# LOVE IN THE NAME OF CHRIST OF SOUTH WOOD COUNTY HELPING CHURCHES HELP PEOPLE

## **March 2020**

**MEET TRICIA** 



Love INC is pleased to announce Tricia Janssen has accepted the Client Care Coordinator position. As we previously announced, our current coordinator, Deb Skerven, is leaving to spend more time with her family. Tricia will start March 2nd. She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience. She has an Associate's Degree in ministry and is a licensed minister with the Assemblies of God. She has served with the Boys & Girls Club, Christian Life Fellowship, and Helping Hands Gospel Mission. She and her husband Jeremy are also foster parents. Please welcome Tricia to our amazing staff at Love INC.

A Social Worker from Aspirus Riverview Hospital referred a delightful woman named Doris to Love INC. We learned about Doris after she called the Love INC Connection Center looking for help. Doris is in her 80's and has some health concerns. With her advancing age and physical limitations, she is fearful of going outside in the winter and falling on the ice. Her request for help was for assistance getting her mail and picking



up groceries. Through the Connection Center interview process we learned she lives across the street from one of our partner churches. We contacted the church and they connected their new church member, Meridee, with Doris. Meridee recently moved to Wisconsin Rapids and "coincidentally" lives in the same apartment complex as Doris. Meridee was happy to help and now brings Doris her mail several times a week. Also, things are tight for Doris financially. She has been paying a local grocery store to deliver groceries to her home. We reached out to another partner church to find someone to shop for Doris and deliver the groceries to her home. Pat, a Love INC Partner Church Volunteer, was happy to help Doris. Doris gives Pat a grocery list every 2 - 3 weeks, she does her shopping, and delivers the groceries to Doris's home. This saves Doris the expense of grocery delivery so she can put her money towards other areas in her budget. The church was able to meet Doris's need for getting her mail and delivering groceries. But more importantly, Doris has two new friends thanks to the volunteers willing to take a few minutes each week to display the love of Christ. Meridee followed up with us and this was her comment about the time spent serving her neighbor, "Doris is a blessing to me and the good Lord has definitely connected us. I am enjoying what I am doing and our time that we can visit in our little fellowship. It's wonderful!"

#### - COMING EVENTS

Love INC Informational Session Thurs., March 19 @ noon & 6pm RSVP to Wendy at 715-424-5683 or volunteer@loveincswc.org Next Church Partner Breakfast Thursday, April 30 @ 7:30am Annual Dinner & Volunteer Recognition Thursday, May 14 @ 5:30pm

#### --- IN FEBRUARY --

We received 83 calls in the Connection Center which resulted in 28 requests for assistance. There are 19 families that are currently receiving needed help.



### -- ALLY MINISTRY

Ally Ministers are trained to meet one-on-one with individuals who are going through difficult circumstances and to provide understanding, support and encouragement. God's Word calls us all to be ministers. When: Sat., March 14 Time: 9am - 4pm (lunch provided) Location: Crossview Church Register at: https:// www.crossviewrapids.org/ resources



In December, Diane called Love INC for help after being referred from a partner church. She had previously suffered a traumatic brain injury. She was moving to a new area with better healthcare for her condition. Her health condition created barriers for her to organize this move on her own. She was in need of assistance with the process of packing and loading the moving truck. Diane was connected to the new Love INC Moving Ministry led by one of our partner churches, Grace Lutheran. A team was assembled and spent approximately 28 hours organizing and packing. As one would have expected with a move, things didn't go as smoothly as planned. Diane became ill, and there was a great amount of work still needing to be done. Jean, a volunteer, prayed with Diane for God to come into the house and give them the

strength to complete the task. This brought Diane comfort during this stressful situation. Diane's mom, Margaret and Ron from the moving ministry team, and Jean were told the landlord was coming at 5:00pm to inspect and pick up the key.

In Jean's own words, she thought, "Well, we won't make it!" Yet, they worked with more urgency. Before they knew it, the time was 4:50pm and found themselves standing in the kitchen with only a few boxes left! "I can't believe it!" Jean exclaimed. "We're gonna make it!" Suddenly a loud and clear voice in Jean's head spoke, "Why are you surprised? That is what you asked for." Truly, God had spoken and God had come into that place and given them the strength they needed, just as Jean and Diane had prayed for. Jean wondered, "Why do we ever doubt?" Love INC will be following up with Diane to hear how the move went. We will also be sending her a love note to encourage her as she transitions into a new community.







Pastor Paula Graves has been a dedicated Love INC volunteer and has been serving as the Board Vice President for the past two years. She has been an active Board and Committee member, and has led many prayer sessions. She and her husband Tom are moving to Austin, Minnesota, near

their daughters and grandchild, for a calling to be Interim Pastors. We are so thankful for her service and wish her well in her new path. "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others as faithful stewards of God's grace in all its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10



Dear Lord, bless the Love INC ministry. Help us to mobilize members of our partner churches to use the gifts you've given them to love their neighbors. We ask that transformation comes to our communities as the Body of Christ serves in your name. Amen



