



LOVE INC

LOVE IN THE NAME OF CHRIST
of South Wood County

June 2020

Love Story

This Love Story is told by Executive Director,
DaNita Carlson, with excerpts from Jean Sorenson, Intake Specialist.

Mallory came to Love INC's door a number of months ago. She was from another community and was looking for a church. She thought our building still held church services. I was the only one in the office and invited her in to talk. She told me about past hurts from her home church (in the other community). I talked with her about our mission and then told her a little about each partner church to help her find one that she was comfortable with. I could tell she really needed a place to call home with people who would love her for who she was.

At some point after our conversation, Mallory called the Love INC Connection Center and was able to talk with Jean, a volunteer Intake Specialist. We were able to hear more about her story through the intake process. Jean said, "When I started my conversations with Mallory last fall, her faith in God was quickly apparent. She was struggling financially and physically, but was always grateful for God and His merciful love. She had to stop working because of physical issues and considerable pain. After months of this, she finally received a diagnosis and then surgery. Unfortunately, the surgery was not totally successful, so she had to have yet another. It had been a very long, stressful, and painful time for her; however, her faith remained steadfast. She was always so grateful for our visits, cards of encouragement, and phone calls from Love INC staff and volunteers."

In May, Mallory stopped into our office again. She had tears in her eyes and reached out her hand and gave me \$100 cash. Her voice cracked as she told me she wanted to donate to Love INC because "we were the only ones there for her when she needed someone". She continued to tell me how the calls and notes of encouragement always came at "just the right time". She added that she wanted to donate money to Love INC "so we could help others like we helped her". I asked if I could give her a hug and she said yes. We hugged in the entryway; both of us overcome with emotion.

What a blessing! Many days are challenging at Love INC. Some days it's hard to press on. Frustration and discouragement can creep in. But times like these make it all worthwhile. Mallory is worthwhile. She's worth every minute of our time....and, so are all the neighbors! She's a child of God and deserves everything God has for her. We believed in her even when she didn't believe in herself. She needed our support and encouragement, and we were there to cheer her on.

We were asked by a local foundation president a few months ago how we know we are making a difference. Mallory is how we know. Mallory is not just a love story from "someone", but a neighbor whose life was impacted by the love, care, and compassion showed to her by our amazing staff and volunteers. Jean added this, "Making a donation with what little she has is amazing! Love her!"

*Mallory's story makes me think of the story in scripture about the woman who gave two coins (Mark 12:41-44) which reads...
⁴¹ Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. ⁴² But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents. ⁴³ Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. ⁴⁴ They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on."*

We are seeking an individual to fill the position of Volunteer Coordinator. Key responsibilities are: 1) Develop a volunteer program that lays a foundation of strength and deep understanding of Love INC's mission. 2) Manage volunteers and provide direction, coordination, and consultation for all volunteer functions. Interested candidates should contact DaNita at 715-424-LOVE (5683) for further information.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY TO ASSIST WITH PROJECT LIFESAVER

Project Lifesaver is a nonprofit organization that works with police departments and caregivers to place personal locator devices on the wrists or ankles of people with cognitive disorders that cause them to be prone to wander. We have been asked by Wood County Human Services and the Police Department if we would have any volunteers who would be interested in changing the batteries in the devices for some of their clients. These batteries would need to be changed once a month, and the police officer in charge of the program will provide training. If you are interested in helping, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator at 715-424-LOVE (5683) or email volunteer@loveincswc.org.



OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

Good Listeners – We would really like to start up a help line in our area for people who are feeling isolated.

Prayer Warriors – We need people who are willing to keep Love INC in prayer. We send out a list of prayer requests weekly, and we would love to expand our prayer team.

HOW YOU'VE HELPED!

You, our volunteers, have accomplished so much for our community recently! Here's a list of things you've done:

Answering phones and working with clients	Sending notes of encouragement to all our past and present clients	Labeling and sorting postcards for a bulk mailing	Maintenance and cleaning up brush at Love INC	Keeping our Facebook page active with uplifting posts and requests	Donating home-made facemasks, gloves, hand sanitizer, stamps, and cards
Cleaning and lawn care	Providing prayer support	Folding and stapling brochures	Working as our receptionist	Making meals for clients	Picking up and delivering groceries
Website maintenance	Helping a client pack and move	Creating fundraiser mailers, newsletters, and brochures	Helping a client move to a new apartment	Providing food for volunteers	Serving on the Board of Directors
Serving on Love INC committees	Giving a client a ride	IT help	Data entry	WE CANNOT	THANK YOU ENOUGH!

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING AT LOVE INC?

Please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, at 715-424-LOVE (5683) or email volunteer@loveincswc.org.



We Asked, and You Answered!

A recent request for donations to the Hannah Center was made on our Facebook page, and we were blessed to have many of you quickly respond to that need. Tricia Fancher, Program Coordinator, responded by posting on their Facebook page, "Thank you to Love INC of South Wood County! They collected donations from our wish list for our home. Thank you to all who donated to this drive, we are so grateful!"

Connection Center Data for May

Top requests:

- **Services** - including five for help moving
- **Financial assistance** - including four involving housing
- **Material needs** - including two for clothing

Number of requests for assistance: 19

Number of families benefitting from ministry: 16



1 John 3:1 - See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

Heavenly Father, Today we pray for those of us who don't fully see our worth in Christ. Let all know that they are a treasure, and of value to you. God created each of us on purpose and for a purpose. He loves all of us with an everlasting love!