



Love INC
Love In the Name of Christ

The Love INC

Link

Mobilizing the Church to transform lives
and communities In the Name of Christ

March 2016



Message from Deb Executive Director

Since our launch
late March of
2009, Love INC
of Linn County

has continued to expand your ministry to our community. But our small rented office space is no longer adequate. We now have twelve volunteers staffing the phone lines each week answering 4,421 calls in 2015! The durable medical goods ministry that began in the attic of Lebanon Mennonite delivered nearly 500 pieces of equipment last year! Housing for this ministry has been graciously provided by the Mennonite Village for years but they need to repurpose that facility now. In addition, Church volunteers acquired, prepared and delivered free firewood for over 40 families in need! Diapers, blankets and linens, towels, household goods, maternity clothes, were all given as well as school supplies, coats, and Christmas gifts to 500 children. None of this would have been possible without your involvement, and with your continued support we will be able to do even more.

We would like to provide opportunity to expand the help the Church offers our community through Love INC of Linn County. It seems good and prudent to offer more "Teaching to Fish" developmental compassion rather than just the giving of things that often times may keep folks stuck in the place of dependency. The foundation of this expansion is the purchase of a new facility, pictured below, to house our organization as it continues to grow.

This year David came to us in need of steel toed work boots so that he could take the job being offered him. We happened to have a pair just his size in our office! There are many 'Davids' out there being offered jobs but not having the proper apparel to work. Restaurants require no slip shoes, construction jobs often ask for rain gear, rubber boots, and steel toed work boots, for many retail jobs black or khaki pants are in order, and some positions require more professional office wear.

How can people afford all of this outfitting before their first pay check? Our new facility has room to house a career closet where the local churches, through Love INC, could work with staffing agencies to help get folks back to work.

Our new facility also offers space to house some much requested classes on budgeting, parenting as well as other life skills.

In addition, the new property also has a 960 sq ft shop to comfortably house our medical ministry!

Please join us in prayer that Love INC of Linn County would secure this new facility to provide opportunity for many more to know the transforming Love of Christ through His mobilized Church.



Board of Directors

Rob Nelke - Jefferson Evangelical (Chair)
 Scott Miller- Willamette Community Church
 Dean Pindell - Grace Bible Fellowship
 Amanda Nowacki -Valley Christian Center

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 Albany First United Methodist Church
 Albany Mennonite Church
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 Tangent Community Church
 The Link
 The Shift
 The Salvation Army
 United Presbyterian Church of Albany
 Valley Christian Center
 Willamette Community Church

Love Stories

A Week of Thanks

Most of us celebrate Thanksgiving one day a year, but here are some people who celebrated most of a week:

Early in the week an 88 year old client let the Love INC office know that she had some yard work and home repair that needed to be done. After learning of this need, one of our volunteers, Mike, agreed to help. He and two teen boys (who consider Mike their “adopted” Grandpa), went to our client’s house and spent several hours (over a couple of days) caulking a window, cleaning her gutters, raking and collecting leaves in her yard. In addition they came over one evening on the weekend to play Yahtzee and Bunco with her and listen to her stories.

We thank God for good health and strength for our volunteers, a generous donation of time and talent, plus the opportunity to encourage this lady with caring companionship.

A Merry Christmas

Six year old Anna became aware of the many homeless people in our area and that concerned her. She wanted to help in some way. After talking to her parents about it, they decided to start collecting things that homeless people might need... shampoo, soap, deodorant, lotion, lip balm, toothbrushes and toothpaste, tissues, some warm socks, gloves, and hats, snacks, etc. Soon the word got out to the family’s friends about what they were doing, and donations of more items came in. One day the family came in to our Love INC office (Anna, her 4 year old sister Faith, and Mom and Dad) bringing about 45 bags of hygiene items to be given to our clients. Anna had drawn pictures of angels with a personal note wishing each recipient a Merry Christmas. These gifts were received with warmed hearts and tearful eyes. Than you Anna for making a difference in 45 peoples’ lives!

A Merry Christmas indeed!



Saving for the Future

Just like the ant described in Proverbs 6:6-8, the wise person saves for future needs. Love INC has 3 ministries toward the end of the year that you might be able to help us with:

August—School Supply Give Away

October—Coat Give Away

December—Christmas Toys for kids

Between now and then, if you see some school supplies or toys marked down or on sale, consider purchasing some and putting them away for Love INC (Can you imagine not having enough money to buy Christmas gifts for you children?). Also, as summer approaches, if you notice your child has outgrown his or her serviceable coat, you could save it for our Coat Give Away. Likewise, if you are trimming down you own wardrobe and have quality adult coats, you could keep them for us. Don't have a place to store them? Call us (541-924-5683).

A little planning on our part can brighten a child's school year and Christmas, and of course everyone needs a warm coat for the winter.

Thanks for thinking of us!



Volunteers

Love INC Medical Ministry

Ron Lucas has been involved with the Medical Ministry at Love INC for nearly 4 years. He started out by assisting the former Medical Ministry Coordinator, Sterling Burkey. Ron and Sterling used to stop at thrift stores and garage sales handing out a Love INC card and gathering medical equipment. Gradually Love INC outgrew the medical storage space, and the Mennonite Village graciously offered the use of a larger building.

As the ministry was growing, Sterling encountered some health problems that forced him to retire, so Ron took over as Coordinator. Because of the growth of the ministry, Ron is involved with other volunteers in picking up donated medical equipment, cleaning and adjusting the equipment (they are not able to do repair work, but they sometimes replace an armrest that is cracked, adjust brakes on wheel chairs, and occasionally swap out a wheel if available), coordinating appointments for delivery, and actual delivery of the medical equipment to our clients. Most of the donated equipment comes from people who no longer need these items, but some come from care facilities in Linn County.



He said that most people don't realize how difficult life is for people in need, and this ministry gives him the opportunity to both see the need and to offer help. His favorite part is delivering needed equipment and talking and praying with our clients. Sometimes a client will say, "this time I will pray for you!" He is delighted to see the joy people have when they receive something they really need. God is the provider but He uses Love INC volunteers to share His love with people.

Favorite story— a lady who had a hip replacement was sleeping in a love seat with her legs propped up on the arm of the love seat because the doctor said she could not use her recliner to sleep in. Ron & another volunteer delivered a hospital bed, a shower bench, and a cane. Two weeks later she met them at the door, walking with the cane.



Loads of Love

In both Corvallis and Lebanon some churches have made it possible for their neighbors in need to have their laundry done for free at a local laundromat. Albany Helping Hands provided this resource here in town for several years until the cost became prohibitive. Corvallis offers up to three loads for twelve qualifying families once a month. Lebanon has multiple churches participating each taking a week so the whole month is covered. They allow families to wash up to two loads a week with a family cap of \$10 per month (they don't count the cost of soap nor dryer time).

Wouldn't it be wonderful to begin a similar ministry (through Love INC) in Albany?

Here is an example of who we could help: A mother with a baby and a 4 year old boy were having dinner at the park. Deb noticed that the 4 year old was eating very carefully. She complemented the boy and his mother. His mother said they had a large pile of clothing that needed to be washed but she didn't have money to wash them. She had told her son that he had to be very careful not to get his clothes dirty before they were able to get them washed. What an overwhelming responsibility for a 4 year old boy!



Could your church become involved with Loads of Love in Albany? (if so, call us at 541-924-5683)

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