



Love INC
Love In the Name of Christ

Love Letters

April - May 2009



A Message from the Director *Gail Kraft*

Joyous Spring and Blessed Easter. Isn't Spring a wonderful time of year? Don't you love seeing the new shoots coming forth through the ground? After a long winter of darkness, the shoots reach for the light and a new birth. What was seemingly dead and in the ground comes back to life. Sounds like an Easter story, doesn't it? That's probably why I love Spring and Easter. I was once dead to sin, but Christ through His transformed and resurrected body gave me a new birth by believing in Him and allowing Him to transform me. He's not done yet but by His grace, He touched my life.

We often have the privilege here at Love In the Name of Christ of seeing the start of new shoots of transformed lives and hearing how God is touching lives. We don't always see the tulip, daffodil or the lily, but we know it's coming because the third chapter of Hebrews reminds us that when we sow and water, God makes seeds grow.

I thank you, our donors, supporters and volunteers, for the privilege of sowing and watering. You will probably never know the impact of your support or how many lives were transformed because you either gave of your time, talents or treasures, but you can be assured that God used you to make a difference. If you want to experience transformation in your own life as well as others, we are always looking for people who want to give others the same hope that Christ's life, death and resurrection have given to us. Joyous Spring and Blessed Easter.

Board Member Changes

After nine years on the board, many of those serving as President, we say God Bless but not goodbye to Gary Sarut. Gary has moved to Livonia to assist his mother who has health issues. But, God is good. Two individuals contacted me with interest in a board position. We are excited to welcome Pastor Brian Kyle from Fruitland Covenant Church and Megan Crumbacher Doss from Covenant Life CRC in Grand Haven. Pastor Brian states, "I see Love INC as a very effective organization which connects people in need with the local church and gives people not just a "hand out" but a "hand up." He feels it is important to not isolate himself as a pastor in his own church, but to also serve the broader community and feels that "Love INC is a great outlet for this service to our Lord." Megan Doss has a unique story. While at a retreat last fall, she heard God distinctly telling her to volunteer at Love INC. She thought she was to volunteer in Grand Haven, but He knew we needed her here. Megan owns a Special Events Company and stated, "I believe that God wants to use my talents in Muskegon. This is not my doing joining your organization; God has a plan for me, for us to work together. It is exciting to see what will happen next." Welcome to Pastor Brian and to Megan.

Sherry Becker is now our president and Dick Nolan our Vice President. Please pray for our new board members and officers.

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

Love INC News

ECONOMIC REALITIES

Did you know that in 2008, 47% of our operating budget came from individual donors like you? Another 12% came from foundations in 2008; and nothing from federal sources. A valid question is why we don't pursue federal grants, and the answer is simple: Our Number One Core Value is that *we are Christian in everything we think, say and do*. Often public funding is restrictive toward faith-based organizations and we are not willing to compromise our methods of ministry.

It makes for challenging situations when meeting the needs of our neighbors in Muskegon County and even in keeping the lights on, but we are trusting that the Lord will continue to meet our needs through your generous donation.

Just as we are unashamedly Christian, we will unashamedly put our needs before you. Currently, we are not meeting our budget and that means cutting back; would you prayerfully consider increasing your donation by even five percent? No matter the amount, every dollar is vital to helping YOU be the hands and feet of Jesus through Love In the Name of Christ.

WELCOME NEW VOLUNTEERS!

Marian Richter — W. Michigan Worship Center, Clerical
 Lenore Dykstra — 1st Reformed of Ravenna, Client Intake
 Roseanne Pomeroy — Berean Church, Client Intake
 David Dolislager — Furniture Pickup
 Gordon Sikkenga — Ferry Memorial, Furniture Pickup
 Nicole Hall — Client Intake
 Christine Zeedyk — Unity Reformed, Client Intake
 Kathleen Smith—Forest Park Covenant
 Wendy Sullivan—Wolf Lake Methodist
 Kendra Gluc—Orchard View Congregational, Warehouse
 Karla Derwin — Warehouse
 John Stevens — Calvary Church, Product Pickup
 Ron & Bonnie Nyenhuis — Calvin CRC, Client Intake
 Dick Morgan — St. James, Budget Mentor

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Gilletta Terlaan

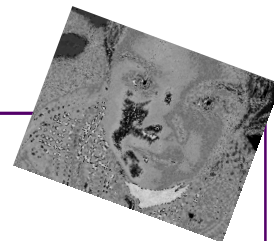
Gilletta Terlaan has been a faithful volunteer at Love INC for nearly two years, helping with client intakes, data entry and supports for our New Directions Budgeting program. She recently helped coordinate a new clothing pantry at her church, Grace CRC. A HUGE THANKS (and to all our volunteers), GILLETTA!

