



Love INC
Love In the Name of Christ

Spring/Summer 2011



Love INC of North Oakland County

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www.loveincfnoc.org

Love INC's Bed, Blessings and Beyond

By Bobbi Patton

Bed, Blessings and Beyond (triple B, as I like to call it) is our ministry providing household goods to clients of Love INC in North Oakland County.

Bedding and towels are a constant need for this ministry, with small appliances taking a close second. Toasters, coffee makers and in particular crock pots fly off the shelves. Microwave ovens are also very much coveted. Oops! *desired*, don't want to break any commandments!

Despite these needs, the number one most difficult thing to keep on the shelves is pots and pans. Why is that you ask? People repaint their bathrooms and bedrooms all the time. And then, of course, they have to change the sheets and towels to match! Cooking gadgets and styles change over time so maybe you don't use that fondue set any more or the hot dog cooker. But when was the last time you bought a new set of pots and pans? You may even still be using the ones you got as a wedding gift 30 or 40 years ago!

So, if you are out and about at garage sales ~this is the season~ and you see some inexpensive pots and pans, pick them up and bring them in to Bed, Blessings and Beyond. Hours for donations are Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 to noon. (*Thursday only during the summer.*) Or, even easier, make a donation and let the wonderful ladies who run the ministry purchase what they need.

The ministry is housed at Christ the King Church on Drahnert Rd and is open to clients on Tuesday and Thursday from noon until 3:00. During the summer months (second week of June until Labor Day) this ministry will only be open on Thursdays.



Meet our Newest Board Member...



Rochelle joined the Board in February of 2011. She has been serving as senior pastor at Echo Christian Fellowship in Lake Orion, MI, since June of 2008, having received a Master of Divinity degree from Michigan Theological

Seminary (May 2008) and ministry credentials through the Assemblies of God (Certified Nov 2006, Licensed Nov 2007). She received her ordination credential in May of 2010.

In addition to serving in ministry, Rochelle has worked for ACS, Inc., an IT consulting firm, since March of 1998, on contract to Chrysler since January of 1999. Prior to that, Rochelle worked for General Physics of Troy as a technical writer, having received a Bachelor of Arts in Scientific and Technical Communication from Michigan Technological University in May of 1993. More important than these degrees and credentials, Rochelle received Christ as her Lord and Savior in December of 1997. Since that time, she has been increasingly consumed with a passion to see lives transformed through relationship with our heavenly Father.

Partner Churches: now is the time to get your volunteers together for the Love to Laugh Festival! We are looking for music, talent, and help with booths! Volunteer now!

A Love Story...

By Rochelle Beckemeyer

We were thrilled to receive a call for help from the Love INC clearinghouse! Our little church, Echo Christian Fellowship, has an emergency food pantry, so the story started as a food request, but quickly became an even greater opportunity for God to provide! "She can use some food," Kim at Love INC of NOC said, "but she needs so much more. I think she really needs someone to talk to..."

A couple of folks from the church headed over to the lady's home with a few food items. The client had just received a box of food from another pantry, so she was in pretty good shape in that regard, but she was delighted to have us sit and have a cup of coffee with her. In the course of conversation, we learned that her water heater had been broken for some time, with no plans for or means of getting a new one. She looked down at her hands, gnarled and extremely painful from arthritis, and cried quietly as she told us about heating pans of water and carrying them the length of her trailer to pour hot water into the tub. By the time she was able to take a bath (the only way she had of getting comfortable with her joint pain), the water was lukewarm at best.

The following Sunday, the need was shared with the congregation, and immediately the funds were raised and workers provided to install a new water heater. Everything was done the following week, while our new friend looked on with tears of surprised joy. In a follow-up call, we learned that she had gratefully been enjoying her HOT baths! We Thank God for Love INC, and for the opportunity to be His hands and feet!



The Chair View

By Tricia Chapman, Board Chairperson

A True Partnership...

What is a good example of a partnership? The Bible uses the human body to illustrate a partnership. In Romans 12:4-5 it says:

Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, ⁵ so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.

