



LINKING THE NEEDS OF THE CHARLOTTESVILLE—ALBEMARLE COMMUNITY WITH CHURCH VOLUNTEERS

VOLUME XIX, ISSUE II

SUMMER 2010

A “Transformed Trailer” — Thanks to God’s People

The Juarez* family came to this country with high expectations. Even before stepping into their new community, they had a surge of excitement when they were able to buy a trailer at a very low price.

But it was a purchase made sight unseen and they did not realize that shysters are everywhere. The exhilaration turned to utter dismay when they actually saw their “new” home. The trailer they bought was unfit for habitation, even as it would have been in the country from which they had come .



It had rotten floors, broken windows, and doors were held on by wire. The kitchen appliances were unusable. Of course there was no furniture. And the stench was unbearable. Trash littered the lot. They had been “had.” The family walked into a nightmare.

Fortunately, there was at least one redeeming factor in the otherwise hopeless scenario. Fanny Smedile, of the **Church of the Incarnation**, who is bi-lingual, stood in the gap, interceding for this family that did not speak English.

As one of her first steps, Fanny

telephoned Love INC, requesting furniture for the family — not initially explaining the rundown condition of the trailer that was to be their home. So, at first the Love INC staff had not realized the deplorable conditions, grasping only that they needed furniture. There were contributions and Fanny and her husband, along with others from the Church of the Incarnation picked up some of the furniture for the family.

The Love INC staff tried to connect another donor for another delivery, but Fanny seemed suddenly less interested in furniture as she began to tell the Love INC staff about the appalling conditions in the trailer. In alarm, the staff made numerous calls to the Church of the Incarnation and the Hispanic community there. As a result, Bernard Taylor, from that church, became the coordinating person.

As part of the initial effort to assist the family, Jeff Villio from **Maple Grove Christian Church** had delivered two appliances and some additional furniture to the trailer. Immediately after the delivery, he telephoned the office, sickened at what he had seen, exclaiming: “Ray, people don’t live like this!” Ray’s sad words were, “I hate to tell you, but sometimes they do!”

Upon hearing about the trailer,

Virginia Morris, who serves as a phone volunteer in the office, began to make calls to some builders who went to her church, **First Baptist Church, Park Street**, to see if they would donate building supplies. Pastor Jack Richardson from **Calvary Chapel of Greene** also offered to help supply materials. Several volunteers came and put a new floor in the kitchen.

This was a slow process, and dragged on throughout the summer, though several churches were mobilized on this family’s behalf. The **“Soul Winning Soldiers Motorcycle Club”** eventually put in all new windows, purchased by the Church of the Incarnation.

But volunteers were still hampered by the language barrier and by having to work through an interpreter. Despite the difficulties, everyone was grateful that this deplorable situation had come to light so that the people of God were able to reach out to this needy family.

By autumn the windows were in, the bathroom floor was completed, with fixtures installed, the kitchen floor completed and some base cabinets installed. Fannie told Love INC, with great delight, that an unknown benefactor from the Church of the Incarnation had supplied money

for the completion of the project. He paid for the furnace that was installed, so the family was ready for the winter months at least.

Today, you can ride by that double trailer and find flowers blooming during the spring and summer months, and children's bicycles in

the yard. A family that obviously cares for their home lives there, with four clean, polite children — who speak English! The children are friendly and their mother



smiles and says "Thank you" over and over. ■

** Names of those served have been changed throughout the newsletter to protect confidentiality*



Love INC
Love In the Name of Christ

At a Time of Need He Stepped Forward

Life is often hard for those who are disabled. The difficulty is multiplied when an individual does not have a parent, spouse or other advocate to stand up for them when the going gets particularly tough.

Ginny had friends who were willing to respond to her needs, but just didn't have anyone who really was taking the initiative on her behalf for this crisis. And she was a quadriplegic with significant needs!

