



TRANSFORMING FROM INSIDE OUT Love In the Name of Christ

Summer 2018
VOLUME 26 ISSUE II

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.

Lives Changed...Because of You!

Love INC's mission has always been: "mobilize local churches to transform lives and communities in the Name of Christ," but something was missing. How could we build lasting relationships between our 'neighbors with needs' and our church community in a way that changes everyone involved? How could members of our churches become passionate about changing lives?

We struggled and prayed. We finally found an answer!

The first step was to present a six-week series, *Redemptive Compassion*, where believers wanting to be "doers of the Word and not just hearers" adopt a different approach to helping those in need, focusing on the person rather than the distressing situation. In the summer of 2017, seventeen participants from eleven local churches completed this exciting study.

The second step, the *Affirming Your Potential* class, started immediately in September of 2017. Five "neighbors" and seven volunteer mentors from the *Redemptive Compassion* class journeyed together, applying Biblical principles to everyday life. The twelve-week series addressed issues such as facing difficulties, controlling thinking, decision making, finding strength to reconcile with the past, and moving forward to a more productive future.

In January, four new neighbors began *Affirming*, while the other neighbors moved on to *Boundaries and Your Budget* – learning to set limits on finances and relational dynamics that often prove to be a major drain. Here is feedback from our neighbors:

- "I have learned how to take back control of my life"
- "The class helped give me strength to deal with family"
- "I no longer focus on the past"
- "The *Affirming* class taught me how to move forward on my journey, to reach the goals I had set"

In late April, seven new neighbors began *Affirming*, while the four recent graduates moved on to the *Budget* class. Meanwhile, *Redemptive Compassion* rolls on. Seven believers from several churches finished in March and twenty are currently midway through their new adventure.

YOU can be a part of the next chapter – the needs are various and ongoing. We obviously welcome and cherish your financial support. The *Redemptive* series starts again in mid-June. Meals are needed for Tuesday nights for both classes. In addition, your prayer is the catalyst for every aspect. Contact Bill Lloyd (434-989-0601) for more information or e-mail Love INC (office@loveincville.org) With our Blessings and Thanks.

Thank You, Dela!

Daniela Alexander, Administrator for the Social Issues in Medicine course at the University of Virginia School of Medicine is leaving at the end of this school semester. She has worked with Love INC and many area non-profits for years to assign one or more medical students to each, giving the students a chance to look at medicine through the eyes of those outside the classroom.



Dela wrote, “I believe that Love INC has been a great site for students who wanted a faith-based community service experience. I think it is wonderful to have an agency in our community that puts into practice the best ideals of their faith - to help their neighbor regardless of the neighbor’s religion. Our world has become so divisive and you do the opposite - you try to help and to heal. Thank you.”

“Thank you for all you do in our community and for helping our med students learn about the real life challenges some of their future patients face. Many future doctors do not appreciate how hard and unfair life can be sometimes, and so the Social Issues in Medicine course strives to give students a real world perspective. We have appreciated your taking students under wing and giving them opportunities, under your careful guidance, to learn about the disadvantaged in our community. Thank you for

all the time and thought you have devoted. I believe that my successor will continue to use the sites that I have cultivated over the years and continue the partnership with Love INC.”

We will miss your leadership, Dela, but we look forward to many years of wonderful medical students who make home visits to our clients, pray with our clients, bring deliveries, and learn a patient’s view of the medical world. These students have enriched our medical understanding and they very often have insights that only a home visit can give. Our clients, in turn, give the medical students insight into a completely different **world than the one** they may have experienced. Thank you, Dela!

Love INC Needs You!

You probably have no Idea what a difference your material donations make in the lives of the people in need in this community.

YOUR donations are given free of charge to desperately needy individuals and families. Through Love INC’s Children’s Clothing ministry and the Personal Care Closet, the Loads of Love laundry ministry, the diaper ministries, the All Blessings Flow medical equipment ministry, and other services, **MANY HUNDREDS** of families are assisted each year -- because of what **YOU** donate to Love INC! Here is a partial list of what we need on an on-going basis:

- Diapers, adult and baby. Wipes.
- Silverware and kitchen utensils. Pots and pans.
- Beds. Twin, full, queen, toddler, mattresses and box springs. Without stains.

- Cleaning and laundry products and personal care items.
- Toasters and small appliances.
- Infant and Toddler car seats, never in an accident and under 5 years old.
- Cribs with or without mattresses, baby equipment.
- Washing machines and/or dryers.
- Bed linens, bath linens, curtains.

Furthermore, we need volunteers with at least one pickup truck once a quarter or once a month to pick up and deliver furniture. Our MOST NEEDY and VULNERABLE clients cannot get furniture otherwise.

