

Love In the Name of Christ of South Wood County



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



Vicki contacted Love INC in late fall of 2020. She and her new husband found themselves victims of COVID-19. They were both displaced workers due to the pandemic. Vicki had hours cut at a local retailer and her husband was put on layoff because of the ripple effects

of the VERSO mill closure. It did not take long for the financial pinch to cause some pain.

Vicki spoke to Mary, a caring Intake Specialist, and let her know they were struggling to make their rent and utility payments. They needed direction. We were able to connect them to resources through a local agency that helped with rent only. Yet, they were still left with increasing utility bills. Then we connected them to an agency that was able to cover a portion of their utilities, but it still left them with a rather large deficit. During this time, they were doing what they could to make payments and look for employment.

Often Vicki would call for encouragement, prayer, and someone to talk her through the next steps. During one call she shared that her husband had been rejected at a few temp jobs and was becoming

severely depressed. Together, we prayed for him and his job search.

The holiday season was quickly approaching. Love INC had multiple Partner Churches that wanted to bless families during the Christmas season. A generous donor from one of our Partner Churches stepped in and paid for their large utility bill...IN FULL. Later that week Vicki said, "I was given a Christmas miracle! Thank you, thank you, thank you!" Vicki was expecting to have to pay a fair portion of her bill. Even after being told someone was going to help, she went to make a payment and was told it was "Paid in Full". What a wonderful analogy of the price Jesus paid for us. Our debt has been "Paid in Full"!

We followed up with Vicki after the holidays. They were still struggling but were hopeful. They were able to get additional work hours and consistent work.

After a couple of months passed, Vicki called with a request to stop in at Love INC. To our surprise, Vicki came later with several cases of soda and a huge pan of brownies as a "Thank You" for our support during their time of struggle. She mentioned what an amazing blessing Love INC and the Partner Churches had been to them, and she wanted to bless us in return!

MAY CONNECTION CENTER DATA

We received 45 requests for assistance in the Connection Center in May.

- Financial Assistance - 14
- Material Needs - 8
- Services- 22
- Unknown- 1

JOIN OUR AMAZING TEAM!

Church Mobilization Coordinator

[View Job Description Here](#)

This is a new ministry and duties may change as the ministry grows. Interested applicants should send a cover letter, resume, and 3 references to DaNita Carlson at: DaNita@loveINCswc.org

LOVE IN THE NAME OF CHRIST of South Wood County

PARTNER CHURCHES

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

IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE!

LOVE IN THE NAME OF CHRIST OF SOUTH WOOD COUNTY



Love Rocks Our Community!

Celebrating 3 Years!

Since the donation of our building in 2018, the legacy of New Hope Christian Reformed continued through Love INC with our partner churches meeting 817 needs, benefitting 437 families.

Open House / Volunteer Recognition / Picnic Meal

Thursday, July 29, 2021

4:00-7:00 pm

Love INC of South Wood County

710 20th Avenue South, Wisconsin Rapids

A volunteer is a person who freely offers themselves for a service or undertaking willingly and without pay. As you have been helping our neighbors in need, you're modeling what Christ asks of us. We are directed to volunteer in 1 Peter 4:10, "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

Throughout this past year of uncertainty during the pandemic, you all have shown the true spirit of Christian volunteers. As the needs have grown, so has your willingness to help our neighbors. Let's look at just one month.

In May 2020, the Connection Center received 104 calls, and 21 people requested help. In May 2021, 35 people requested help. That's an increase of 65%. Our community needs us now more than ever and you're showing up to help!

In May 2020, Love INC volunteers donated 343.25 hours; 113 of those hours were working directly with clients. In May 2021 volunteers donated 547 hours, 223.5 of those hours were working directly with clients. This is almost a 100% increase in the time you have been directly helping clients. Thank you for following Jesus' example of serving others and making our community a better place.

At the end of the month, we want to celebrate you, the volunteers. Please join us for a picnic, some additional information, and a celebration! - Jan Fisher, Volunteer Coordinator

PARTNER CHURCH SPOTLIGHT

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Written by Pastor Michelle Nickodemus



Our partnership with Love INC gives us a trusted place to refer people to as needed, knowing they will receive support, prayer, and loving care in addition to any material needs that Love INC may be able to help meet. Love INC provides some of the knowledge of community needs and structure and staffing (whether paid or volunteer) for us to help meet them in ways we would not be able to at Grace alone.

Partnering with Love INC provides a way for us to become more aware of and involved in assisting with the needs of the greater Rapids area community. Love INC's focus on Redemptive Compassion and walking with clients for a period of time as they grow in confidence, skills, and greater independence fits well with how we understand what it means to love our neighbor.

The church is bigger than just us at Grace; Love INC helps us connect with other congregations who share our commitment to serving others. Through Love INC we are able to have a bigger impact on the community and people's needs than we would be able to do alone. The people of Grace tend to respond generously to specific community needs; Love INC gives us better knowledge of those needs and a way to direct our sharing of dollars, skills, and time.

Grace began and continues to oversee one of Love INC's Gap Ministries with our Moving Ministry. Along with other interested volunteers, we provide assistance with loading, transporting, and unloading clients' possessions in their local move. Moving is expensive and can be an anxious time. Caring volunteers can help ease some anxiety and help with the transition into a new living space. We also have a number of other volunteers from Grace at Love INC, in the call center, and serving in areas like building maintenance and improvements.

"Grace Lutheran has been a Love INC Partner Church since the very inception of our affiliate. As they learned more about how they could serve the community, their congregation took action. They formed a Moving Team in 2020 and have been a blessing to many who needed their strong backs and willing hearts. They also serve in other areas using their God-given gifts and talents to "love on" and care for those in need. It's fun to see so many people from their church come through our doors wanting to share their time and talent out in the community and within the Love INC building walls".

~DaNita Carlson, Executive Director~



Love INC of South Wood County - 710 20th Avenue South, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494



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