



TRANSFORMING FROM INSIDE OUT Love In the Name of Christ

Spring 2019
VOLUME 27 ISSUE 1

Love INC links people in need to volunteers from a network of area churches.
Our mission is to transform lives and communities, In the Name of Christ.

Ruth Graham—Love INC's Keynote Speaker

Ruth Graham is the author of many books including the best-selling, *In Every Pew Sits a Broken Heart* and the award-winning *Step into the Bible*. Her passion is to motivate people by God's grace and loving acceptance from a place of woundedness to a place of wholeness in Christ. Ruth Graham Ministries seeks to create safe places where people can begin their journey to wholeness in Christ.



As the third child of Ruth and Billy Graham she has her own unique voice addressing critical issues of the 21st Century: the struggle of forgiveness, the value of doubt, loneliness, being single in a couple's world...

No stranger to heartache, she provides a Biblical perspective as she shares her journey of faith. She points to the faithfulness of God in her own life's heartache. She is authentic and transparent as she talks about experiencing her spouse's infidelities, her divorces, her teenage daughter's pregnancies, another daughter's struggles with bulimia and her son's battle with drugs. She shares the on-going struggle of having a special needs grandchild and the life-threatening disease of her youngest daughter.

She is an experienced conference speaker and Bible teacher. She has appeared on Good Morning America, Fox and Friends and been interviewed on Moody Radio and Focus on the Family among others. She contributed to the series, "Divorce Care" and hosted Living Free's video series on life-controlling issues.

Ruth went back to college at the age of 50 and graduated cum laude in 2000. She spent a year as Major Gifts Officer for her college. For five years she served as the donor relations coordinator for Samaritan Purse and for thirteen years worked in the publishing industry as an acquisitions editor. She has an honorary doctorate of Humane Letters from Eastern University and is ordained by the Cooperative Baptist Church.

Ruth has 3 grown children and 9 grandchildren. She lives in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia.

Reserve Your Table NOW! Call 434-977-7777

Date: Friday, June 7, 2019

Time: 6:30 PM— 9:00 PM

Place: Covenant Church of God

1025 E Rio Road, Charlottesville, Virginia

\$240.00/Table of 8 or \$30.00/plate

A Tribute to Our Churches!

Our wonderful churches and church members have made a special effort to donate goods or contribute financially to Love INC. Some churches and church members give generously of their means while others bring clean material goods with which to bless those less fortunate. Some very special donors even collect from friends and neighbors, bringing those items to the office to share with our clients. We do not give out names of our donors, of course, nor the churches who financially support us, but we would like to thank all those who work with us regularly.

(Some names are abbreviated in the interest of space.)

Albemarle Baptist Church
Aldersgate UMC
All Saints Anglican Church
All Souls Church
Antioch Baptist Church
Beaver Dam Baptist Church
Belmont Baptist Church
Bethany Seventh Day Advent
Beth Israel
Blue Ridge Community
Blue Ridge Presbyterian
Binghams UMC
Broadus Memorial Church
Buck Mountain Episcopal
Calvary Baptist Church
Calvary Chapel of C'ville
Calvary Chapel of Fluvanna
Calvary Chapel of Greene
Cedar Grove COB
Chapman Grove Baptist
Charlottesville COB
Church of Christ (C'ville)
Charlottesville Mennonite
Cherry Avenue Christian
Chestnut Grove Baptist
Christ Community Church
Christ Episcopal Church
Church of Our Savior
Church of the Incarnation
City Church
Connect Church
Covenant Church of God
CrossLife Community Church
Crozet Baptist Church

Crozet UMC
Effort Baptist Church
Emmanuel Episcopal Church
Faith and Grace Christian Fel.
Faith Baptist Church
Faith Christian Center Int.
First Baptist Church (Park St)
First Baptist Church (West M)
First Christian Church
First Presbyterian Church
First UMC
Fork Union Baptist Church
Free Union COB
Galilee Baptist Church
Hillsboro Baptist Church
Hinton Avenue UMC
Holy Comforter Catholic
Iglesia Rios de Agua Viva
Immanuel Lutheran Church
Ivy Creek UMC
Jerusalem Baptist Church
Korean Community Church
Knights Chapel COB
Lake Christian Church
Laurel Hill Baptist Church
Lebanon Evangelical Presb.
Church
Lighthouse Worship Center
Living Hope Outreach -Deliverance Minis-tries
The Grove (Maple Grove)
Meadows Presb. Church
Mountain Plain Baptist
Mountain View UMC