Making His Love Known

While it's true that some folks are just looking for a handout, others—so many others—are striving for a place where they can rise above their current circumstances and even begin to help other people. Some of Love INC's immigrant families fall into this category. They start from scratch after losing everything in their previous country. They begin life in America with low-income housing, they work two and three jobs, and they are sometimes able to own their own homes. These people no longer need our services, but they still come to see us!

Our immigrant families bring visiting relatives or other new arrivals to our office to meet the people who have reached out to them with the love of Christ. And they have become eager to give assistance others. "I will come and help you in the office," said a mother of three. "I can help you move furniture," said a dad. One mom brought an abused friend. Another brought her pregnant niece.

"Will you pray for me?" asked a woman recently diagnosed with breast cancer. The disease had spread all throughout her body. Her daughter and granddaughter had traveled all the way from Jordan to care for her. They cried and hugged us as they do-



nated all of her old clothing—with her weight loss, it had become too big for her. The daughter, with better English, privately explained that the doctors gave her mother another month to live. "God will take care of me," said the mother with a weak smile after we prayed.

"Please pray for my mother," asked another woman as we poured over disheartening medical reports from UVA. We could only put our arms around her and pray that God would strengthen her and give

peace to her mother. Her brother had come here 4 years before; he sought medical treatment for injuries suffered there in a car-bomb attack. He was doing well, pronounced free from the infection he had carried. Then the family had scraped together every penny to bring their seri-

ously ill mother here for treatment as well, but UVA could do nothing and the mother died within the week. Because of the love and support she had received here, the daughter brought pictures of the burial site near Monticello to show us. Today she also comes by with many friends to see Love INC and learn of the benefits we provide.

Love INC is Churches Working Together

We verify so many requests each week for our churches that some folks may think there isn't really any poverty here like there was years ago. This is, of course, because the well-informed church secretaries address telephone requests for money by asking, "Please call Love INC first." Then it is our job to dig down to the heart of the matter and sift through all the issues leading to the present crisis. We report back to the churches to let them know our findings.

Here's an example of how we work: One of our pastors referred a woman to Love INC because her elderly relative, we'll call him Ed, had no electricity. The amount owed was far beyond the means of Ed's family. We at Love INC like to speak directly with the one in need, so we telephoned him. Ed was confused, with apparently no understanding of how his bills were to be paid. "My wife does all that," he said. "But, she's in a nursing home." Ed seemed unable to explain further.

Working Together, Continued

Our staff placed a call to Ed's niece. She told us that her uncle had experienced two strokes and was suffering from dementia. Those details made sense and clarified for us why he was confused. The niece also said that Ed's wife and a relative had complete control over his checkbook. They were responsible for the bills but for some reason had not been paying them. "Uh-oh," our staff thought as they scrutinized the couple's old files. "This problem is bigger than just finding money to pay an electric bill." So we asked the niece if we could seek help by contacting Adult Protective Services at the Albemarle Department of Social Services. Within an afternoon of phone calls and emails, Adult Protective Services was at work.

They temporarily moved Ed to his sister's home, and set up



care services for his return. His sister was granted power of attorney, with his Social Security check to be sent to her beginning the following month. What was left of Ed's check would cover the rent. The family discovered a long unpaid water bill and tried to cover that—but there was nothing left to pay the huge electric bill.

Love INC went to work again—doing what we do best. With the financial intervention from **SIX** of our partner churches, Ed would be in his own home again. The churches collectively paid the electric bill. A.P.S. will be involved on going. One of the "least of these" is cared for. In the process, we found out that one of the churches had been delivering a food box to him monthly, and a loving parish visitor would be checking in on him. The Body of Christ at work.

Letter from the Executive Director

When Susan and I first came to Love INC fifteen years ago, calls from needy individuals asking for financial help flooded the churches. Unknowing churches often paid bills only to discover later that the same folks had asked OTHER churches for the same bill, in essence getting their bills paid 2-3 times over! One clever client "belonged" to several churches getting duplicate financial assistance from each "home church."

Love INC has worked tirelessly with our churches to assure that they will refer everyone to Love INC **before** giving money. Early on, one church reported that benevolence requests dropped significantly (80%) merely by asking that people call Love INC first. Church personnel have cards on their desks to hand out to those requesting funding.

LOVE INC OFFICE

Monday through Friday
9 A.M.— 4 P.M.

Telephone Line

Neighbor Help Line: 434-977-7777

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Suddenly it seems to appear that far fewer clients are searching for funding than in the past.

In actuality, the cries of the hurting and needy are still there, if less visible. Every day, Love INC staff works to determine which situations can be assisted and which are beyond repair, which situations happen through chance misfortune and which are the result of lack of prudence. It is the proverbial difference between a

"Hand out" and a "Hand up." Now that agency funding is frequently unavailable, we rely on churches more than ever. Jesus said, "The poor you will have with you always."

Blessings,

INSERT SIGNATURE

Raymond Klein

Executive Director

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