As everyone is well aware, it was a rough winter. It hit Ginny especially hard when she lost power in her living room and porch area. In fact, by the time she called the office, it had been off for four days. And the critical part was that her medical equipment — that included a generator and an

alarm — were in the living room.

She mentioned that she had a helper flip the breaker, but that had not helped to restore power. So her inclination was that they might need to install a new breaker. She went on to say that she could get someone to buy a new breaker if Love INC could find someone to install it.

And that "someone" did step forward. James Mc Clung, of **Church of Our Savior**, was trying to wrap up his graduate courses for the semester when he was alerted to the need, but this kind and knowledgeable volunteer then quickly came to Ginny's rescue and resolved her electric problem.

In addition to reporting the repair of the key issue, James wrote to

explain what had happened: "Her outside light was not working and I think it was due to a temporary overload last winter. Someone later disconnected the switch. I fixed that and things seem to be working fine for now."



But James also went "the second mile." He went on to share that "I gave her my number in case she had any future problems. She is a very nice lady and we had a pleasant interaction."

And words that many volunteers like to share came out of James' mouth as well. "I always get more than I give at these encounters. Thanks for all you are doing. Keep up the good work." ■

A Few Words to "Chew On"

If you weren't at the 19th Annual Love INC Fundraising Dinner, you missed an evening that was rich in music, testimony, good food, fellowship and "food for thought" from our banquet speaker, Pastor Roger Browning. With a theme of "Take This Cup," Pastor Browning focused on Jesus' encounter with the woman

at the well, as recorded in John 4 -- taking verse 10 as the key: "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

Now we won't give you a brief of what he said, but just pass on a

few key thoughts from his meditation that we would encourage you to contemplate:

In Christian work, be sure that "the main thing remains the main thing." That is, "Do what you do in the name of Jesus Christ." Do what you do for His glory, not your own. A good time to check our mo-

tives!

“The Samaritan woman had something that Jesus needed.” In His case, it was the bucket to draw water



from the well. He had what she needed...Living Water.

What do you have to offer Him?

Ever heard, “We have never done it this way before?” But “Jesus was not hindered by her gender, nationality, morality – or tradition.” His goal was that “she 1) meet

the Savior and 2) leave her water jar behind (perhaps for someone coming after?), 3) leave her life of sin and go share her good news, ‘Could this be the Christ?’” Are you sharing Him everywhere you go? ■



Love INC
Love In the Name of Christ

A Miracle Baby — Upheld By Prayer and Care

Brenden Elijah came into this world on December 9th 2008 at 4:12 a.m. He looked big enough, healthy enough, weighing in at 8 pounds and 14 ½ ounces and a length of 21 inches.

But as the young mother gave birth to him, there were 16 doctors and nurses in the room, giving witness to the problems they anticipated. And they were correct



in their fears. Brenden had to be re-

suscitated immediately. He was blue, having swallowed and inhaled meconium — the earliest stools of an infant.

He had hypoxemia — or insufficient oxygen content of the arterial blood — due to uncontrollable seizures. As a result, Brenden was unable to breathe and so he was kept on a ventilator and respirator.

Sadly, the young mother could not handle the trauma. She decided that he could just die and then walked out of the hospital.

But Brenden had a grandmother who cared deeply for the struggling infant — yet it seemed that the only thing she could do was pray, wait and watch the monitors.

At the same time, she did not want to pray alone. So she called Love INC and pleaded “Please pray for this baby. He won’t make it without God healing him.” She cried as she told how the baby’s mother wanted nothing to do with him.

She had offered to take little Brenden and was granted custody of the little life. But she couldn’t touch him. He could not stand even the slightest touch.

An email to pray for the child went out to all the Love INC contacts and volunteers and as time passed he began breathing on his own. He woke up, opened his eyes and began taking in fluids. God had spared his life.

Three weeks later Brenden was able to go home with his grandmother. His progress and recovery was still slow, but he was healing.

