

A Time of Giving

"You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. For God loves a person who gives cheerfully. And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others." 1 Corinthians 9:7-8



Pastor Eric Hambrock, Executive Director

It is a privilege to connect with you through our newsletter. Thanksgiving season is a wonderful time of the year. The work of summer is over. The beauty of fall colors. The satisfaction of harvest and pumpkin spice everything!

It is good that we should take the time and count our blessings, assess what God has given to us. Then, take the time to give thanks and praise our Creator for His goodness to us and His physical blessings upon us. Part of thanks and praise is giving back a portion or a "tithe" (the value of 10%) from what God has blessed us with. I would like to mention three ways that all of us can give back to God. I call them the 3 T's: Tithe, Time, and Talent.

We are all familiar with the "Tithe", that is money. We need this for staff salaries, supplies and other necessities in order to do ministry. Nevertheless, God's work also needs your time and talent. As you read God's Word, you will notice time and time again God uses people. Wouldn't you want to be one of the people God uses to bring about His Kingdom in other people's lives?

It doesn't happen by accident. Use this season, and plan to give your "Tithe, Time, and Talent" to the Lord.



"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10

As Christ-followers, we are called to serve. By grace we each have received special gifts, and it's by grace we use these gifts to serve others. Todd and Karen Bencke have faithfully been serving at Love INC of South Wood County for several years.

In 2022, our Executive Director at the time, Larry Daughenbaugh, recruited Todd and Karen to help research the feasibility of starting a thrift store. The store would help support the mission and values of Love INC by providing financial support.

Since that initial meeting, Todd and Karen have spent numerous hours, months, and now years, working to make sure this venture would succeed. They researched and visited other thrift stores, had regular meetings with other key volunteers, and put in much sweat (and we are sure some tears) with the clean-up and preparation for the store opening. In addition, Karen & Todd have been handling collection of furniture and delivery of furniture and other household needs as a part of our HHI (Household Items Ministry) for the last few years. Their energy seems boundless!!

Todd and Karen's hard work (along with many other Love INC volunteers), has finally come to fruition with the successful Grand Opening of the Love it Again Thrift Store in September. We can't possibly thank them enough for their leadership, persistence, and dedication! Todd and Karen both continue to regularly serve at the store, so if you see them there, be sure to thank them too!



BLESSINGS FOR FAMILIES THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

A team of Love In the Name of Christ volunteers has organized a Christmas Shop to bless families this holiday season. Instead of receiving a "hand-out" of gifts from organizations or strangers, parents will be able to shop for their children themselves at the Love It Again Thrift Store. Likewise, the children in the family, with the help of volunteers, can choose gifts for their parents, grandparents, or guardians. The family will be asked to contribute a small amount of money towards the event. The families involved received their invitations through partner churches, as a client, or participating in a New Hope Life Skills class.

This unique opportunity can maintain the family's sense of pride and dignity in providing a special Christmas for each other without spending a lot of money.

The event is planned for Sunday afternoon, December 3rd. Participating families will meet at the Love INC building where they will join in some Christmas festivities such as decorating Christmas cookies, making a Christmas craft, hearing the nativity story, gift wrapping and enjoying Christmas music.

There are several ways for you to be involved in the Christmas Shop. We are seeking donations of new toys and gifts for ages 0 to 60 years old with a value of \$20 to \$30. Donations can be dropped off at the Love INC Building Monday through Thursday from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm by Thursday, November 9.

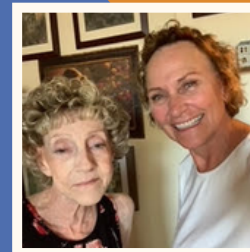
Volunteers are needed to decorate the Love INC building on Saturday, December 2nd from 9 am to noon, and at the event on December 3rd from 1 to 5 pm. Contact Jonna Kronholm at (715) 323-7834, or at jkronholm.vol@loveincswc.org to volunteer or if you have any questions.

HOW DONOR DOLLARS LEAD TO

Transformation



CHURCH PARTNERS: Baker Street Wesleyan | Bethlehem Lutheran | Christian Life Fellowship | Church at Wazeecha | Crossroads Church | Crossview | Evangelical Free Church of WR | 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 | Wisconsin Rapids United Methodist | Woodland Lutheran



Love In the Name of Christ

of South Wood County

Helping Churches Help People

**“Let's come before
him with thanks!
Let's shout songs
of joy to him!”**

Psalm 95:2-3

NOVEMBER 2023



Love Story

One of Love INC's core values is "Relationships." We value Christ-like relationships with others, especially our neighbors who call our Connection Center. Recently we had a client, *Leslie, explain to us in a letter what her relationship with a Love INC volunteer has meant to her and her son, *Jeremy, during a very difficult time in their lives.

It was easy to hear her gratitude in every sentence she wrote. This is a story about a mother's heart and love for her adult son; a son's 3 year journey with life-threatening medical issues, and a volunteer who has become a dear friend, as well as the hands and feet of Christ to both mother and son.

Leslie was referred to Love INC of SWC in desperation after calling several local agencies looking for help with transportation. Her car broke down and she didn't have the money to repair it, and her son, Jeremy, was very sick at that time. A burst septic cyst had contaminated every organ in his body: his liver, his heart, his lungs, and his brain. She was beside herself, wanting to be with her son, but unable to, due to the inability to get to the hospital.

After talking with Susan, one of our Intake Specialists, Susan agreed to drive Leslie. Jeremy was in the hospital for 6 months and in an induced coma for more than 3 of those months. During the drives and time Susan spent assisting Leslie and Jeremy, there were many conversations, and conversations led to friendship.

Leslie says, "I have never, in the 3 years of Jeremy's medical issues, met someone as special as Susan is. I could go on and on about what a friend she's been to us. Jeremy and I absolutely love her and we consider her family."

God was certainly present throughout this story. He placed Susan in Leslie and Jeremy's life for a reason and at a time when they truly needed someone. It was by His purpose, not chance.

Philippians 2:3 reads, Do nothing out of selfish ambition but rather, in humility, value others above yourself.

*Names have been changed

Leslie and Jeremy will always be in my life. Together we will be forever thankful to Jesus Christ our Savior for the health miracles Jeremy encountered through Him.

~Susan, Intake Specialist