Mt. View Baptist Church
Mt. Eagle Baptist Church
Mt. Zion First African Baptist
New Beginnings Christian Co
New Faith UMC
Northridge Community Ch.
Northside Baptist Church Nortonsville
Church of God
Olivet Presbyterian Church
Peace Lutheran Church
Piedmont Christian Church
Portico
Restoration Cornerstone
Ridgecrest Baptist Church
Rockfish Valley Baptist Ch.
Rose Hill Baptist Church
Salem UMC
Scottsville Baptist
Scottsville UMC
Southside COG
Spring Hill Baptist Church
St. Luke's Episcopal, Simeon
St. Nicholas Orthodox
St. Paul's Episcopal, Ivy
St. Thomas Aquinas
Tabor Presbyterian Church
The Point Church
Trinity Episcopal Church
Trinity Presbyterian Church
Union Grove Baptist Church
Union Grove Christian Ch.
University Baptist Church
Westminster Presbyterian

A Christmas Dress; A Perfect Fit

The good folks at the University Baptist Church made a special effort to provide Christmas dinners for nearly 40 families this past Christmas. Not one family asking for a dinner went hungry. And many of these families also took advantage of the numerous material donations that had poured into the Love INC office. There were coats and Christmas decorations, gifts for children, and household items by the box-full. A few clothes were spread out over an office chair.

A woman we'll call "Lisa" came in to get her dinner. She has a church, but has been struggling with substance abuse (which she denies but the pastor confirmed) and also with depression. She had lost at least 100 pounds. confessed that she was too skinny for any of her nice clothing and wished she had a pretty dress for the Christmas service.

God's children are more important than "work," so the Love INC staff dropped everything and together we looked

A Perfect Fit, Continued

through our clothing. There was either super-large clothing or tiny clothing. Nothing seemed suitable until we spotted a silver-gray dress hidden under a pile of coats and pajamas. Unsure if it would fit our formerly robust client, we invited her to try on the dress in our bathroom. When she came out, she was beaming. “Look!” she said as she twirled around, “it fits perfectly!” Her face lit up with a smile. And indeed, the dress fit wonderfully and made Lisa look stunning. The transformation was amazing.

We have planted some seeds with Lisa. We’ve told her that in the springtime we would love to have her attend our transformational ministry classes, Affirming Your Potential. We can’t wait to see her *total* transformation, inside and out; we know very well that addiction is a powerful physical and emotional force. But we also know that our God’s power is greater than anything in this world. We ask that you pray for His wonderful work in Lisa’s life.

Warmed through Christ’s Love

She was a last-minute referral for holiday assistance and she was very ill. A social worker had sent “Stephanie” to us but feared that this close to Christmas, very little would be available. The woman had two small children and no gifts for them at Christmas. She had suffered abuse at the hand of her former husband, then some time later was stricken with a virulent cancer that ordinary chemotherapy could not combat. Several years before, her loving mother had called us about her, but the mother had died, leaving Stephanie with no one.

The treatment of last resort had left Stephanie quite debilitated. As she looked around the Love INC table for something for her children, she shivered. “I am always cold, now,” she said, almost talking to herself. “I cannot seem to get warm.” As one staff person helped her find things for her kids, another staffer went into the back room for additional blankets



and warm clothing. Warm blankets, flannel sheets, and *Oh Joy!* a brand new London Fog maxi coat (with the tags still on it). Might it fit? Stephanie tried on the coat over her thin jacket.

The London Fog was clearly designed for a taller person. It came down to Stephanie’s ankles. But it fit. She was concerned, though. “I can’t get this,” Stephanie said looking at the price tag. We smiled, “Oh, no, dear one! Everything is free here!”

So, bundled up and warm, with warm linens and gifts and holiday food, Stephanie found the love of Christ enveloping her—all the way to her ankles!—as she made her way back out into the cold, this time well equipped. At Love INC, we offer much more than just material goods, but sometimes the little things like a warm coat demonstrate God’s love better than anything else we can do. It is because of your gifts and your donations that we are able to help sweet souls like Stephanie, and for that, for you, we are tremendously grateful!

