



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

SPRING 2019



Message from Deb Executive Director

We are blessed to live in an amazing county! Not only is it physically beautiful but so are the hearts of those that live here. The care and compassion is shown in the vast number of helping agencies and ministries serving Linn County. Many of those are working collaboratively on behalf of the homeless through Adult Services Team, Creating Housing Coalition and the HEART Board. Working together we are able to do so much more than one agency acting alone.

The same is true and even more so as local churches in our community come together- greater things can be accomplished! Love INC of Linn County is one way we can work together across denominational lines. Already this year church volunteers have answered 1,600 calls for help with other volunteers responding by building ramps, delivering medical equipment and furniture, doing yard work, household repair and cleaning. Love INC GAP ministries have provided medical items, furniture, firewood, hygiene products, diapers, baby equipment, and household goods.

What a beautiful expression of Him it is to see the Church doing good works- showing the love of Christ through practical acts of service, through giving of tangible goods and through giving of ourselves in visitation, mentoring, and life skills classes. May we continue to increase in our acts of Love toward those He has placed us in community with that He may be glorified. *So don't hide your light! Let it shine brightly before others, so that the commendable things you do will shine as light upon them, and then they will give their praise to your Father in heaven."* Matthew 5:16

I feel truly privileged to be a part of the Body of Christ here in Linn County. Thank you for being, loving and giving like Him! *And may the Lord increase your love until it overflows toward one another and for all people* I Thesalonians 3:12.



Love INC Board Members

Hannah Blicher- First Christian Church
Jerry Cruce—Willamette Community Church
Louis Lehman—Lebanon Mennonite Church
Rob Nelke—Jefferson Evangelical Church
Gene Vey—Willamette Community Church
Ross Wootan—Home Church

Partner Churches

ALBANY

Albany First Evangelical Church
 Albany First United Methodist Church
 Albany Mennonite Church
 Albany Seventh-Day Adventist
 Eastside Christian Church
 First Church of God
 Fusion Faith Center
 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
 Hands of Mercy
 Hope Church
 Jesus Pursuit Church
 Knox Butte Baptist Church
 Neighborhood Church
 North Albany Community Church
 Signs of Victory
 The Shift and Mustard Seed
 The Salvation Army
 United Presbyterian Church of Albany
 Valley Christian Center
 Willamette Community Church

LEBANON

Community Bible Church
 First Presbyterian Church of Lebanon
 First United Methodist Church of Lebanon
 Ignite Hope-Free Methodist Church
 Lebanon Mennonite Church
 Providence Vineyard Christian Fellowship
 Southside Church of Christ
 Trinity Baptist Church

TANGENT

Agape Family Fellowship
 Grace Bible Fellowship

JEFFERSON

Jefferson Evangelical Church

SHEDD

Oakville Presbyterian Church

Helping May Be A Challenge

You have probably heard this story (Luke 10:30-37):

Along the road from Jerusalem to Jericho, a Jew was beaten, robbed and left half dead. The 18 mile road had a rough, rocky terrain, which was a haven for robbers (and this Jewish man was a victim of their mischief).

A Samaritan was traveling along that road, and even though Samaritans and Jews did not get along, this Samaritan had compassion on the man. Unlike the priest and the Levite who had previously passed by this man and ignored him, this Samaritan bandaged the man's wounds and placed him on his own animal (the man was too injured to walk). The Samaritan took him to an inn and cared for him. When the Samaritan needed to leave, he gave the innkeeper some money (2 days wages) and asked him to take care of the injured man until he (the Samaritan) could return.

There are times when many of us see people in need, and like the priest and Levite, we choose to ignore them. Often we don't know how to help. We don't want to give money that might go toward supporting an addiction or wasted on something that isn't a necessity. We are fairly sure we don't have enough time to help them out of their situation, and we aren't sure they wouldn't just return to their original state of need after we helped them. So how do we offer a helping hand to lift them up?

The Samaritan chose to help with the injured man's immediate distress, and then helped him move toward full healing. It was costly in both time and money. To help someone out of their suffering (and many of us have been in that place from time to time), we must first help them understand their value in God's eyes. God created them and loves them. He gave them abilities and life experiences that He can use, if they are willing to cooperate with Him.

