



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

February 2020

FIRST GAP MINISTRY



Rank	"Stated Need"	Number
1	Rental/Security Deposit	61
2	Utilities	36
3	Gas Cards	27
4	Moving	23
5	Emergency Housing	22
6	Food	21
7	Housing Search	20
8	Emotional Support/Counseling	19
9	Furniture	15
10	Car Repair	11
11	Household Items	11
12	Medical Transport	10
13	Job Search	9
14	Budgeting/Financial Education	7
15	Other Transport	7
16	Fresh meals	6
17	General Financial Assistance	6
18	Home Repairs - Services	6
19	Lawn care	6
20	Clothing	5



The Connection Center is the foundation of Love INC. It's where relationship building begins. Through the Connection Center, Love INC ministry volunteers receive requests for help, screen the requests for extent of need and legitimacy, and refer the requests to a local church ministry, church ministry volunteer, or community agency. When there is no way to address the need, that presents a "gap" in community resources. When enough of these are experienced a new ministry is established with partner churches to address this need.

Above right are the top twenty stated needs from client calls in 2019. As expected, the top needs are financial. However, "moving" is the fourth most requested need and there is currently no organized ministry to address this...until now. Grace Lutheran, one of our partner churches has established a new Gap Ministry to meet moving needs of Love INC clients. This will be a collaborative effort between partner churches with Grace Lutheran taking the lead. Through Love INC, Crossview, First Baptist, Port Edwards United Methodist, Faith Reformed, and Saint Lawrence have all been helping in this area. Other churches are welcome to join the team!

Above are pictures from the move that occurred on January 11th. Six people loaded up four SUVs and three trailers to move Ann to her new apartment.

The move was successful with the exception of an old pressboard entertainment center which didn't endure the move, however, Ann had other furniture to replace its functionality. She is very grateful for the help and assistance.

The moving ministry exemplifies two key Redemptive Compassion principles; "We are called to invest relationally in each other" and "Mutual participation is important".

Coming Events

- **Journey of Generosity**, Friday, Feb. 14th, 7:30 – 1:00 pm at Love INC
- **Love INC Informational Session**, Thursday, Feb. 20th, noon & 6:00 pm, RSVP requested
- **Business Dinner**, Monday, April 20th
- **Annual Dinner & Volunteer Recognition**, Thursday, May 14th



LOVE STORY

We received a card from a client who called the Love INC Connection Center in June 2019. She requested help moving. We were able to hear her story, talk with her and provide emotional support, but in the end, we were unable to meet the need. Right before Christmas she sent us a note which said.....

“Thank you for helping me this year. Mary, you were so nice and helpful when I first contacted Love INC per The Family Center’s guidance. And Debbie, you tried so hard to find someone to help with the physical move I had to do in July. In the end it didn’t work out, but you tried so very hard for me. Mostly through your kindness, your kind words, and even the card I received in the mail from one of the children really warmed my heart and day. Thank you again so very much. I wish you a very happy holiday time and that 2020 be the best year so far. Merry Christmas.” Love Liz

December Connection Center Data:

In December, even with being closed Christmas week, we received 99 calls which resulted in 33 requests for help. The top needs were identified below. There were 12 families that area currently receiving needed help in their transformation:

- 17 For Material Needs
- 16 For Financial Assistance
- 8 For Services (including moving)
- 1 For Transportation

MEET WENDY



As we mentioned last month we are growing and expanding our capacity specifically as it relates to building our volunteer network within our partner churches. The board of directors has approved the hiring of a third staff person, a Volunteer Coordinator. Key responsibilities are managing the volunteer programs and coordinating scheduling of volunteers including training.

After a careful search we have found the perfect candidate. Meet Wendy Schlaefer. Wendy comes to us from one of our partner churches, Saint Lawrence, where she currently is the secretary/bookkeeper. She has a degree in managerial accounting from the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point and has a great network throughout central Wisconsin which will be invaluable. We welcome Wendy to the great staff at Love INC!

Other Position Opportunities

- Volunteer Receptionists for Wednesday and Thursdays (volunteers)

[Donorbox Giving Options](#)



JOURNEY OF GENEROSITY (JOG)

Love INC of South Wood County will be hosting a National Christian Foundation “Journey of Generosity” on Friday, February 14th, Valentines Day, at Love INC. We will start with a light breakfast at 7:30 am. This is a solicitation free event guided by a trained National Christian Foundation Facilitator and encourages a conversation about generosity amongst friends. This experience is designed to focus on your heart and not your money. To register please contact DaNita at the Love INC office at 715-424-LOVE (5683) or danita@loveincswc.org

DISCOVER YOUR GIFTS

River Cities Christian Church will be hosting a **Discover Workshop**, on Sunday, February 9th from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm. This workshop, on spiritual gift discovery, is taught by Kurt and Julie Overturf. A lunch will be provided by the church. The cost of the workshop is \$15 per person which includes a workbook, personal profile page, and the spiritual gifts assessment. The gifts assessment must be completed before attending the course. To register please contact Pastor Scott Kaczorowski, pastor.scott@rivercitieschristianchurch.com or call the church office at 715-325-3321.

Prayer

“He who despises his neighbor sins, but blessed is he who is kind to the needy.”
- Proverbs 14:21

Lord, open our eyes to the opportunities Love INC can provide our Christian churches in our communities.
Amen