Just as each of us has one body with many members, these members do not all have the same function. Consider your body for a moment. How wondrous it is. It is composed of so many different parts: head, trunk, arms and hands, legs and feet. It has eyes, ears, nose, and mouth. It has a heart, lungs, liver, kidney, bladder, and intestines. It has muscles, tendons, bones, nerves, and blood vessels.

Every one of these parts has a different function. The ear's job is to hear. The job of the nose is to smell and breathe. The job of the lungs is to pass oxygen to the body and to expel carbon dioxide. The job of the kidneys is to process waste water. The job of the heart is to pump blood around the body. Each part has its own unique job to do.

So many different body parts. So many different functions. Yet, they all work together to make the body alive and active. Consider this: Did you realize that 70 separate muscles contribute to hand movements? But in order to allow dexterity and slimness for actions such as piano playing, the finger itself has no muscles; rather, tendons transfer the force from muscles higher in the arm. If any one of those muscles failed to work properly the hand would not be able to play the piano or type on a keyboard or write with a pen.

What a beautiful picture of partnership.

Not only do all the body parts work together, but every part is important. Every part contributes to the well-being of the whole body. A body without toes, for instance, finds it difficult to keep its balance. A body without a functioning liver quickly poisons itself and dies. A body without a functioning eye or hand or leg is disabled.

In the same way, all the parts of the body cooperate so the body can function. Partnership – that's what we see when we look at the human body.

Now, the partnership that we see in the human body is a living illustration of the church. We read these words of the Apostle Paul in Romans 12: 5 ... in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

In Christ, the church is one body. Everyone who believes in Jesus who died and arose becomes one with Jesus; and everyone who becomes one with Jesus also becomes one with everyone else who believes in Jesus. Don't forget what the Bible says about this: Jesus is the vine and we are the branches (John 15:5); Jesus is the head and we are the body (1Corinthians 12; Ephesians 5:23; Colossians 1:18). In Christ we are all one. In Christ we are in partnership with one another and the Lord.

I am sure you realize this runs counter to what is celebrated in our culture and society. Think of the many Rambo-type figures displayed in our movies and novels and even history textbooks. There is something in the American spirit that loves mavericks and renegades, rugged individualists who act on their own. We've been led to believe that the Wild West and the rugged frontier were conquered and civilized by such men. Nothing could be further from the truth. The truth of the matter is, the West was won by partnership. **Continued on Page 4**



A True Partnership, Cont'd.

Did Lewis explore on his own, or was it Lewis and Clark and an unknown number of guides? Bill Gates did not make the Windows operating system on his own; he partnered with hundreds of others.

Within society and culture, and within the church and in Love INC too, God's design is that we work together, that we form partnerships. God's first partnership, of course, was marriage. God pronounced that "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him" (Genesis 2:18).

As with the human body, Love INC is made up of many parts. First, there are many different churches that partner with Love INC. There are different ministries based on community needs in our Love INC affiliate. There are a variety of churches partnering together to minister to those in need in our community. There are a variety of volunteers that have different personalities, different skills and gifts, different educational backgrounds, different ages.

As with the human body, the different parts all have different functions. Each and every church and each and every person a part of Love INC has a role to play. Each and every volunteer has a function to fulfill. Yet, they all work together to make the body of the church alive and active. We are all in partnership with one another.

The Apostle Paul puts it this way. He says "each member belongs to all the others." I am not my own. I belong, first of all, to Jesus. I am not my own. I belong, secondly, to my fellow believers.

As with the human body, not only do all the parts of the church work together, but every part is important. Every part contributes to the well-being of the whole body.

Everyone in partnership. Everyone working together. Everyone contributing to the

good of the body. That is God's goal, God's vision, God's desire, for the church; thus for Love INC of NOC. A True Partnership, that's the calling and that is God's command. How are we doing?

We're Gearing UP!!



It's time once again for the Love to Laugh Festival and we know where it will be held and when!

So Mark Your Calendars!!

Plan to attend! The Festival will be at the King of Kings Lutheran Church on M-24 in Lake Orion this year! We plan to have our event inside this beautiful church and hope you will join us on

October 8th from 11 am to 4 pm

Transitions...

