,  
Hancock County  
Love In the Name  
of Christ*



### Love Letter

*A woman needed* a rollator (heavy duty walker w/seat and wheels) but was too meek to ask. She was soon to start a new job and this would be a great help to her. A Love INC office volunteer went the extra mile.

Our volunteer contacted Cardinal Pharmacy, who was willing to reduce the cost. After that, our volunteer connected with Brandywine Community Church and people in her own church, Bradley United Methodist, to secure funds. She was so encouraged to find people willing to help.

The result of compassion for this woman: "I praise the Lord for the way He opens up hearts with all your hard work at Love INC. Today, when Cardinal Pharmacy and I knocked on Suzanne's door and announced "Merry Christmas, Love INC has coordinated the funds for you to have a rollater" Suzanne covered her face and cried. I got a great picture of her at the door with her rollator. She said, "Now, I can get around!!" I was the recipient of the hugs not once but 3 times for all the hard work Love INC did".





## Gap Ministries Meet Needs

Gap Ministries are created to fill a specific, unmet need in a community. Love INC identifies areas of need and helps churches coordinate their resources and establish a system of operation. Once in place, a Gap Ministry can effectively serve their community through Love INC's referral system. Love INC currently has access to three Gap Ministries: **Wesley's Closet** through **Bradley United Methodist**, **Brandywine Community's Food Pantry**, and **St. Michael's Furniture Ministry**. Gap Ministries complement existing community resources. Some other Gap Ministries that would benefit our community are **Budget Counseling**, **Auto repair/maintenance**, **transportation**, **moving assistance**, and **help to the elderly**.

If you have a passion to help others and a vision for ministry, ask how Love INC can help your church create a new Gap Ministry.

### I want to be a Love INC Partner...

To help with on-going operating expenses, I have enclosed a tax-deductible contribution. This contribution is:

- ☐ a monthly gift
- ☐ an annual gift
- ☐ a one time gift
- ☐ anonymous gift

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Checks payable to Love, INC  
Mail to: **Love INC of Greater Hancock County**, PO Box 192,  
Greenfield, IN 46140



## Love Letter

*Terri originally called Love INC in the spring of 2005.*

Her husband was ill and she needed help mowing their lawn. A volunteer from Park Chapel Christian Church was found to do the work. The entire family was soon involved in mowing Terri's yard, and became friends with her. Terri's husband died in September of 2006, so volunteers through Love INC continued to support her. A group from Brandywine Community Christian Church, led by Richard Bruce, visited to do some heavier yard work for Terri. As the group picked up sticks and such, they noticed that her shed was falling apart. Terri said that she would pay for the materials if the team would build a new shed for her. In November, the shed was completed and Terri was very impressed and grateful for the work given through the Love of Christ in these people. Terri had shared stories of the volunteers with family members before she passed away in December of 2006. Recently, the Love INC office received a letter from Terri's sister:

*"As I relayed to you by phone, my sister Terri died in December. As I finalized her last wishes to take care of her things, I received your message on her phone and felt that it was necessary to call you. Terri and I were totally amazed by the generosity and compassion shown to her by your group of volunteers. The shed looks absolutely wonderful, and even though it had only been up a short time, she was so happy with it. The lady who came to mow her lawn was so nice to her, and Terri was impressed—she was sometimes difficult to impress.*

*"The things you do in Jesus' name will come back to all of you one hundredfold. I truly believe that, and you will be rewarded by our Lord in His own way. The whole world should strive to be like you people were to her.*

*"I am enclosing a small donation for your continued good work. I wish it could be more, but we give as we can afford. Please know that I loved my sister very much and the things you all did for her will never be forgotten. I have kept your group in my prayers and will continue to do so."*

*Thank you again, June*





## Love INC Honored

We don't help others for the recognition. We do it because Jesus asked us to and because we want to please him. Regardless of that, the secular world has noticed the things that Love INC is doing in Hancock County.

Board of Directors Chairman, Scott Getzin was awarded a **2007 Governor's Award for Volunteer Service** in March. Scott was the driving force in starting the Hancock

County chapter of Love INC. The nomination letter stated "Scott knew Love INC was something special. He knew he was right and led by the Lord, he kept explaining until people started listening, and people started working together to make his dream a reality." The award was sponsored by Indiana's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. In April, Executive Director Paula Parker-Sawyers of the

OFBCI further recognized our work by touring the offices of Love INC of Hancock County.

The Love INC Board of Directors thanks Scott for his tireless efforts in getting the organization going and keeping us pointed in the right direction. With that said, I'm sure that Scott would point to the volunteers from each of our churches and thank them for doing God's work so well.



### Staff:

Executive Director  
**Brenda Rodgers**  
Brenda@loveinc-ghc.org

Clearinghouse Coordinator  
**Sherry Barton**

**Love INC  
of Greater Hancock County**  
PO Box 192  
Greenfield, IN 46140  
317-468-6300  
Fax: 317-468-6313  
www.loveinc-ghc.org

**Love INC office hours:**  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday  
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

**"Let us stop saying we love  
people; let us really love them  
and show it by our actions."**

—1 John 3:18

### Love INC Board of Directors:

*Chairperson:* Scott Getzin  
*Vice Chairperson:* Terry Campbell  
*Secretary:* Mary Legan  
*Treasurer:* Phyllis Polizotto  
Tom Bloodgood, Daniel Canter,  
Steve Dillinger, Marian Helms,  
Phil Miller

### Current Member Churches:

Bradley United Methodist Church  
Brandywine Community Church  
Family Worship Center  
New Palestine United Church  
New Faith Community Church  
Park Chapel Christian Church  
St. James Lutheran  
St. Michael's Catholic Church  
Trinity Park United Methodist

## Wow!!

What a blessing! Love INC's 2007 United Way individual pledges are over \$6,000!! Over the last year, we have been quietly sharing that Love INC was recently added to the APPROVED United Way donor choice list. Employees can designate "Love INC of Greater Hancock County" as their designated agency. And wow, did they respond!!

We are very thankful for every dollar that is given to Love INC. We take very seriously the trust you put in the Love INC ministry when you contribute. We stand accountable before you and God to honor that trust.

If you are able to give through your employer to United Way, we'd "love" to be the recipient of your pledge. Please contact the Love INC office at 468-6300 for more details.



## Core Values

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.