



TRANSFORMING FROM INSIDE OUT Love In the Name of Christ

Summer 2020
VOLUME 28 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.

God's Work (Behind the Scenes)

She lost her husband Edward in the fall, leaving her to manage alone. Helena had always been proud of their old home on the corner lot. Edward had kept everything immaculate from the yard to various upkeep and repairs on the deck and porch. After his regular job Edward could be seen with tools or his lawn mower, always working on one project or another. Now he was gone. Helena was in financial peril as well as in need of getting her yard and home in shape. Unable to do the work herself, she turned to Love INC.

Sometimes staff can find volunteers easily, but at other times we wonder if all the volunteers disappeared in the Rapture and left us behind! So when a Covenant School contact called, we were thrilled—after all, ten-year-olds, when supervised and motivated, can not only accomplish great things, but they are also pretty entertaining. We thought Helena might enjoy the children. We dutifully emailed specific instructions with pictures of the home and told them to give her a call. Another case solved.

But then.... Our first hint of trouble came when each of the adult overseers who we contacted via email had out-of-town area codes. That seemed odd. Then right after sending my instructional emails we started to get replies:

"We are not going to be able to take this project. It is *five hours* from where I live!" What?

It was true. The parents thought they were contacting Love INC in Charlotte, North Carolina! And we thought they were from our *local* Covenant School! Weeks of setting up a total of three projects for the last week of March, gone. And the Covenant School in Charlotte had no projects for *their* children. In addition, we weren't

able to contact the Charlotte Love INC because they closed last fall. We now had three households who would have no help.

Enter Kimberly Moore from Charlottesville's Community Christian Academy. She had a small army of children who would like nothing better than to get out of their classes to help people. So the three households were informed and the emails once again sent out detailing what needed to be done. All set, right?

No! Governor Ralph Northam set out a mandatory Stay at Home order to help curb the dreadful Coronavirus. Schools were closed for the rest of the year. Our staff was going to have to vacate our office since Love INC was deemed a non-essential business. We just looked up to the sky and asked the Lord, "Now what?"



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Well, we found out. Back in early January, while the Coronavirus was a distant Chinese problem to most of us, God had moved Nancy B to send an email to our director. Nothing came of it beyond a general invitation to visit. But by the end of March, she had assembled a number of twenty-somethings at Trinity Presbyterian Church who were looking to help during the Coronavirus pandemic.

Nancy sent another email to Love INC and we were thrilled—now we could get our three projects, including Helena's, taken care of. Nancy is extremely well organized and quickly found teams for each project, but by this time we had five projects needing attention. No problem. They were all over it!

Nate, Guiming, Barrett, Josh, Frank, Sarah One and Sarah Two, Kate, and not to forget, