



Love INC  
Love In the Name of Christ



*Thanks to all of our  
Community Meals  
Volunteers!*

**Feb. 2011 Edition**

**Love INC of North Oakland County**

**STAFF:**

**Sandra Weaver**

Executive Director

**Kimberlyn Spilko**

Clearinghouse Coordinator

**Rose Pond**

Office Assistant

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**Look for special  
restaurant offers!**

Check out all of our  
participating restaurants  
featuring terrific offers in  
support of Love INC Month!

## February is Love INC Month!

One dollar may not seem like a lot, but it can make a world of difference when it comes from an entire congregation like yours. Throughout the month of February, our hope is that our partner churches will encourage each member of their congregation to prayerfully consider donating \$1 (or more) to Love INC so that we can continue in our mission to mobilize the Church to transform lives and communities In the Name of Christ. Pledge forms are on the back of this newsletter. For more information, call (248) 693-4357.



## Change a Life. Be a Volunteer.

*By Gayle Beamer*

*Love INC Board Member*

*Danny Thomas said, "Success in life has nothing to do with what you gain in life or accomplish for yourself. It's what you do for others."*

My volunteerism began in 1987 when I became a Stephen Minister. Over the years, God has given me the privilege of meeting with a number of people who just needed someone to listen. It feels good to know you have made a small dent in a world of problems, and you have been given an opportunity to glorify God's name.

Starting February 7th, the Clearinghouse at Love INC will begin taking calls four days a week. There are so many hurting and desperate families in North Oakland County we felt it was necessary to be available that extra day. But that means we need additional volunteers. If you'd like to support a cause but can't donate money, you can donate your time. It's a great opportunity to change lives – including your own.



## 2010 in Review

By Sandy Weaver  
Executive Director

As I reflect back on 2010, we have so many things to be grateful for:

- We received 4,328 calls for help, fielded by 28 volunteers donating 3,761 hours of their time.
- We helped 683 families with rent, utilities, food, vehicle repairs, gas, clothing, household goods, and personal needs.
- 87 church volunteers dedicated 3,478 hours in helping our clients in the clothing, household goods, and personal needs ministries.
- Area churches are now serving free meals four evenings during the week with over 100 volunteers from 12 churches donating their time in order that individuals may have a place to come for a warm meal and friendly conversation.
- A job networking group called “Transitions” helped 67% of their attendees secure jobs and provided the much needed support to establish self esteem, resume writing, and job coaching.
- A large scrapbooking event was held.
- Six area restaurants held fundraisers for Love INC.
- A new ministry was formed called “Got Laundry” where clients can use the Laundromat if they do not have a washer or dryer.
- A “Love to Laugh Funfest” was held where everyone could enjoy a day with clowns, games and bands.
- Churches held concerts, such as “Phil Keaggy” at Christ the King Church and

the “Celtic” concert at St. Mary’s in the Hills Episcopal Church to raise funds for our ministries.

- Oxford/Orion Ministerial Association held an ecumenical service in November, where all of the proceeds were donated to Love INC.
- The Schrauger Family Memorial 5K Walk/Run in November involved several runners from the community with the proceeds directed to Love INC.
- The Oxford DDA sponsored “The Giving Tree”.
- The Tan Company and Powerhouse Gym sold Christmas ornaments with the proceeds going towards the Adopt A Family program.
- The Oxford Women merchants held The Girlfriend’s Walk where items were collected for our Household Goods Ministry.
- The Lake Orion Rotary Club donated several beds for children.
- The Oxford/Orion Area Crop Walk donated 5% of the proceeds from the walk.
- Several Businesses and Organizations donated funds collected from their employees.
- Bank of America and Kohl’s donated funds to support our ministries.

I am so grateful to all of the churches and individuals who donated monies towards our operational expenses and provided funds to support our ministries. It is because of you we are able to continue to develop more ministries and continue to fill the “gaps” where needs are not currently being met.

It is my wish that you and your family be blessed as you begin this New Year.

*Yours in Christ – Sandy*





## The Year Ahead

By Tricia Chapman  
Board Chairperson

As we journey into a new calendar year, often our hopes and dreams experience a breath of new energy. A new year helps us reflect on the past year and review our accomplishments, our joys, our challenges, and the milestones that we experienced. Often, it is from that reflection time that we set new goals and commit to new strategies for the year that lies before us.

For a Christian, we prayerfully submit our goals and dreams to our loving God. We trust Him with our lives, knowing that He is faithful. In Jeremiah 29, His word promises: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Our biggest challenge many times is not our goals, but our degree of trust that we have in God. When we fully trust God, our journey into the future becomes a true faith walk and when we pause to view our journey thus far, we see the incredible blessings given by our grace-abundant God.

As in our personal lives, many organizations and businesses set new goals and develop strategies of how to meet those goals. Your Love INC affiliate of North Oakland County has done that once again for 2011. We humbly recognize that our loving Father has certainly blessed us in this past year. We celebrate and praise Him for His abundant shower of blessing on our affiliate. We also know that the calling to be the "hands and feet" of Jesus continues to propel us to prayerfully set new goals for this year.



The 2011 goals are:

- Expand the Clearinghouse to being open 4 days instead of our current 3 days; due to the high volume of need requests.
- Expand our Board of Directors by adding 2 more members, gifted in the areas of finance and administration.
- Recruit at least 5 more partner churches. We currently have 21 partner churches.
- Raise \$80k to support the 2011 budget. We anticipate that \$40k of this will come from our partner churches.
- Add a furniture ministry. This would require a donation of a pole barn or building; a church to lead the furniture pick up from donors, and a church to lead the furniture delivery to Love INC clients.
- Continue to identify ministries within the churches and increase volunteer participation in our existing ministries.
- Conduct surveys for the Clearinghouse, Volunteers, and Churches.

The Board of Directors and Love INC staff asks that you would continue to support your North Oakland County affiliate in the year 2011 by:

- Praying for the leadership and staff
- Giving of your time and resources
- Serving as a Love INC ambassador in your church, with your neighbors and friends

*"Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."* 1 Corinthians 15:58

*For His Glory - Tricia*



## Loose Change for Life Change

*By Claudia Lowthian, Love INC Volunteer*

When I began as an Intake Volunteer at Love INC in 2007, many of our clients were people who had struggled to make ends meet for generations. Typically they had jobs, but often their wages were so low, they simply couldn't meet their basic living expenses without some kind of assistance. But when the recession hit, I began to see a new group of clients reaching out to Love INC for help. These are people who have always been self supporting, but now suddenly they have found themselves unemployed as a result of "downsizing." They have great employment credentials, but until recently, jobs just haven't been available. Perhaps you know some of these people as neighbors, or as the folks who always sit next to you in the pew at church. You can probably imagine their sense of helplessness and hopelessness as they have struggled to keep from losing their homes, and their cars, and everything else they worked so hard to acquire.

Well now, finally, employers are beginning to post a few job openings again, but every day I get calls from people who have a job interview lined up, but can't afford to buy enough gas to make it there and back. Or I hear from someone who has a low paying job, but as gas prices continue to rise again, they can't afford to fill their tanks to get to work and they are afraid they will lose their job if they miss one more day.

As the Church, we can't necessarily guarantee these people the job that will ultimately solve their problem, but as the hands and feet of God, our job at Love INC is to join together to help make their struggle a little less difficult if we can. So when our Clearinghouse Coordinator, Kim Spilko, suggested that a "Gas Can Ministry" would help to fill this gap, it was obvious to me that she was absolutely right. Our hope now is that more partner churches will join us in helping to fill this need, by accepting and supporting this ministry with their donations. Even if parishioners are only able to contribute their pocket change once per year, collectively our loose chain could mean a life change for a significant number of our neighbors in need. So I hope each of the Love INC partner churches will prayerfully consider supporting this important new ministry overseen by Seymour Lake UMC .



## 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



## Got Laundry?

*By Marj Sullivan  
Love INC Volunteer*

In January, 2010, Pastor Christine Humphrey and I were trying to decide what St. Mary's could do during Love INC month in February to help the community. The church already is the home to the Clothes Closet. We talked about how some clients come and get more clothing instead of washing what they already have at home. (This fact really should not have surprised anyone because many of the clients don't have a washing machine available to use.) One thing led to another and we decided to ask our parish to collect quarters so the clients would have an opportunity to go to the Laundromat.