The Transitions Group is "passing the baton":

Love INC would like to thank Jeffrey Davidson for his leadership in the Transitions Group. Jeffrey founded the "Transitions" Group, which has been meeting weekly for more than a year. Some 70% of group participants have found employment, often attributed to connections found through this Group. Jeffrey is now passing the baton to Elliot Gold.

For more than 30 years, Elliott has been helping people improve the quality of their personal and professional lives as a trainer, coach and public speaker. He was involved with Dale Carnegie Training as both an Instructor and Salesman for the majority of that time and then went to Flagstar Bank as a Management and Customer Service Trainer.

The Transitions Group meets every Friday morning at 9:00 at Oxford United Methodist Church – 21 E. Burdick St. – Oxford. "Thank You, Jeffrey" and "Welcome Elliot"



What does Love INC mean to me?

By Rev. McMunn, Pastor of Oxford UMC

Speech given on April 27, 2011 at Love INC's Administrative Appreciation Luncheon

First of all, it means that on Wednesday afternoons, when I'm working in the church office, at about 4 o'clock, a savory aroma wafts its way into my office. There's a different crew each week of the month, and sometimes out of curiosity, I take a walk up to the kitchen to see the disciples of Jesus in action. They're cooking for the Free Meal Program. I've said things to them, like, "I'm so glad you're here to take care of Jesus' people." And they tell me what a blessing it is to be part of the Free Meal Program.

I bounce back downstairs, thinking how wonderful it is that everybody gets blessed in the breaking of the bread. The dinner guests get blessed with a delicious, free meal, and fellowship... The crew gets blessed with the fellowship of working together... and the satisfaction that comes from serving others... the congregation feels blessed to host this ministry in the church facility... the community feels good that people are caring for others... and I think even God is smiling.

Lil Prawdzik is one of our cook team leaders. She recently had knee replacement surgery, and I went to visit her in the hospital. When I thanked her for her cooking ministry, her eyes lit up, and she said, "It is the air that I breathe!" She loves cooking for the free meal program.

Love INC means "Love goes into action." - Jesus commanded us to love our neighbors. We already had love in our hearts... but Love INC has helped us organize more of that love into practical

expressions. We're praying with and for people in crisis, and we're meeting many of their needs.

We're helping them find resources, and helping them believe that God loves them.

Spiritual Growth: The saints have known for centuries that the way to get closer to God includes humble service. Yes, we need to put our faith, or trust in Christ.

We need a life of prayer, the oxygen of the spiritual life.

We need teaching. Jesus told us to make disciples and teach them his commandments. But if Christians keep on listening to sermons and going to Bible studies... if we read Christian books and go to Christian seminars.... If we listen to Christian music... we will still be spiritual babies if we have no life of service. Spiritual growth comes in giving of ourselves. As followers of Jesus we follow one who healed the sick, fed the hungry, washed dirty feet, and gave his LIFE for the salvation of the world. We can't really grow spiritually until our eyes are opened to the hurts of our neighbors, and we open our hearts to them, and we open our hands to serve them.

Collaboration: I've seen thousands of dollars donated in our individual churches and then directed to our common effort through Love INC. I've seen pastors supporting ministries that are housed in each others' churches. I'm a united Methodist pastor, and I drove over to Christ the King Church to deliver donated goods for "Bed, Blessings and Beyond." Our congregation also hosts the Transitions employment networking group, and each Friday morning a different pastor from our community shows up at our church to lead devotions and pray with the members of this group! Amazing!

..... **Continued on Page 6**



What does Love INC mean to me?... Cont'd.

In my entire life I have never seen the disciples of Jesus working together, from a wide variety of churches, as I've seen it in these five years of Love INC. I found myself helping out in the basement of the Episcopal Church as a part of the clothing ministry. I've seen my Roman Catholic brothers and sisters carrying groceries into the United Methodist Church. I've seen my Lutheran brothers and sisters stirring a pot of food on our United Methodist stove. I've heard them decorating "our" tables to serve the meal and playing "our" piano to entertain the guests. It reminds me that it's not "our" church; and it's not "our" piano... it's not even "our" ministry... it's the ministry of Jesus Christ! Can I get an Amen?

