



**South
Wood
County**

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Love INC?

Love INC (Love In the **N**ame of **C**hrist) is a national nonprofit organization with affiliates in 30 states. The national organization assists communities in establishing local Love INC affiliates and provides ongoing training and support.

Love INC has over 43 years of experience mobilizing churches to meet the needs of its community, resulting in proven best practices. Christian churches, unified and coordinated, are poised to be the perfect catalyst in changing how we address and answer the needs of our neighbors. The defining difference is not so much what we do, but how and why we do it. Love INC gives Christians specific, manageable opportunities to put their faith and love to work in the service of our neighbors. Love INC meets needs through loving relationships and fulfills Christ's commandment to love our neighbors as ourselves (Mark 12:31).

How does Love INC work?

There are four levels within the Love INC model.

Level One: The Connection Center is a call center staffed by a paid Client Care Coordinator and well-trained volunteers. The Connection Center opened in August of 2018 and is the foundation of Love INC. Through the Connection Center, needs are analyzed, verified, and referred to a local church ministry, church volunteer, or community agency. Love INC follows up to ensure the need was met and to offer encouragement and support.

Level Two: Gap Ministry provides a resource or service to meet ongoing needs not currently met by other agencies, organizations, or other entities. Love INC helps churches that have a desire and the means to build ministries to "fill in the gap." An example of partner churches "filling the gap" is our Moving Ministry. Because of data collected in the Connection Center, an unmet need emerged. In January of 2020, Grace Lutheran took the lead and is now helping people in the community pack and move their items.

Level Three: Transformational/Comprehensive Transformational Ministry consists of people being paired with church volunteers on a long-term basis to provide mentoring, goal setting, life skills training, spiritual and emotional support, along with the full array of services provided by Love INC partner churches. In this mode, Love INC helps individuals and families in chronic need make lasting changes in their lives. An example is offering a Faith & Finance Course. This course will be offered to help neighbors explore how to overcome obstacles, get free of debt, and save for the future.

Level Four: Community Transformation Ministry is about community transformation, our ultimate objective. This level will fundamentally change how we address needs and permeates the entire community. Community leaders are engaged to seek solutions. This ministry mode seeks to serve the broader community or groups within the community while addressing underlying systems (or lack of systems) keeping individuals and families stuck in need.

Why do communities need Love INC?

Throughout the nation, government-funded community social service organizations are overwhelmed by current and growing levels of need. Neighbors in need who have exhausted these resources often turn to churches for help. Love INC helps prevent churches from building dependency in those they assist by discovering and solving problems at the root level. For many, negotiating the social service system requires time that could be used for paid work; going from church to church is often demeaning. Love INC is needed to coordinate interaction between social service organizations, churches, and the person in need.

Who benefits from Love INC?

- **People in need** receive coordinated help through a network of church and community services and resources.
- **Churches** model unity of the Body of Christ as they work together, across denominational lines, to fulfill their Biblical mandate to serve their neighbors.
- **Church members** receive opportunities to use their unique gifts and talents in specific, manageable ways.
- **Community agencies** have the opportunity to refer people to Love INC and receive referrals from Love INC after the need has been verified and found to be appropriate for their agency.

How does Love INC fit into the service continuum?

The Love INC mission is NOT aimed at meeting “emergency or urgent” needs, nor does the mission fit the typical social services description – we are a Christian ministry. Instead, we focus on breaking the cycle of poverty and hopelessness through the connection with Christians and ultimately a relationship with Christ. The church members walk with their neighbors to provide them with an opportunity to change their lives. We do not try to alleviate all pain, because difficulties are usually our greatest teachers. Instead of trying to save people from a difficult situation, we are willing to walk beside them while they go through it. Ultimately, this process restores dignity and the growth of positive behaviors. It is more difficult and time consuming, but it is necessary to break the cycle of dependence.

What steps will be taken to avoid duplication of services?

Love INC does not seek to replace or duplicate what human service agencies and ministries are doing well, but only to complement the work of those agencies and fill in the gaps when possible.

How will confidential information be protected by Love INC?

Access to a Love INC database with individual information is limited and protected. Connection Center volunteers are trained to secure authorization for verification of information and to share as needed for referral purposes only.

Does a neighbor in need have to participate in a church to receive assistance?

Our neighbors do not have to be Christian or participate in a church to be assisted by Love INC or any of the ministries/resources available. All are welcomed into the Love INC Connection Center intake process, regardless of church affiliation, or absence of the same.

Will Love INC volunteers evangelize?

Ministry volunteers who accept assignments from Love INC not only meet current needs but try to develop relationships with the people they are helping. They may ask about other needs, pray together, share scripture, offer invitations to church, teach life skills, and/or develop a mentoring relationship.

Do neighbors in need have to live within South Wood County to receive assistance?

Love INC of South Wood County has an office located at 710 20th Avenue South in Wisconsin Rapids and serves neighbors who live in or attend a church within the following zip codes:

54410 (Arpin)

54466 (Pittsville)

54489 (Vesper)

54413 (Babcock)

54469 (Port Edwards)

54494 (Wis. Rapids)

54457 (Nekoosa)

54475 (Rudolph)

54495 (Wis. Rapids)

If I choose to donate, how could I do that?

The operating budget is funded by Christian churches, businesses, foundations, individual donors, grants, and special events. If you choose to donate, you can set up a one-time or recurring donation online at www.loveincswc.org. *Love INC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization so your donations are tax-deductible as the law allows.*

For more information:

Website: www.loveINCswc.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/loveINCswc

Phone: 715.424.LOVE (5683)