



Mobilizing Local Churches to Transform Lives and Communities in the Name of Christ

APRIL 2021



A LOVE INC ...LOVE STORY

Sometimes a “Love Story” is about a resolution to a situation and a changed life, and other times, they are stories about God’s love and a reminder of His grace in our lives. Kathy has been a client of Love INC for almost

2 years. She is an older woman who has dealt with limitations and struggles for most of her life, some of which have driven her to a life of addiction.

Most recently, Kathy called Love INC asking for help with a move. She was being asked to leave her apartment because of behaviors and disruptions to the neighbors due to her addiction. Our Intake Specialist listened lovingly as Kathy talked about having no hope and how she wished to overcome her addiction. We also talked with the local agency she is working with and were told they were out of options to help her with housing and the impending move.

Kathy was unable to find housing before her move date, so the Love INC Moving Ministry, led by Grace Lutheran, graciously helped her. They moved her items into a storage unit, Kathy into a motel, and then later moved her to a friend’s home. After Grace Lutheran’s contact with Kathy, they suggested that she would be a wonderful candidate for a Stephen Minister. Stephen Ministers provide high-quality, one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people who are experiencing life difficulties, like Kathy. We then connected her to a Grace Lutheran Stephen Minister who can offer the hope she so desperately needs. In addition, caring volunteers offered to help Kathy with transportation as she looks for a new home.

We will continue to walk this road with Kathy as long as God asks us to. It is a privilege to minister together as the Church to the broken-hearted in the name of Christ.





CONNECTION CENTER DATA

In February there was a rise in return calls from previous clients for needs not related to financial assistance. There was a general decrease in calls for financial assistance most likely due to stimulus money being paid out in the month of January and February. We received 28 requests for assistance in the Connection Center in the month of February. Those needs are broken down below:

Financial - 5 Material Needs - 7 Services - 16

OUR VOLUNTEERS

As the Church, we are called to live in relationship, showing the love of Christ to those in need. We work together with local churches, volunteers, and community organizations to offer assistance, guidance, love, and hope to our neighbors, facilitating life-long transformation. Currently, we have a total of 133 registered volunteers. In February, 48 of them served 465 hours. We are so grateful to all of our volunteers!



Thank you so much!



To learn more about volunteering with Love INC of South Wood County



Click Here



SPOTLIGHT

Our role at Love INC of South Wood County is to help churches distribute their skills, gifts, resources, and love to our community - In the Name of Christ. Volunteers from our Partner Churches bring caring Christians alongside

individuals whose most basic need is for someone to love them and to ultimately share Christ with them.

When we asked Crossview Director of Outreach and Care Ministry, Jen Oswald, what a partnership with Love INC means to them, she replied, "Love INC is crucial in helping connect our congregation to the needs of the city. We appreciate so much the work that Love INC does in ministering to the hurting in our community and we appreciate the partnership we have with them in reaching out to Love Others and Serve the World. They have helped connect our congregation to tangible needs and opportunities to serve in our community."

Jen also said Crossview became a Partner Church because they "highly value serving our community and that Love INC has a mission as well as processes in place that can help them serve people wisely and with intention." Crossview also liked that we train our volunteers well which Jen says helps to equip volunteers for ministry to those in our community.

We appreciate the heart Crossview has for those in need and how they connect with neighbors in various ways. Needs met by Crossview have been as simple as a month of phone service so an individual can connect with prospective employers, or larger items such as a paid utility bill for a family that lost a job, or working on a large home project. Volunteers from Crossview are always willing to offer their time and talents.

We have had clients who have been taken in by the Crossview church family and loved through a difficult season in their life. It is apparent in how they live out the calling God gives each of us as the Church that it is part of their DNA as a fellowship. It is a privilege to minister alongside Crossview, connecting them to needs in the community, and showing redemptive compassion to those who need the love and grace only Christ can give.

Prayer: Lord, as we rise to meet each new day, please let us be filled with Your Spirit. Wherever we go, let us spread love, joy, peace, goodness, and faithfulness. Thank you for always going before us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Acts 1:8

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