Brenden’s grandmother already had some baby things at home: a

changing table, which was given by a member of **Broadus Memorial Church**, a crib, and some other baby items that Love INC had given to her from a delivery by the Boutins and the Kuleneks of **Portico Church**. She also had diapers donated by **The Pregnancy Center of Albemarle**.

But there were still other needs for the little fellow. Brenden had severe neurological damage to both sides of the brain and nine different types of epilepsy and he needed Pedialyte several times a day to keep his electrolyte level up.

His grandmother called Love INC again. “Do you think anyone would ever donate any Pedialyte? It is so expensive and he has to have it several times a day.” So, Love INC put out another call.

Beth Fraser of Grace Community Church heard about the need and brought in bottle after bottle of Pedialyte. Pedialyte was also donated by kind members of **Spring Hill Baptist Church**. The infant drank every one of those donated bottles.

Brenden’s grandmother also gratefully used additional diapers provided this time by **Trinity Presbyterian Church**. She had

not been receiving any assistance in caring for the little fellow through social services, so the loving concern of the community's churches was a rich blessing to Brenden and his grandmother.

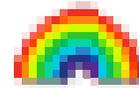
And who could measure the power of intercession? The prayer warriors kept praying and gradually Brenden's quality of life began to improve. He began to withstand the severity of his seizures and outgrew the need for the Pedialyte.



At this writing, fourteen months have passed by and Brenden still has numerous health issues, but he is here with us, living, breathing, and soon to be walking. Through many sleepless nights of prayer by his believing grandmother, the gift of life has continuously been restored to Brenden. Doctors and nurses all agree that he is a miracle and we know it is through the love and healing power of Jesus Christ our Savior!

Opal Morris, Brenden Elijah's grandmother, shared much of the information — and even

some of the words — upon which this love story was based. As her parting words, she said that she wants those who do not believe in God to know that He is indeed alive and that miracles do happen. She wants to thank everyone at Love INC who kept praying and for the support they gave. "Your obedience to Christ continually gives others hope and reminds others that He will never leave or forsake us in Jesus name...Amen and God Bless." ■



A Stepson Following in Dad's Footsteps

Mitch Hoffecker, a member of the **Charlottesville Church of the Brethren**, took the opportunity placed before him to not only meet a need but provide a wonderful learning opportunity for his six year old stepson. That opportunity came about because of another caring individual.

Looking out for the needs of the Hispanic community, Fannie Smedley of the **Church of the Incarnation**, had realized that one of "her" families was dealing with some potentially dangerous wiring in their Southwood trailer home. So, she placed a call to Love INC for assistance and, in turn, Mitch graciously responded to the announced need.

After jumping on the problem, Mitch wrote about how he resolved that problem — and then a neighbor's electrical problem. And, as you will read, he could have spent his day and more doing like work. Here is what he had to say:

"Resolved issues. Power wiring at

dryer terminals was shorting to ground and melted wire. Also was a shock hazard. Fixed this, which also got their dryer working again. I checked all the connections and general condition of circuit breaker panel and found no issues. Was asked to check stove. Wiring was okay and everything worked except one of 4 burners, but that already had burner plug safely removed.



"Neighbor lady asked me to look at her wiring problem (her son was helpful in translating). Corrected some bad and loose wiring in one of her receptacle boxes that was arcing and flickering lights.

"They asked for my phone number, but I had a feeling I'd get called for all the wiring issues in Southwood Trailer Park if I'd have given it. Sadly, I'm sure there is plenty of need there, but

obviously more than I could take on.

"All nice and appreciative folks and a good experience for myself and my 6 year old stepson who got a rare but important glimpse of living conditions of less fortunate whom many locals don't 'see' or even know exist. I was proud that he voluntarily took a bag full of his excess toys and handed out to some of the many kids playing.

"We had lots of good conversation on the experience and it was a perfect opportunity to show him some basic Christian charitable help done... just because. I'm sure he, like my other kids who have gone with me on these little adventures, will remember his experience for many years to come. And that is priceless....and made my whole week."