Witness: Love In the Name of Christ means that our collective gospel witness now has more credibility in our community because people actually see the church in action... they see self-giving love in Jesus' name. If we ever want them to know Jesus and join the fellowship of any church, we need them to see us living out our Savior's commandments... and doing it together. I think there's a real chance that more of them will be open to the Savior's call when they see how much fun we're having... as they see that we really do believe the things he said... like, "It's better to give than to receive," and "Do to others as you would have them do to you."

That's what Love INC means to me.

Love goes into action. Spiritual Growth.

Collaboration. And a more authentic witness for Jesus Christ. What a blessing it is to be a part of this ongoing ministry! Amen.

Love INC Partner Churches

Auburn Hills Christian Center

Christ the King Church

Christ the Redeemer Catholic Church

Community of Christ Church

Echo Christian Fellowship

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Howarth United Methodist Church

Immanuel Congregational Church

Kensington Community Church

King of Kings Lutheran Church

Lake Orion Church of Christ

Lake Orion United Methodist Church

Lakeville United Methodist Church

Living Word Lutheran Church

Oxford Free Methodist Church

Oxford United Methodist Church

Paint Creek United Methodist Church

Pathway on the Hill Baptist Church

Seymour Lake United Methodist Church

St. Joseph's Catholic Church

St. Mary's in the Hills Episcopal Church



Check out our redesigned website at:
www.loveincfnoc.org



In Appreciation...

Volunteering is the practice of people working on behalf of others or a particular cause without payment for their time and services. Volunteering is generally considered an altruistic activity, intended to promote good or improve human quality of life, but people also volunteer for their own skill development, to meet others, to make contacts for possible employment, to have fun, and a variety of other reasons that could be considered self-serving.

Volunteering takes many forms and is performed by a wide range of people. Many volunteers are specifically trained in the areas they work in, such as medicine, education, or emergency rescue. Other volunteers serve on an as-needed basis, such as in response to a natural disaster.

Community volunteering refers to volunteers who work to improve community enhancement efforts in the area in which they live. Neighborhood, church, and community groups play a key role in building strong cities from the neighborhoods up. Supporting these understaffed groups can enable them to succeed in a variety of areas, which connect social, environmental and economic boundaries.

Love INC is a non profit cooperative effort



that links churches, volunteers, and service agencies and helps them to organize their efforts by reaching out to others. Love INC of North Oakland County has enlisted volunteers in various areas of our ministries in order to achieve these efforts.

During the last quarter:

- 18 Volunteers helped in the Clearing-house to answer 1,395 calls, giving 520 hours of their time.
- 7 Board Members volunteered 238 hours of their time.
- 31 Volunteers helped at the Clothes Closet, serving 558 hours of their time.
- 31 Volunteers helped at the Household Goods Ministry, with 275 hours served.
- 3 Volunteers served 86 hours of their time at Little Luxuries.

It is estimated that more than 100 volunteers helped with the Community Free Meals Program, which is now averaging between 45-70 people attending at four area churches during the week.

Love INC of North Oakland County would not exist without the dedication given from everyone involved in the ministries. **We give thanks to all of you who are currently helping in this capacity!**

There has never been a better time to reach out to those in our community!

If you would like to know more about volunteering at Love INC, please call (248)693-4357.

“He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward him for what he has done.” Proverbs 19:17

Love INC is a 501(c) Non-Profit Organization

- Yes I want to help with a monthly pledge of ___\$25 ___\$50 ___\$75 ___\$100 ___Other
 I would like to give a one time gift of \$_____ Please send me more information.



Love INC
Love In the Name of Christ

Mail to:
Love INC of North
Oakland County
P.O. Box 104
Lake Orion, MI 48361

248-693-HELP
www.loveincfnoc.org

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Email: _____



Love Inc of North Oakland County
P.O. Box 104
Lake Orion, MI 48361

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www.loveincfnoc.org**