



Life has changed for all of us during the COVID-19 pandemic, and you may have wondered... How has Love INC weathered this particular storm? We are able to praise God for the ways He has guided and provided.

We learned that businesses were required to close, and we had to make some immediate decisions. We determined that we are an essential ministry, offering items, counsel, and prayer to people as needs arose in their lives. However, we made changes in how we cared for them:

1. We began disinfecting our workplace regularly, wearing masks, and washing hands as needed.
2. Because social distancing is nearly impossible in our small welcome area, we asked people to call when they arrived at Love INC. Then we brought their things outside to them and prayed for them there (see photo).
3. We called our past clients who were over 70 to be sure they were okay and to offer prayer.
4. Many of our volunteers took a break from ministry during the pandemic, so Deb and Roger managed our call center and ministry with a skeleton crew.
5. The requests for medical equipment increased, but so did our donations of medical items. We were able to supply over 1000 medical requests in 2020.
6. As stimulus money came to individuals, we did not receive as many requests for our usual items. With fewer requests, our volunteers were not overwhelmed.
7. We had to suspend our transformational ministry classes (*Faith & Finances, Affirming Potential, Boundaries*, and we weren't able to start our first *Work Life* class).
8. Our Love INC Board met on Zoom instead of in person.
9. We were not able to have our Fiesta Fundraiser in 2020 or 2021, but we have been asking God to supply money to pay off the mortgage on our building and for ongoing expenses.



Fast forward to May 2021. We are still open!! Some of our volunteers are returning, which is great for them and for us. The medical requests continue to be many, but other requests are still down (temporarily). Our Love INC Board will be meeting in person soon. We will update you on the needs and God's continuing answers about our building in our next newsletter. We are using this quieter time to re-evaluate the focus and methods of our ministry to be able to help more people become not *independent*, but God-dependent. Praise God who does all things well.

Love INC Board Members

Jerry Cruce—*Willamette Community Church*
Mike Farnsworth —*Lebanon Calvary Chapel*
Rob Nelke—*Jefferson Evangelical Church*
Gene Vey—*Willamette Community Church*
Ross Wootan—*Home Church*

Love In the Name of Christ — Office Hours:
Monday—Thursday ☩ 9 am—1 pm
Tuesday 5 pm --8pm ☩ 541-924-LOVE

Partner Churches

ALBANY

Albany First Evangelical Church
 Albany First United Methodist Church
 Albany Foursquare Church
 Albany Mennonite Church
 Albany Seventh-Day Adventist
 Eastside Christian Church
 First Church of God
 Free Church United Christian Center
 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
 Salvation Army
 The Shift
 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
 Signs of Victory
 Southside Church of Christ
 Trinity Baptist Church

TANGENT

Agape Family Fellowship
 Grace Bible Fellowship
 Tangent Community Church

JEFFERSON

Jefferson Evangelical Church

SCIO

Providence Vineyard Christian Fellowship

SHEDD

Oakville Presbyterian Church

Ways to Give

- > Mail a check to : 1606 Santiam Hwy SE,
Albany, OR 97321
- > Donate with a credit card through our
website www.lovelinn.org

Restoring Hope (in process)

In late April, Roger received a call from Britney (not her real name), who asked if Love INC could help her. Roger sensed the fear and despairing tone in her voice. She said that she and her 2 daughters, ages 6 and 10, had recently moved from the Portland area and were living in a motel in Lebanon. She was to start a new job at Lowe's Distribution Center, but she was running out of money and a place to live. She asked if Love INC could pay for some nights for her family to stay in the motel. (How did she get to this place in her life? Had she been laid off or fired from her previous job? Had she been living with friends or relatives and that home wasn't available to her anymore? Was there an underlying physical or mental health problem? Was she fleeing domestic violence?) Regardless of the "why?" questions, Roger knew that Britney was created by God and that God loved her very much. He silently asked God for guidance as he listened to her story and talked with her. She had a car and her daughters were doing school online. She needed to attend a 2-day orientation at Lowes starting the next day, and then she would begin working graveyard shift 3 days later. She also needed childcare while she was at work, as she didn't want her girls to be alone in the motel while she went to work. Roger carefully explained that while Love INC didn't have funds available to pay for her stay in the motel, he would contact area churches to see if any could help. He told her that God saw her as a person of great value and that God's people cared about her and her situation. He prayed with her, asking God to bring a solution to her problem.

Roger emailed our Love INC partner church pastors, explaining Britney's situation and asking if anyone could help. He received 4 responses, saying that they would pray about it and search for answers. The next day the secretary at one of the churches Roger had contacted called him. She said there was a lady in their church who had a "tiny house" on her property that was recently vacated. That lady offered to let Britney and her daughters move in, free of charge temporarily, and she also said she would take care of the daughters while Britney was at work.

Roger called Britney and asked how things were going. She said she had found a church that was willing to pay for 3 more nights in a motel. Roger said that perhaps God was providing an even better opportunity, and he explained about the tiny house and the offer of childcare. The following week Roger learned that Britney had moved into the tiny house with her daughters, she had started work, and her landlady cared for her girls while she worked. God is continuing to work in Britney's life as she has been introduced to God and His church.