

# Loved



February 2020



**Love INC client, Ann, was recently blessed by  
the helping hands of Love INC volunteers Steve  
Grant, Ron Grundein, and Jim Chase.**



## Love INC

Love In the Name of Christ

710 20th Avenue South  
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495

**715.424.LOVE (5683)**  
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**Connection Center Hours**  
Tuesday-Thursday 10am-2pm

**Join our mailing list online to receive our monthly newsletter.**



## Volunteer Insight

Volunteering as an Intake Specialist at Love INC has been a special experience for me. I have grown in my faith and am learning more about helping others in need. It has been personally rewarding to listen to the stories of people who call, and to offer them God's love and hope by praying with them. I have appreciated the support and guidance of Deb Skerven, as well as the other wonderful volunteers I have met. I always feel a sense of peace and calm after a day of volunteering!

**"personally rewarding"**

Sharon Toellner, Volunteer Connection Center Intake Specialist

MOBILIZING LOCAL CHURCHES TO TRANSFORM LIVES AND COMMUNITIES IN THE NAME OF CHRIST



H E L P I N G C H U R C H E S H E L P P E O P L E

## Love Stories

**Arnie** and his wife are faithful followers of Christ. He is a Veteran who served in the Vietnam War and has always had a heart for helping others. Arnie has difficulty breathing and moving around due to the effects of exposure to Agent Orange while serving our country. He contacted Love INC because he needed dependable help with snow removal. With the gracious network of Love INC churches, Love INC has been able to provide not only snow removal but also spring yard clean-up, rain gutter cleaning, and continued help with mowing and trimming of his yard. While volunteers were at his home helping and conversing, they heard a truck having trouble starting across the street. Upon hearing this, Arnie hobbled over and tried to help the two gentlemen with their truck. Because of his health issues he was unable to help for long, but opened his garage for the gentlemen. He told them where to find all the tools they needed to help get their truck running again. Nothing like "paying it forward"! This is a great example of the Lord not only providing the much-needed help for Arnie and his wife through Love INC churches, but also blessing others in the process.

*Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. Galatians 6:2*

**Sally** had moved to Wisconsin Rapids in hopes of finding a new job. Before moving, she saved enough money to stay in a motel for one week. Sally immediately found employment but was unable to move into a place of her own without assistance. She contacted Love INC's Connection Center for help. We were able to hear her story and connect Sally with several services available in our community. After staying in the motel for three weeks, Sally found a place to rent. She needed financial assistance with first month's rent and security deposit. Sally met with a local agency and learned she qualified for assistance with first month's rent. She also met with a partner church who helped her with a portion of her security deposit. While meeting with the Pastor, she was also able to meet with the Youth Pastor. She was excited to hear about the Wednesday evening youth program. She thought this would be a great place for her daughter to make new friends. Sally will be moving into her new home very soon. We at Love INC pray for neighbors in need every day. We will continue to pray for her, discuss budgeting with her, and help her find furniture for her new home.



Love INC church partners coming together and uniting in purpose.

# THANKS TO YOUR GENEROSITY IN 2019...

TOGETHER,  
WE WERE ABLE TO:

**Strengthen and build** relationships with 22 local churches and 39 agencies/organizations

**Equip and empower** church and servant leaders by hosting 20 Love INC Informational sessions, 14 Redemptive Compassion sessions, 6 Leadership workshops, 4 Partner Church breakfast gatherings, 4 Partner Church Ambassador meetings, and 1 Business Leader dinner

**Mobilize** 89 ministry volunteers to serve and build relationships with our neighbors in need

**Engage** local churches, agencies, and organizations to meet 363 needs

**Serve and build** relationships with 131 families in need



Wendy Schlaefer, Volunteer Coordinator of Love INC of South Wood County.