Our *Affirming Potential Class* is a way that Love INC of Linn County is offering to help people move out of their state of need to a place of wholeness and health, as they participate in the process and are mentored by Christian volunteers. This winter we are offering a class to help people in this way. We may not be able to help everyone, but we hope to introduce some people to Jesus and support them as they learn from God to walk in new ways. We value your prayers.

Spotlight on Volunteers

Janet Cross—Phone Intake Volunteer

Phone Intake Volunteers are often the first individuals that people talk with at Love INC. People call us to help them work through difficult situations in their lives, and they are often seeking money or some sort of supplies that they need. So it is the job of the Phone Intake Volunteers to listen to the person's story, and with God's guidance, offer suggestions, encourage positive solutions, and pray for them. We talked with one of our Phone Intake Volunteers to give you some insight into the job.

Janet Cross has been volunteering as a Phone Intake Volunteer since Love INC of Linn County opened in 2008. She comes in one day every other week for about 4 hours to answer phones. She started volunteering for a couple of reasons. She wanted an opportunity to get to know some people that she wouldn't normally encounter in her life and learn to think differently about them. She thought it was a worthy cause to help people in need, and she liked the fact that she could volunteer for as much time as she had available. The Love INC is open Monday through Thursday from 9 am - 1 pm and Tuesdays from 5-8 pm.

Her first challenge was to learn the computer program, when she didn't have much computer experience. However, she found that she could learn to use the program over time and with the help of other staff and volunteers. She likes being able to help people with supplies and services, but she especially likes being able to pray for people. We ask if we can pray for someone and there are very few people who say no. It is an opportunity to begin a relationship with people and point them to God.

Janet said that the most rewarding part of the job is being able to share Christ as we talk about the supplies they are asking for. The most challenging aspect is finding ways to convey in an appropriate way that there are some things they can do to help themselves. She said she has discovered some alarming situations, including young mothers with no place to live. She is glad to have the support, wisdom and prayers of staff and other volunteers as she seeks solutions to big problems.

She remembers one success story that she was involved in. She became aware of a lady she knew who was just home from the hospital after having a hip replacement and needed a shower chair. It wasn't Janet's day to work, and the phone lines to Love INC were all busy. So Janet stopped by the Love INC office. As she was getting out of her car, Ron and Curt (medical ministry volunteers) were getting out of their truck. Janet was able to talk with them about the shower bench, which they had. Janet was able to fill out the needed paperwork and take the shower bench to the lady. It is a rare occurrence to have everything cont-

happen in such a short time, but God had answered Janet's prayers very quickly that time.

Janet would recommend that other Christians volunteer at Love INC as Phone Intake Volunteers because it is a worthwhile ministry, spiritually and emotionally challenging, and she loves the camaraderie of working with the other volunteers and staff.



Faith & Finances is a financial education ministry that empowers low-income people with practical money management skills, biblical stewardship principles, and supportive relationships.

12wk class 6-8PM beginning April 3 in Albany, April 4 in Lebanon. Call 541-924-5683 to register.

Fiesta Fundraiser!

May 3rd, 2019

6pm—9pm

Linn Co. Expo Center
3700 Knox Butte Rd. SE

Dinner, Raffle,

Live and Silent Auction

Tickets \$25

Table Sponsors - \$200

Please buy Tickets or
Table sponsorship online
at lovelinn.org or stop by
the office!

CURRENT NEEDS at Love INC:

Services:

Phone Intake volunteers

Volunteers to build ramps for clients (materials covered by client)

Volunteers to deliver furniture to clients

Donations:

Career Closet—work boots, no slip shoes for food service

Electric wheelchairs that work and have some life left in them.

There are many ways you can give to support the work of your Love INC-

- Mail a check to 1606 Santiam Rd SE, Albany OR 97321
- Did you know may give online at www.lovelinn.org?
- Come in and see us!



Love INC
Love In the Name of Christ

Love In the Name of Christ — Office Hours:

Monday—Thursday 9 am—1 pm

Tuesday 5 pm --8pm 541-924-LOVE



kw MID-WILLAMETTE
KELLERWILLIAMS. REALTY