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 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
 County
 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

Sherry Becker, President
Covenant Life CRC

Dick Nolan, Vice President
Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church

Jessie Pearson, Secretary
Bethany CRC

Tina Root, Treasurer
Covenant Community RCA

Bob Keessen,
Forest Park Covenant Church

Jim Scott, *The Journey Church*

Ric Scott, *Calvin CRC*

Leon Van Rees, *Bethany CRC*

Pastor Brian Kyle,
Fruitland Evangelical Covenant Church

Megan Crumbacher Doss
Covenant Life CRC

Tedd Bryson, Ministry Chaplain
Forest Park Covenant Church

Love INC Staff

Gail Kraft, Executive Director

Lynne Nash, Admin. Assistant

Yvonne Ramos, Resource Developer /
Clearinghouse Coordinator

Eileen McCormick, Relational Ministries

Marilyn Brewster, Senior Program Staff

Linda Reimer, Senior Program Staff

Ruth Johnson, Senior Program Staff

www.LoveIncofMuskegon.com

The newest way to make donations,
learn of volunteer and ministry
opportunities!



MEMORIALS

Gary and Sharon Ransom

*In memory of
Walter and Mary Sparrow
Clarence Ransom
Hattie Naghtin
Gay Lynne Sircher*

James and Eileen Nordhoff

*In memory of
Florence Procko
Margaret Vledder
Donald DeWitt*

Thank You for the Donations!

Good News for our Food Pantry

Meijer Stores on Harvey and Henry know the need is great and they're doing something about it! From April 5th through May 30th, they are giving shoppers the opportunity to purchase a Meijer gift card and the gift cards are coming our way. What a huge blessing to our 23 pantries. They will be able to get the items they need, including specialty foods for people on restricted diets. Please remember to shop at one of these Meijer stores and purchase a gift card that will be used to stock our pantries and feed many people in need in our community.

Thanks to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, our food pantry received over 400 lbs of meat, both canned and frozen. This is a huge blessing for families to receive meat to enhance their meals. God is blessing Love INC so that we can be a blessing to others. Thank you all!

Special Thanks to

The **Leadership Development Institute** members from Mercy General Health Partners who blessed Love INC with almost \$2,000 in personal donations at their retreat.

The **State Employees Retirement Association** for their donation.

James Anton for his donation to purchase clothing bins for our clearinghouse.

“BY THE NUMBERS” CLEARINGHOUSE NEWS

The first two months of 2009 have been extremely busy! As of February 28, 2009, Love INC impacted the lives of over 2,495 families and individuals! Just a quick overview of the services we provided and those we've impacted so far in 2009:

1008 - food pantry ♥ 516 - personal care ♥ 103 - furniture ♥ 28 - new cribs (Calvin crib ministry) ♥ 70 - household items ♥ 68 - clothing

Again, without your donations, our ministry would not be possible. THANK YOU for helping us be the hands and feet of Jesus!

NEW DIRECTIONS

What a great name for the Program, and what a great time for a “New Direction”. We often put off making changes until we are forced to make the changes. In today’s world, we will be forced to make many changes. I’m certain you know someone whose financial circumstances have changed in the past 12 months.

What better time to focus on how we spend our money? New Directions Money Management Program is a **Free** 8 week series of classes that help us use our money wisely, as God wants us to. Do you know how you spend your money? Everyone can benefit from a refresher course. Consider referring people to our New Directions Money Management classes, or come yourself.

Our classes are in six convenient church locations. **Call Eileen McCormick at Love INC, 773-3448, ext. 108,** for the class schedule and more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, April 11th 7 pm
Twelfth annual musical experience of God’s love, Ollie Johnson and Friends in **concert** at **Fellowship Reformed Church.**

Tuesday, May 5th
Annual Love INC Volunteer Banquet.
Invitations coming soon.

UNITY FEST
Thurs., Fri., & Sat.
August 6th, 7th & 8th 2009
Heritage Landing



Save the Date NOW: **Sunday, October 4, 2008** has been set as the day for the **2009 Muskegon Area CROP Walk Against Hunger.** Call Gail at Love INC (231) 773-3448 or the Cooperating Churches office, 231.727.6000, for more information



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