



**August 2019**

## **JUNE LOVE STORY**

(From June, names have been changed)  
 Richard had worked full time and kept busy doing projects around the house and helping others. Sandra was a stay at home housewife. Things changed dramatically in March of 2019 when Richard suffered a massive stroke. Their world was turned upside down. They were in crisis and reached out to Love INC for spiritual and financial support. Richard was back at home after being in the hospital for several weeks. He was in a wheelchair and going to therapy several times a week. They were connected with helping agencies like Aging and Disability Resource Center and Inclusion for supportive services. Sandra was providing round the clock care her husband. Their faith is strong and they have found comfort through their conversations and prayers with Love INC. They needed help with rent for one or two months as there was a lapse in time where Richard was not receiving any disability or social security income. Love INC connected them with a pastor from one of our partner churches. The church helped pay part of their rent. The pastor reported, "Sandra and Richard spoke so highly of Love INC and all that they have been able to do to help them. They appreciated Love INC giving them some solid instructions and directions for the next steps".

We feel blessed to have the opportunity to come beside Richard and Sandra as they work hard to put their lives back together.



## **CHURCH PARTNER BREAKFAST**

On Thursday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, we continued working together with our 15 partner churches to expand on the priorities identified at the last Partner Breakfast;

- **PHYSICAL NEEDS:** Furniture, Household goods, etc.
- **RELEASE FROM JAIL:** AA Meetings, Mentoring, Housing, Medical Needs, etc.
- **MENTAL HEALTH:** Emotional Support, Grief Share, etc.
- **PARENTING:** Support & Respite, Role Models, Helping Resources, Mentoring, etc.
- **PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES:** Connection, etc.

Participants identified what's working, any agencies or churches already contributing to a piece of the puzzle, why this area is a priority, and possible ministries that would address this area. Those in attendance included pastors, church representatives, and Love INC

Ambassadors. Ambassadors fill a vital role in the relationship with our partner churches. Each partner church has named one or more Ambassadors to be a central conduit for information and engagement within their church. They stay informed of Love INC happenings by doing the following: reading updates and monthly newsletters, attending meetings, participating in events, engaging in trainings, sharing Love INC volunteer opportunities, upcoming events, and announcements, and encouraging their church members to volunteer.



## ORGAN CONCERT



**When:** Sunday, August 4th, 3:30 pm  
**Where:** First English Lutheran Church,  
440 Garfield Street, Wisconsin Rapids  
**Featuring:**

- Dave Mueller, Organist & Music Director, First English Lutheran Church
- Christian Stromley, Organist, St. John Evangelist Episcopal Church, Church Music major at Concordia University in St. Paul, Minnesota.

A free will offering will be taken to benefit Love INC of South Wood County.

## JUNE DATA

For the month of June, the Connection Center received 89 calls with 30 new requests for assistance. There were a total of 11 referrals to our partner churches helping to mobilize the “people in the pews” from the following churches: Christian Life Fellowship, First Baptist, Crossview, Saint Lawrence Catholic, St. Luke’s Lutheran, Faith Reformed, and the Moravian Church.

The top needs were:

- Financial Assistance – 18
- Service Needs – 10
- Material Needs – 5
- Transportation – 1

Three of the service needs were for emotional support, a great synergy with the partner churches that have a Stephen Ministry program.



## VOLUNTEER QUOTE

*“I finally feel that I am contributing to God’s work! The concept of Redemptive Compassion is so respectful and necessary with helping people in need. I know listening to their stories, praying with and for them, and sending caring notes is making a difference. As this ministry grows, I look forward to “taking the long walk” with those who are ready!”*

- Jean Sorenson, Volunteer,  
Connection Center Intake Specialist

## 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** at the Love INC building, 710 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue South in Wisconsin Rapids. For your convenience, we have sessions scheduled for both **Noon and 6:00pm**. Coming sessions are;

- **Thursday, August 15<sup>th</sup>**
- **Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup>**
- **Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup>**

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**August 14-17<sup>th</sup>**, Love INC National Gathering in Chaska, Minnesota (**the Connection Center will be closed**)

**Tuesday, August 20<sup>th</sup>**, Ambassador Breakfast, 7:30-9:30am

**Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>**, Love INC Partner Church Breakfast, 7:30-9:30am

## DONATION OPTIONS

Donorbox is our new giving platform that utilizes both Stripe and PayPal for the donation processing. We have heard from donors who desire more options to give; specifically sustained giving options (monthly, etc.) Based on some 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](#)



### Prayer

“In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”

– Mathew 5:16

Lord, may our light shine so as we serve You that awareness of the Love INC ministry would multiply across our community, this we pray in your holy name.

Amen.

### Partner Churches

Bethlehem Lutheran  
Christian Life Fellowship  
Crossview  
Faith Reformed  
First Baptist  
Grace Lutheran  
Highland  
Immanuel Lutheran  
Lakes Area Christian Fellowship  
Light of Christ  
Port Edwards United Methodist  
Saint Lawrence Catholic  
St. Luke’s Lutheran  
Wisc. Rapids United Methodist  
Victory Christian Church