

A photograph of two women. On the left, a woman with curly brown hair and glasses, wearing a grey zip-up hoodie, is smiling broadly. On the right, a woman with long blonde hair and glasses, wearing a pink patterned top, is speaking. In the background, there is a brown couch and a metal shopping cart filled with items, including a large white bag tied with a red ribbon.

Loved

August 2020

Love INC client, Bonnie, was recently blessed by the helping hands of Love INC volunteers. (Tricia Janssen pictured left)



Love INC
Love In the Name of Christ

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Connection Center Hours
Tuesday–Thursday 10am–2pm



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 Story

Amy had switched jobs just prior to COVID-19. She is an in-home health nurse and went from working for an agency to working on her own. Because of COVID-19, clients did not want anyone in their homes, which meant she was out of work. She was not eligible for unemployment.

Amy stopped at Christian Life Fellowship, a partner church, to get food from their food pantry. She had a small amount of money left, not nearly enough to pay her rent, but that evening she gave what little she had to her landlord. He kindly agreed to wait for the rest of her monthly rent payment. Amy then called Love INC for assistance with her rent and utilities after a referral from United Way's 2-1-1. She told our Intake Volunteers, "I had people pray for me (at CLF) specifically that I would not lose my home." What an answer to prayer!

Amy asked Love INC for assistance with the rest of her rent and financial help. While talking with Amy, a Love INC Intake Specialist prayed for her. We also prayed for her during our devotion time, and added her prayer requests to our prayer list so our prayer partners could also pray for her needs.

While working with Amy, we were able to locate funds available for rent from a local agency. We were able to connect with Amy's landlord during our verification process. Although she had an agency willing to help, the landlord would not take financial assistance from an agency.

We continued to pray for Amy's situation and stay in contact with her. After a recent phone call with her, she told us she received her work payment for just the amount she needed to cover her rent for the next month, which came just when she needed it! And, she was happy to tell us she is now working more. She also shared she still owed a small amount from the previous month's rent, so we were able to connect her with a partner church who helped her get back on track financially.

While we talked with Amy, she let us know she appreciated the prayers. What a blessing to have walked this road with her and see these prayers answered! We will continue to stay connected with Amy by sending her notes of encouragement and by calling to check in on her.

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

James 5:16

Join our mailing list online to receive our monthly newsletter.

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 and Talent: We are currently seeking volunteers in a wide variety of roles highlighted on page 4.

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

Learn more and get involved at www.LoveINCswc.org



Cindy, Diane, DaNita, Sue, and Deb (left to right) enjoying time together at a dinner fundraiser.



The United Way ALICE Project (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) is a grass roots movement committed to improving lives and strengthening our communities. ALICE is a way of defining and understanding families and individuals who work hard, earn above the federal poverty level, but not enough to achieve basic financial stability; leaving them vulnerable to one unexpected life emergency to spiral into poverty. In Wisconsin, 23% of households fall into the ALICE demographic. In Wood County, 32% of the population is living below the ALICE Threshold; in Adams County it's 43%.

As Christians, we know we should do something about poverty in our communities. But here's the reality: low-income people in the United States face an overwhelming maze of financial obstacles.

Predatory lending, poor credit, low financial literacy, broken relationships, and many other factors often keep people trapped in poverty. Without the right tools and a supportive community, it's almost impossible to escape the cycle.

There are a lot of financial education tools out there—but most aren't designed for people living at the poverty line. Let's face it: when someone is struggling to make ends meet, advice on retirement accounts and mortgages just isn't relevant. There's got to be a better way to help people in poverty learn how to steward their money well!

Through resources like the bestselling book *When Helping Hurts*, The Chalmers Center has helped thousands of church and nonprofit leaders think differently about poverty, and do something about it. Along the way, they discovered a better way to help people who are poor overcome financial challenges: Faith & Finances!

Faith & Finances is a 12 week financial education course which addresses financial challenges of life near the poverty line, takes an interactive approach to learning, appeals to many learning styles and educational levels, has a deep Biblical integration, and the end goal is Christ-centered flourishing.

Meet Our New Faith & Finances Facilitators

Tricia and Jeremy Janssen are passionate about helping people succeed. They are parents, grandparents, foster parents, and active volunteers in their church. You won't find them sitting still as they keep themselves busy following where God leads them. When they heard about the Faith & Finances Facilitator training, God tugged at their hearts and they knew this was something they needed to do together. We are so blessed to have them both as volunteers. We are also blessed to have Tricia serve at Love INC of SWC as our Client Care Coordinator.



Tricia and Jeremy Janssen



Faith & Finances Facilitator Training

Love INC Volunteers Attending Online

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, Tricia Janssen, who oversees well-trained volunteers who serve as Intake Specialists.

Connection Center Hours: Tuesday–Thursday 10am–2pm

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Lottie, Love INC Volunteer

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. RSVP to Wendy at volunteer@LoveINCswc.org or 715.424.LOVE (5683).

Sept. 17th **Oct. 15th**
Nov. 19th **Dec. 17th**

Love INC Volunteers Nykia and JT having fun while serving others!



Do everything in love. 1 Cor. 16:14

Volunteer Insight

Wendy, our Volunteer Coordinator, called Judy, a Love INC Volunteer, and asked if she was willing to write notes of encouragement for people living in area nursing homes. Judy said she would gladly write as many as was needed. Wendy gave her a list of scripture verses and some ideas for encouraging things to say, but invited her to write from her heart if she so desired.

A couple of weeks later, Judy brought the finished notes into the Love INC office. Her eyes lit up with joy as she shared her experience writing the notes. She had decided each card would be unique so each person would feel special, and found many verses on the list she wanted to use. She wanted to tailor her messages to those verses, but first researched each scripture and what the surrounding verses said as well. So, each note ended up being a new little Bible study for her as she opened up her Bible to gain a complete understanding of the scripture she was using.

Wendy commended her for the time and love she put into this project, and for being such an encourager. The reply she gave me was, "Oh, no. That wasn't me. That was the Lord working through me!"

The Love INC model was developed with a mission to see lives transformed in both clients and volunteers. What a perfect example of seeds of transformation being planted in both client and volunteer! Volunteers like Judy are a wonderful example of putting faith into action and passing on the love of Christ to others.

2,294 January thru July
VOLUNTEER HOURS
BY 108 DIFFERENT VOLUNTEERS



Judy, Love INC Volunteer

When individuals come together to serve others, lives are brightened and communities are transformed. For Love INC, volunteers are the heart of the organization. Our volunteers are our most valuable resource, and it is because of them that we are able to continue working toward our mission of transforming lives and communities In the Name of Christ.

Greatest Needs

Prayer support

Join us in faithful prayers for our community.

Connections to your network

Warm introductions to people we should know.

Volunteers:

- Board Members: monthly meetings plus other duties/activity required throughout the month.
- Connection Center Intake Specialists: 9:30am – 2pm Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday openings, flexible assignments to meet your schedule.
- Emotional Support Phone Line Specialists: flexible assignments to meet your schedule.
- Cleaners for Love INC building: rotate into a monthly schedule.
- Organizers: help clients as needed to organize and/or pack items.
- Household Items Team Leaders: flexible schedule, 10-20 hours per month.

To learn more about these opportunities, contact Wendy at volunteer@LoveINCswc.org or 715.424.LOVE (5683)