



April 2019

LOVE STORY



After being hospitalized for six months in the spring of 2018, Sam was severely disabled. He was referred to Love INC by United Way 2-1-1. He needed help with snow removal. He did not have any friends or family in the area. As our Intake Specialist (Jean) listened to Sam tell his story, she learned Sam also wanted to improve his relationship with his daughters. They ended their conversation with prayer and Jean let him know we would add him to our prayer list.

A Love INC volunteer (Bob) went to Sam's home to shovel after the next snowfall. A neighbor stopped by and said he just got a new snowblower and he would snow blow the driveway. That evening Sam left a voice message for Jean: "You sent Bob over to shovel for me. Thank you very much. I really appreciate it. It helped me out very, very much."

When we followed up with Sam a couple weeks later, Sam said the neighbor is continuing to remove the snow and he no longer needs assistance with snow removal. He was also excited to share that his daughter had come to visit him over Christmas.

Not only did the Lord provide for snow removal, Sam's relationship with his daughter is improving and he has a new relationship with his neighbor.



GRACE "LOVE FEST"

We ask all of our partner churches to host "Love INC Sundays" which can take many forms. A recent event at Grace Lutheran, one of our partner churches, was held in association with Valentine's Day and was called Grace "Love Fest". It was held between services and featured tasty treats and refreshments as well as a free-will offering which garnered over \$500 for Love INC. The event also featured the vocal stylings of "Elvise and Mikail Jackson". This shows there are many ways to share the Love INC message with your congregation.



INTAKE SPECIALIST TRAINING



Originally scheduled for Monday, February 25th, the day after the great 2019 blizzard, our latest Intake Specialist training took place in March. We are so thankful for all those that are choosing to use their God-given skills and talents to help love their neighbors.

POVERTY SIMULATION

Friday, April 5th, 9-Noon

The Poverty Simulation is an interactive, professional development tool that provides a window into the lives of low-income families and the struggles they face to overcome barriers of joblessness, homelessness, crime, illiteracy, and lack of quality childcare. Participants gain a better understanding of the challenges associated with living in poverty and emerge with a greater sensitivity to the plight and needs of low-income families and individuals. We need a minimum of 40 participants to run the simulation.

Registration is required by calling Wendy at the Extension Wood County office at 715-421-8437

DONATION OPTIONS



Donorbox is our new giving platform that utilizes both Stripe and PayPal for donation processing. We have heard from donors who desire more options to give; specifically sustained giving options (monthly, etc.) Based on some great input from fundraising experts we have set up an account. This will allow ACH (Automatic Clearing House – direct bank transfers) from any financial institution. Click on the link below to explore these new options!

[Donorbox Giving Options](#)



Love INC will be holding its first ever Annual Dinner on Thursday, May 9th, at our building starting at 5:30pm. The agenda will include: dinner, a short program, and volunteer recognition. RSVPs are required for dinner preparations. Call 715-424-LOVE (5683) to RSVP.

FEBRUARY DATA

For the month of February, the connection center received 58 calls with 16 new requests for assistance. We had 13 referrals with 7 from partner churches.

The top needs were for:

- Service Needs – 9
- Financial Assistance – 3
- Material Needs – 2
- Transportation - 2

Through our partners we are helping ten families in their progress towards transformation.



LOVE INC 101

Would you like to learn more about Love INC of South Wood County? Please consider attending a one-hour informational session which includes a building tour.

Sessions are held the third Thursday of each month. For your convenience, we have sessions scheduled for both Noon and 6:00pm. The next session will be Thursday, April 18th. If this month doesn't work for you, plan to come to another session in the coming months.

APRIL LEADER TO LEADER WORKSHOP



Good thinkers solve problems, never lack ideas, and have hope for the future. No matter the circumstances, you can learn to be a good thinker. Leaders use different kinds of thinking and in this two-hour interactive workshop we will examine how our personal thoughts influence our feelings and lead to our actions.

Monday, April 29th, 6:30-8:30 pm

Place: Love INC of South Wood County

Facilitators: Diane O'Connor & Julie Overturf

Cost: \$15 per person which includes the workshop and handouts.

[Register Here](#)

“SCREENAGERS”



Saint Lawrence, one of our partner churches, is hosting a special event on Tuesday, April 9th at 6:00pm. A screening and discussion of the documentary “Screenagers” will be at the Fine Arts Center at McMillan Memorial Library in Wisconsin Rapids.

“Are you watching kids scroll through life, with their rapid-fire thumbs and a six-second attention span? Physician and filmmaker Delaney Ruston saw that with her own kids and learned that the average kid spends 6.5 hours a day looking at screens. She wondered about the impact of all this time and about the friction occurring in homes and schools around negotiating screen time—friction she knew all too well. In SCREENAGERS Delaney takes a deeply personal approach as she probes into the vulnerable corners of family life, including her own, to explore struggles over social media, video games, academics and internet addiction. Through poignant, and unexpectedly funny stories, along with surprising insights from authors, psychologists, and brain scientists, SCREENAGERS reveals how tech time impacts kids’ development and offers solutions on how adults can empower kids to best navigate the digital world and find balance.”

Prayer:

“Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which He bought with His own blood.” –Acts 20:38

Lord we praise you for the shepherds of our churches who have caught the vision of partnering through Love INC to serve our community. Bless them as they tend their flocks. Amen.