## New Position

Love INC of South Wood County is growing. On February 3rd, Wendy Schlaefer, new Volunteer Coordinator (VC), began at Love INC. The VC will play a vital role in driving the volunteer management program and providing ongoing support to our partner churches and volunteers. Volunteers are the heart of Love INC, the force propelling the mission of transforming lives by mobilizing Christians in churches across the South Wood County area. Wendy will focus on recruitment, training, placement, and retention of volunteers. She will also become the main point of contact for them, insuring they have all the necessary tools and information to do the most good in our community.

strengthen  
**22 CHURCHES** **39 AGENCIES/ORGs**

equip & empower  
**20 INFO SESSIONS** **4 PARTNER CHURCH BREAKFASTS** **1 BUSINESS LEADER DINNER**

mobilize **89 VOLUNTEERS**

engage **363 NEEDS** & serve **131 FAMILIES**



## You're invited

Please consider attending a one-hour Love INC informational session which includes a building tour. All sessions are held the following Thursdays at noon and 6:00 pm for your convenience. Please RSVP to Wendy at [volunteer@LoveINCswc.org](mailto:volunteer@LoveINCswc.org) or 715-424-LOVE (5683).

**Feb. 20th Mar. 19th Apr. 16th May 21st Jun. 18th Jul. 16th**

## Connection Center

The Connection Center is the foundation of Love INC. Through the Connection Center, Love INC receives requests for help, screens the requests for extent of need and legitimacy, and refers the requests to a local church ministry, church volunteer, or community agency.

The Connection Center is staffed by our Client Care Coordinator, Deb Skerven, who oversees well-trained volunteers who serve as Intake Specialists.

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# The Greater Good

Faith-based and neighborhood organizations play a significant role in the health and well-being of our communities. Trusted and supportive relationships—such as family, long-term friendships, and connections to clergy, religious and other community organizations—are important to building resilience and well-being. Being loved, respected, understood and connected to others can have a profound effect on one's health. Trust, honesty, and compassion are three elements of a healing relationship, all of which are provided during the Love INC process.

What does this mean? With the Love INC model of church volunteers building relationships while helping their neighbors in need, both the neighbor and the person serving are receiving critical health benefits! In fact, faith's greater benefit comes to those who help. Here are seven mental health benefits of volunteering:

**Reduces Stress** – A meaningful connection can take our mind off our worries when we put our attention on someone or something else. The richer the experience, the more we feel satisfied with giving of our time and talents, and that results in improved mood and less stress.

**Combats Depression** – Volunteering can keep the mind distracted from a destructive habit like negative thinking or being overly critical (especially of oneself). It can also increase motivation by providing a sense of accomplishment.

**Prevents Feelings of Isolation** – While volunteering, we can also make new friends, growing our social network. It's possible to create friendships that can last long after the volunteering ends.

**Increases Confidence** – Gaining a new ability coupled with being in an unfamiliar environment can provide mental stimulation that we would otherwise not experience. Also, in growing our skill set to make a difference for others, we can gain a sense of pride and identity, which can lead to having a more positive view of oneself.

**Gives a Sense of Purpose and Meaning** – Regardless of our age, volunteering can give meaning, purpose, and fulfillment in ways different than what we do or have done for work.

**Ignites Passion** – Volunteering is also a fun way to explore different interests.

**Makes You Happy** – Research shows feel-good hormones and brain activity spike during volunteer activities. Humans are designed to be in community, serving one another. Volunteering makes the world a better place by aiding a community in need and helping others provides immense pleasure.

I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong—that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith.

**Romans 1:11-12**



Love INC volunteer, Pat Bradbury, spending time with Evelyn at her assisted living home.

## What's your part?

Your time, talent, and treasures, on loan from the Lord, can be the difference between a broken spirit and hope restored.

## What will be your love story?

**Time:** We are currently seeking volunteers to serve as Board members, a Receptionist, and help with maximizing our social media communications. We're also looking for volunteers to meet regularly to pray for Love INC and our clients.

**Talent:** Whether your gift is teaching or listening, technical or physical, we have a wide range of roles and volunteer opportunities.

**Treasure:** Love INC of South Wood County is seeking financial partners who will help sustain the financial needs of this impactful work.



Jim Price clearing snow and keeping Love INC facilities maintained.

Learn more and get involved at [www.LoveINCswc.org](http://www.LoveINCswc.org)