Love INC knows the family

Sheldon’s mother was a beloved client of Love INC. For many years a volunteer came to help her with housework, specifically laundering her sheets and vacuuming her small apartment. We knew she had a daughter, but we were surprised to find out that she also had a son who had been incarcerated, then homeless for some time. “I guess you’d say he is a little slow,” she said. “He never did learn to read or write. I helped him as much as I could but he can’t come live with me.”

His mother helped him fill out an application for an apartment through Public Housing. Love INC found furniture for him and a staff member delivered it. Sheldon had no transportation nor was he adept at making phone calls on his own to facilitate transportation. He paid a portion of his small check for rent, his only expense. He lived there five years without incident. Then his mother died, leaving him without anyone to care what happened to him. There was no one to help him obtain rent money from his account every month.

Love INC staff got a telephone call from a woman who said that she was “helping him out now.” She was helping write out money orders to pay his rent, but he didn’t have any money left and was behind on the rent. She gave her name and the name of the supposed agency she represented. Red flags went up for the staff person answering the call. How did this man run out of money when he was unable to get his own money off his EBT card? The woman turned coy as soon as it became apparent that Love INC was not going to provide the money she said he needed. She hung up. Staff called Adult Protective Services immediately and explained Sheldon’s situation.

A month later Love INC received a letter from social services. “The investigation has been completed and there is a preponderance of evidence that (Sheldon) is in need of protective services. Available and appropriate services will be offered... Thank you for your report and for your interest in the safety and well-being of vulnerable adults.” Love INC staff is grateful for the chance to bring the love of Christ in unseen ways to at-risk members of this community.

Donation Policy Change

To meet Virginia State Regulations

At the March Board of Directors meeting a motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved, to pursue a capital campaign to acquire a multi-functional office and thrift store facility to open on or before April 2022.

I want to thank you for all of the wonderful donations brought to us over the past years. That giving spirit has allowed us to share your possessions with literally thousands of our neighbors in need. Unfortunately, Virginia Department of Health regulations state that before giving items such as bedding (box springs, mattress', comforters and pillows) **or upholstered furniture**, these items must be sanitized by an "approved entity that holds an approved sanitizing permit." Since our facility is a small office, there is nowhere to conduct the necessary sanitation process. **HOWEVER, if the items go directly from your home to the recipient**, we can bypass the need for Love INC to hold a sanitizing permit. This means that the client or the client's social worker or family must come pick up the furniture items from your home, or, if you are able, to deliver it.

Due to this regulation, please do not bring beds or upholstered furniture to the Love INC office. For questions please call our office, 434-977-7777. www.VDH.virginia.gov. Link to Bedding & Upholstered Furniture Program.

Top needed items are: Personal Care items, especially paper products and cleaning/laundry supplies; Bath and bedroom linens; Dishware & Kitchen items; Baby items including cribs, Diapers.

For your convenience, clothing can also be brought to the following partners that honor our vouchers

Belmont Clothing Center

815 Bolling Ave, C'ville 22902
Behind Belmont Baptist Church
Their schedule:
Monday: 10-12

Tuesday: 9-11
Wednesday: 10-12
Thursday: 9-11
Saturday: 10-12

School house Thrift Shop

1147 Rio Rd E, C'ville 22901
Monday – Saturday
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Green Olive Tree

5370 Three Notched Road
Crozet 22932
Monday- Saturday 11-4

Earlsville Exchange

4006 Earlsville Road, 22936
Wednesday-Friday 10am-6pm
Saturday 10am-4pm

Cars- We still take car donations that go to our neighbors in need. We do not auction them, therefore, you are able to take the full Blue Book value as a tax deduction.

LOVE INC OFFICE

Monday through Friday
9 A.M.— 4 P.M.

Telephone Line

Neighbor Help Line: 434-977-7777

Board of Directors

Gary Rice (Chair), Jay Knight Co-Chair
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Susan Shellito

Furniture Coordinator: Patina Blakey

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Transformational Coordinator
Bill Lloyd

Accountant: Laura Woodworth,



Blessings,

INSERT SIGNATURE

Ray-

mond
Klein



Love INC
Love In the Name of Christ

Office Volunteers:

LINC Editor: Jamie Miller
Phone and Office Volunteers:
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Virginia Morris, Phyllis Penley,
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