



APRIL 2020



HELPING CHURCHES HELP PEOPLE

The Connection Center is Still Open

Connection Center Intake Specialists are still willing to work with clients from their homes, so here is our new process: Tricia, our Client Care Coordinator, will be checking Love INC's voicemails and will forward messages to our Intake Specialists. They will alert our Volunteer Coordinator, Wendy, when we have duties for our volunteers. Wendy will contact those who are willing and able to help. We are doing our utmost to continue to assist our neighbors in need while keeping them, our staff, and our volunteers safe.

Event Information

All Love INC events, informational sessions, and group meetings have been cancelled due to Tony Evers' "Safer at Home" policy. Please, if you have not done so, "Like" us on Facebook for Love INC updates, volunteer requests, and other important information.

A MESSAGE FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS Adapted from Franklin Graham

During this time with the coronavirus, anxiety and fear is gripping the hearts of many people in our communities and the world. It is as real as the virus itself—but it is **treatable**. There are people in need that we can reach out to help. We who are the church need to stand up and be the hands and feet of the Lord Jesus Christ.

During these days of "Safer at Home", we could all take time to call and check on the elderly or others who are alone. When you need to run out for food or necessities for your family, you might consider purchasing a few additional items to drop off at our local food pantry. Talking with someone on the phone who is struggling, listening to what they are going through, and most importantly, praying with them, could change not only their day, but their entire outlook.

We need to share the "reason for the hope that is in you" (1 Peter 3:15.) Jesus Christ is our hope, our anchor, our comfort, and our peace. Let's share His love with as many people as we can, making every day count. God can use you, God can use me. What is something tangible that you can do to help here in South Wood County?



CURRENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We currently have the following volunteer opportunities available and we will likely be adding to this list as needs arise. A couple of these can be accomplished with minimal risk of being exposed to the coronavirus. Please contact

Wendy at 715-424-5683 if you are interested in helping, thank you!

Grocery Delivery - We have many people in our community who are at risk of becoming seriously ill if they were to catch the virus. They are isolated in their homes and many will begin to run out of essential items at some point. We are still working out the details around how this would work, but we would like to have volunteers waiting in the wings who are willing to shop and deliver groceries.

Phone calls or cards to those in isolation – So many people are lonely, afraid, and at risk of becoming depressed. We would love to bring the love of Christ to them!

Prayer walks – James 5:16 says, "The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." We want to mobilize prayer warriors all over this city to pray for protection, healing, and spiritual awakening for our neighbors. If you need to get out of your house to get some fresh air, please pray for your neighborhood while you walk!

We are so grateful to you, our volunteers, and we thank you for your willingness to serve your community through Love INC. We realize that some of you may have needs yourselves. If that is the case, please let us know what they are so we can help you.



A HUGE THANK YOU to Luke Haas of Haas Tree Care LLC for taking down the large pine tree on Love INC property. The tree was leaning towards the building and was causing concern that it could fall if we experienced high winds or a storm such as the one we had last summer. Luke volunteered his time, equipment, and expertise to help with this big project. Also, thank you to the other volunteers that pitched in to assist with cutting up the tree and with clean-up. We very much appreciate all of those who helped! That being said...



God answers prayers. An example of this is Jim Price. Our prayers for help with routine building maintenance were answered, in spades, last fall! Jim Price is now our volunteer handyman and he has been a great blessing. He's helped with snow removal, faucet replacement, furnace maintenance, carpet repair, hanging décor, lighting needs, just to name a few projects. And, most recently, he helped with yard/tree clean up at Love INC. We thank him for sharing his gifts and talents with us to further our mission.

CARES Act: For Churches, Non-Profits and Christian Schools

The recent CARES Act Program was signed into effect Friday. The \$2 Trillion CARES Act applies to more than individuals and small businesses. There are provisions in the Act to financially help churches, non-profits, and Christian schools that are 501C3. It provides loans to these organizations to help them through the period of time between February 15, 2020, to June 30, 2020. Realizing that these organizations may have decreased contributions, the ACT allows these organizations to loans through a local bank that potentially can be 100% forgiven – based on retaining employees. For more information, please follow this link:

<https://www.vanderbloemen.com/blog/details-of-care-act>



Needs Survey Results

Recently the Wood County Health Department Community Needs Task Force released their Needs Survey results. This survey was administered by the WCHD to identify local efforts and resources that are addressing rising needs in our community due to COVID-19. The summary listed below is regarding what Gaps organizations are seeing in the population they serve.

- *Food insecurities (including baby formula)
- *Lack of transportation
- *Other basic needs not being met (including: hygiene products, paper products, baby diapers/wipes, etc.)
- *Lack of cleaning supplies and sanitizers
- *Low inventory of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- *Need for childcare
- *Technical problems with distance learning and/or lack of internet access
- *Loss of wages/unemployment
- *Mental wellbeing (fear, anxiety, feeling isolated)

For additional information, please contact Ashley Normington at anormington@co.wood.wi.us.

Zephaniah 3:17. *"The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior, who will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in his love."*

Father, today our lives are different - may they be different by your will. Today we're talking about new and scary topics - may our words be rooted in you. Today we have the opportunity to slow down - may we breathe, pray, and prioritize your work. Today we see our neighbors hurting in fresh ways - may we love and not overlook them. God, realign our minds, our bodies, and our relationships in the power of the Spirit for your good this Lenten season as we navigate the uncharted territories of COVID-19. Amen.



If you would like to volunteer at Love INC, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Wendy, at 715-424-5683 or email her at volunteer@loveincswc.org. For more information on volunteering at Love INC SWC, please visit our [website](#).



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