

LOVE INC
2020 
IMPACT REPORT



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

LOVE IN THE NAME OF CHRIST OF SOUTH WOOD COUNTY

LEADERSHIP

DaNita Carlson Executive Director	Chaplain Paul Liebherr Board Treasurer	Pastor Dave Mickelson Board Member
Deb Skerven & Tricia Janssen Client Care Coordinator	Jonna Kronholm Board Secretary	Penny Antell Board Member
Wendy Schlaefer Volunteer Coordinator	Matt Casper Board Member	Phyllis Neahous Board Member
Rick Merdan Board President	Donna Dewitt Board Member	Jean Sorenson Board Member
Pastor Paula Graves Board Vice President	Dave Ecke Board Member	

PARTNER CHURCHES

- Bethlehem Lutheran
- Christian Life Fellowship
- Crossview
- Faith Reformed
- First Baptist
- Grace Lutheran
- Immanuel Lutheran
- Lakes Area Christian Fellowship
- Light of Christ
- Port Edwards United Methodist
- River Cities Christian Church
- Saint Lawrence Catholic
- St. Luke's Lutheran
- Victory Christian Church
- Wisconsin Rapids United Methodist
- Woodland Lutheran

MISSION

*Mobilizing local churches
to transform lives and communities
In the **Name of Christ***

VALUES

- PRAYER is an integral part of who we are
- We follow Christ's example of VALUING ALL PEOPLE
- We value TRANSFORMATION in the lives of people and communities
- We value building CHRIST-LIKE RELATIONSHIPS
- We are CHRISTIAN—What we think, say, and do is done In the **Name of Christ**
- We respect UNITY in the Body of Christ
- We JOIN and SUPPORT CHURCHES in living out the Great Commandment to love God and to love our neighbor
- We honor the CONNECTEDNESS of the Love INC Movement
- We model EXCELLENCE in our operation, including our stewardship of all resources

*"But my God shall supply all your need
according to his riches in glory by Christ
Jesus. Now unto God and our Father be the glory
forever and ever. Amen."
Philippians 4:19-20*



Dear Love INC Friends,

This year has been quite a year! Adding staff, staffing changes, and Covid-19 topped the list of challenges. Throughout the year, even with multiple hurdles and "pivoting" with operations, God's provision was evident in so many ways. Love INC of South Wood County continued to grow by increasing our staff, volunteer, and donor base. We also received two separate grants which were truly sent from heaven. In addition, the Legacy Foundation approved a grant application for us to receive funds in 2021. This grant will pay for capital improvements to our building plus two new staff for the next three years. Even in the midst of a pandemic, our ministry partners never wavered in their support, sharing their time, talent, and treasure.

Love INC of South Wood County continues to partner with 16 local churches. The pandemic caused churches to re-evaluate the way they worship, gather, and disciple their congregations. With the change in how church looks, we saw more people seeking to serve in their neighborhoods. People were pursuing God in new and different ways, allowing the Church to flourish as it hadn't in the past. This change has allowed an abundance of opportunities for the Church to shine in our community.

During this season of increased challenges and complexity, many people are struggling. Yet, when churches unite in purpose, relationships are built, and transformation begins. Through the love and faithful service of His followers, more people experience God's love and blessings.

We are so grateful you have joined us in our mission through prayer and financial support. *Unto God be the glory forever and ever. Amen!*

DaNita Carlson

MOBILIZING

CHURCHES

2020

AMBASSADORS



COMPASSION WITH REDEMPTIVE POWER

Love INC Ambassadors serve as the communication liaison between their churches and Love INC. They assist in mobilizing their church members to serve our neighbors in need. This year, board member Jonna Kronholm facilitated two training sessions with the Ambassadors using Redemptive Compassion materials by Lois Tuypi, the Executive Director of Love INC of Treasure Valley, Idaho.

We live in a world of urgent physical, emotional, and spiritual needs—and we want to help! But good intentions are not enough. Sometimes we can actually harm those we seek to help.

Through Love INC, we have been learning the difference between “charity compassion” and a “biblical compassion for people”—a developmental compassion that helps and does not hurt.

We hope to see each of our volunteers understand Redemptive Compassion and put these principles into action. As we do, both volunteers and those we serve will experience life-change through Christ.

CHARITY COMPASSION FOCUSES ON NEED through giving money and goods or by working on a task to be accomplished.

IN CONTRAST, WHEN THE CHURCH WORKS TOGETHER WE ARE ABLE TO DO SO MUCH MORE THAN MEET LEGITIMATE, IMMEDIATE NEEDS.

BIBLICAL COMPASSION FOCUSES ON PEOPLE through hearing stories and offering acceptance, encouragement, and help that inspires growth.

THE ROLE OF LOVE IN THE NAME OF CHRIST

The role of Love INC is not to replace ministries, but to help churches distribute their gifts, talents, resources, and love to communities in need—In the Name of Christ. Churches who partner with Love INC of SWC sign a Statement of Understanding (SOU) stating their commitment to work together across denominational lines, serving people in need within the South Wood County area.

“One of God’s purposes for us in our lives is to take opportunities as they come along to help people in need. We’re grateful to Love INC that it has allowed us to live out our faith more fully in Wisconsin Rapids. A big plus is meeting and making connections with people that we would normally never have come to know. Without the volunteer opportunities that Love INC has provided, we would be missing out on a deeper connection with God and with the people we’ve met.”



Steve and Jeanne Grant, volunteers

157 volunteers worked 4,418 hours in 2020.