The next time you volunteer, why not consider taking an impressionable youngster along. Who knows what lessons he or she may carry forward in their life. ■



Phone and computer skills are always needed, but volunteers with many other clerical skills are sought as well

Did You Know?



That nationally there are 148 Love INC clearinghouses, with only one in Virginia — yours right here in Charlottesville?

That, with an eye to the future, this past spring, Ray met with 35 pastors and interested individuals in Stuarts Draft to begin visioning a second Love INC for our state, this one to serve Waynesboro, Staunton and Augusta County?

That next year Love INC plans to go international and establish the first clearinghouse outside of the United States, this one in Nairobi, Kenya? That this is an area so bad that God had to move to make it possible to bring His love to over one million souls living in abject squalor — and He has? ■

She Wanted to Get Involved, but ...

Perhaps like some of you who are reading this newsletter, Darlene Groom was taking in the stories with a sense that she should do more than read about what others were doing. In her words, “Whenever I saw the newsletter I always thought I wanted to be involved, but never followed through.”

Well, the Spirit of God knew how to help her “follow through.” He convinced Darlene right in the midst of serving others far from home. In sharing her calling to Love INC, she explained, “After going on a mission trip to Mexico last year and experiencing Jesus loving others through me, I knew I wanted to continue in serving.

“To me, serving at Love INC is like going on a mission trip, only one locally! We are so blessed in this country and I don’t think He has blessed us just so we can build up a bank account or buy a bigger, fancier house. He intends for us to share what we have been given. Love INC allows Christians from all denominations to do just that.”

So, Darlene, who lives in Gor-

donsville and attends **Maple Grove Christian Church**, began her volunteer service in October 2009. “At Love INC I answer phones, enter data, stuff envelopes, or do whatever I am asked to do.”



When Darlene was asked to give a brief summary of the background that she brought with her to the office, she said “I was born and raised in this area, graduating from Orange County High School, attended PVCC, worked in secretarial positions, and now serves as a postal clerk in Earlysville.

“In my last Spiritual Gifts class, Mercy, Giving, and Prayer came out as my strong points. I guess I do have a big heart of mercy, because when I first started volunteering, my husband used to get a call from me every Tuesday telling him about a need and asking if we could cover it!! But I found out that Susan could usually find a way for others to provide without the rest of us getting broke!!

“Through Love INC, my family and my Bible Study group was able to assist a homeless family for the holidays -- and that also was a ‘mission trip’.”

“Let me conclude with just a short capsule of my family life. I am married to Steve Groom, a wonderful, godly, and generous man. Together we have developed a passion for missions, whether locally or in another country. We love to travel throughout God’s marvelous creation, taking lots and lots of pictures. My adult children, Christie and Mark, live in the Virginia Beach area. They are incredible people.”

As you read Darlene’s story, perhaps you too felt that urge to get involved — much as she did before she finally took the step. If that is the case, we would love to talk to you to help you discern God’s calling — whether your gifts and talents would fit here in the clearinghouse or in some other way of service to the poor and needy of our community. If you feel that “tug,” give us a call. ■

For She's a Jolly Good Fellow!

For many years, **Trinity Presbyterian Church** has sponsored the Fellows Program, which provides recent college graduates with a nine-month leadership development and training course, a curriculum that includes a marketplace internship as an integral part. And Love INC has been blessed to have had one of these interns serving on the staff for most of the life of the program.

This past school year our intern was Erin Miller, a 22 year old Richmond area native, where she attended the Bon Air Baptist Church with her family. As an undergrad at the University of Virginia, she called Trinity her home church and that is how she came to be a part of the Trinity Fellows Program.

Erin's perspective on Christian responsibility is so closely aligned with the Love INC mandate that she has been a natural to serve here. She says that "as Christians we are to love our neighbors, all our neighbors, and that we need to care for the poor and downtrodden, the widows and the orphans."