Pastor Chris allowed me to use sermon time to update the congregation about what Love INC has been doing and to introduce this new ministry, "Got Laundry." The people were asked to take a container provided, fill it up with quarters, and then return it to church by the end of February. St. Mary's is awesome! We collected close to \$800 in quarters. Some of our parishioners even brought in laundry detergent! The new ministry was off and running.

Clients call the office for a voucher, which is used at the Wonder Cleaners and Laundromat on M-24 just south of Drahnner. Detergent is provided through this ministry. Clients can do up to four loads of laundry at a time.

While St. Mary's in the Hills Episcopal Church started this ministry, Howarth UMC and Paint Creek UMC are overseeing the ministry going forward.

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### Drop Off Days/Times for Love INC Ministries

- **Clothes Closet**  
St. Mary's in the Hills Episcopal Church  
2512 Joslyn Rd. – Lake Orion, MI  
Tuesday and Thursday from 9 am until noon
- **Bed, Blessings & Beyond/Little Luxuries**  
Christ the King Church  
1550 W. Drahnner Rd. – Oxford, MI  
Tuesday and Thursday from 9 am until noon



## Love INC Partner Churches

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



Save a stamp!  
Send an email to  
[info@loveincfnoc.org](mailto:info@loveincfnoc.org)  
and we'll send you our  
newsletters via email  
instead.

## 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](http://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

Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
**Permit No. 66**  
Lake Orion, MI 48361

**February is Love INC Month!!**

*Doubly good! Treat your sweetie and help Love INC of North Oakland County*



Present this flyer on Monday, February 7, 2011 and **A Familiar Taste** will donate 10% of the sales to Love INC of North Oakland County.

33 North Washington Street in Oxford



From 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Flyer required to receive credit for sale. Offer valid only on the date indicated above.

**February is Love INC Month!!**

*Sweet Deal! Treat your Valentine and help Love INC of North Oakland County*



Present this flyer on Tuesday, February 8, 2011 and **Culver's of Lake Orion** will donate 10% of the sales to Love INC of North Oakland County.

4963 S. Lapeer Rd. in Lake Orion



Flyer required to receive credit for sale. Offer valid only on the date and Culver's location as indicated above.

**February is Love INC Month!!**

*Add a little spice to your Valentine's Day and help Love INC of North Oakland County*



Present this flyer on Thursday, February 10, 2011 and **Chili's of Auburn Hills** will donate 10% of the sales to Love INC of North Oakland County. (Good on carryout orders too!)

3940 Baldwin Road in Auburn Hills (next to Great Lakes Crossing Outlet)



From 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Flyer required to receive credit for sale. Offer valid only on the date and Chili's location indicated above.

**February is Love INC Month!!**

*Treat your sweetheart to a night out  
and help Love INC  
of North Oakland County*



Present this flyer on  
Monday, February 14, 2011  
and **Italia Gardens of Oxford**  
will donate 15% of the sales  
to Love INC of  
North Oakland County.

1076 South Lapeer Road  
in Oxford



From 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Flyer required to receive credit for sale.  
Offer valid only on the date and location indicated above.

**February is Love INC Month!!**

*Grab a bite and  
help Love INC  
of North Oakland County*



Present this flyer on  
Monday, February 21, 2011  
and **'wiches**  
will donate 15% of the sales  
to Love INC of  
North Oakland County.  
40 N. Washington St. in Oxford



From 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Flyer required to receive credit for sale.  
Offer valid only on the date and location indicated above.

**February is Love INC Month!!**

*Bring your family and friends  
and help Love INC  
of North Oakland County*



Present this flyer on  
Tuesday, February 22, 2011  
and **Olive Leaves**  
will donate 30% of the sales  
to Love INC of  
North Oakland County.

780 South Lapeer Road in Lake Orion



From 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Flyer required to receive credit for sale.  
Offer valid only on the date and location indicated above.