- Number of Calls From People Requesting Help: **282**
- Total Requests: **326** (callers may identify more than one need)
- Needs Met By: Churches — **207** Community Agencies — **129**
- **222** FAMILIES BENEFITED FROM THE LOVE INC MINISTRY

CONNECTION CENTER

The foundation of our ministry is the Connection Center. Trained volunteer Intake Specialists receive requests for help on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Requests are screened for extent of need and legitimacy, and referred to appropriate local church ministries, church volunteers, or community agencies. Volunteers continue to follow-up to ensure the needs are met and to offer support.

2020 TOP 10 NEEDS

Rank	Stated Need
1	Rental/Security Deposit
2	Furniture
3	Moving
4	Homelessness
5	Utilities
6	Food
7	Home Repairs - Services
8	Cleaning
9	Clothing
10	Emotional Support

THE NAME OF CHRIST

Sixteen area churches signed an SOU confirming a partnership with Love INC of SWC which represents 30% of the churches in our area. Nine denominations are represented. Our partner churches used zoom for meetings and trainings designed to connect and unite the Church by sharing information, building relationships, and brainstorming for the future.

TRANSFORMING

The Love INC model was developed with a mission to see lives transformed in both clients and volunteers. Volunteers like Judy and Jane exemplify our mission as they put their faith into action, planting seeds of transformation.

Judy Monje's eyes lit up with joy as she shared her experience writing notes of encouragement for people living in nursing homes. She had decided each card would be unique so that each person would feel special. She used Bible verses, tailoring her message to those verses.



Jane Zakrzewski & Judy Monje

Judy said that each note became a mini Bible study for her as she opened her Bible to gain more understanding of each verse she used. And her passion for this project was contagious! Judy invited her friend Jane to join her in 2021 to write words of encouragement—so now her efforts have been multiplied as both women write notes and send birthday cards to share the love of Christ with others.

MANY SMALL STEPS OF GROWTH = LIFE-CHANGE



FAITH & FINANCES

A Love INC class offered to help neighbors explore how to overcome obstacles, get free from debt, and save for the future.

Tricia and Jeremy Janssen completed virtual Facilitator Training through the Chalmers Center and started building a team to begin offering Faith and Finances in 2021. Faith & Finances is a 12-week class offered to help neighbors explore how to overcome obstacles, get free from debt, and save for the future. The class is part of Love In the Name of Christ's Transformational Ministry. Transformational Ministry helps people acquire one or more skills and move toward self-sufficiency. Our goal is to see the lives of people in chronic need transformed through caring relationships and training opportunities.

LIVES

During the Covid lockdowns, Zoom became the norm for hosting meetings and trainings, equipping staff and volunteers to fulfill our mission — *mobilizing local churches to transform lives and communities.*



In 2020, two Love INC "Gap Ministries" were launched to fill unmet needs in community services and products. The ministries are led by one church but have volunteers from other partner churches.

Moving Ministry

[Led by Grace Lutheran Church] This ministry provides assistance to our neighbors by transporting their belongings from one residence to another on moving day. Volunteers who assist with moves enjoy time listening to the stories of our neighbors, providing encouragement, and praying together.

Household Items Ministry

[Led by Christian Life Fellowship] This ministry provides basic furniture needs for our neighbors such as beds, new mattresses, dressers, small kitchen tables and chairs, couches, and living room chairs. Volunteers pick up and deliver the furniture from/to homes, offering loving conversation, encouragement, and a prayer.

Love Story

Debra recently retired from a local retailer, having worked there for many years. She was sharing a home with another retiree and they were struggling to make ends meet. Debra had never found herself in need before and was unaware of the resources available to her. She called the Love INC Connection Center and shared her story with Mary Manley, one of our Intake Specialists.

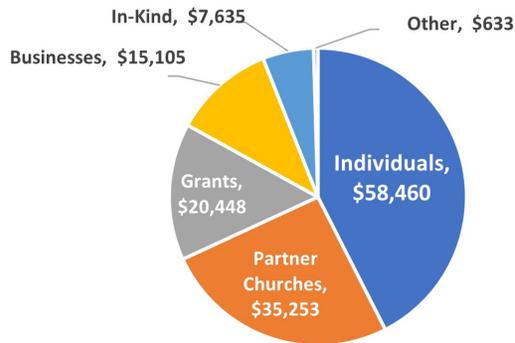
Through hearing her story, we were able to determine Debra's needs. First, she needed assistance with paying overdue utility bills. We were able to connect her to a partner church who was able to help. Then we helped her set up a budget plan for her utilities to make the monthly payments manageable. We also made a referral to budget counseling. With a few other community resources, she will be able to stretch her monthly income and meet all her future needs.

Debra is self-sufficient and just needed a little guidance and someone to lean on in her time of need. Love INC was there to help. When Mary followed up with her to see how she was doing, she said she was extremely appreciative of all the support she received through Love INC! We will continue to stay connected with Debra to encourage and support her.

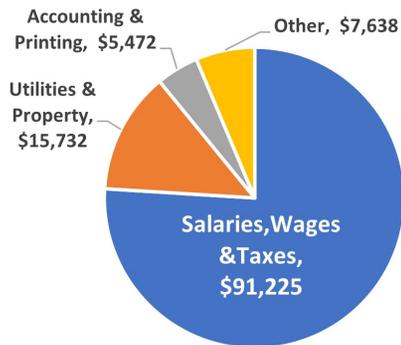
*Debra is not her real name.

FINANCIAL REPORT

2020 INCOME



2020 EXPENSES



To learn about ways to donate, go to:
www.LoveINCswc.org/donate

MONTHLY MOBILIZERS

A mobilizer, by definition, sparks a community to action, leading to increased empowerment and self-reliance.

Does this describe you – or would you like it to? We invite you to join us!

“Kristen and I have made a commitment to support Love In the Name of Christ on a monthly basis because we want to be part of local mission. Love INC provides ongoing support and resources for people in our community and we are pleased to be Monthly Mobilizers.”



Kristen and Jon Sprehn

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