She says that "working here is exciting because I have the opportunity to actually DO what they talk about in my classes in the Fellows Program... working at Love INC is also exciting because I get to see God at work in even the darkest places."

As the Love INC intern, Erin answers the phones and does client intakes. She says that each phone call is different -- "you never know what will be at the other end of the line!" As we all

know, it could be a serious issue or someone just looking for directions to get to another agency.

Erin never had any office experience before coming to Love INC, though she had once worked in a coffee shop – says that it is a good thing, as she learned to multi-task. She tries to bring some semblance of order to what can be a rather chaotic environment. She has even learned not to fear the telephone!

Susan and Ray have truly appreciated her servant's heart in making sure the kitchen and front part of the office are clean and neat. Her summers spent at a kids' camp as camp photographer and sailing instructor taught her to work in a fast paced atmosphere.

Despite the lack of prior experience, Erin has enjoyed the office environment, and serving as part of a team has been a rich experience for her. She has been especially blessed working with volunteers from different churches, denominations and walks of life. She commented that this had expanded her otherwise narrow view of the breadth and riches of the church of God that had been ingrained as a result of being born into a Christian family and attending one kind of church with all the same kind of people.

Erin particularly enjoyed working with Dorothy Schladitz — a phone volunteer and member of **Lake Christian Church** — as they delivered food from the **Holy Comforter Catholic Church** food pantry. As a result, she gained great respect for Jean Fowler, who heads the operation three days a week. Together with Dorothy, she

gathered bags of food for 5-8 families, delivering it all over the city and even out into the county.

Erin said that she never knew there was so much to Charlottesville and Albemarle County. As a student, without a car, she had been pretty much confined to the grounds. With her experience at Love INC, she has been able to see real people in real situations throughout the area.

An avid reader, Erin also loves all outdoor activities. She looked forward to sunny warm days when she could meet other Fellows on the Downtown Mall for lunch.

But now Erin has moved on. We were blessed during her sojourn as our intern — and we are confident that she left with a different perspective on poverty, on the church, on service in God's kingdom and with new resources to enhance her usefulness for Him in the years before her. Thank you, Erin, for a job well done! ■



"Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails ..." [1 Corinthians 13:4-8].



WHAT IS IT?

SUP (What's Up?)

The Sound Off for Poverty is a national program that teaches young people about poverty in America, and empowers them to do something about it by raising awareness and funds to help people in need through Love INC. By conducting a **“Media Fast”** (*abstaining from electronic entertainment for at least 48 hours*), youth tune out life’s distractions and tune in to God’s heart for the poor.

Churches, schools, and organizations that register to participate receive the following materials free of charge:

Youth leader’s Tool Kit with tools and activities to learn about poverty in America, five Bible Study lessons with facilitator guide, ideas for group service projects, and ideas to “make some noise” about poverty in America.

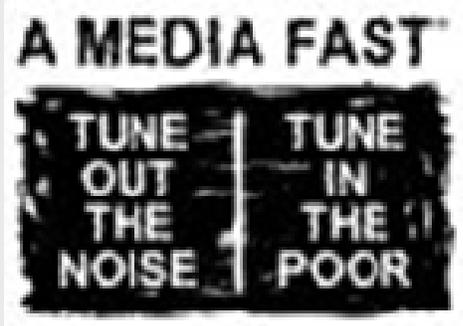


Sound Off posters.

Student Journal, Collection Envelope, and Wristband for each student



Music CD



Funds raised through the Sound Off for Poverty support our local Love INC in helping to meet the needs of the poor right here in our community – needs met in the name of Christ.



Youth groups are encouraged to choose a date to “Sound Off” over the course of the summer or in the early fall. Call 800-777-5277 or visit soundoffforpoverty.org to register or for more information.



Love INC • Love In the Name of Christ





Love INC

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Love INC is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit ministry that links people in need to volunteers from a network of area churches.

Web Site: www.loveinccville.org

E-mail: loveincoffice@embarqmail.com



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Please indicate amount:

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Thank you so much for your support!

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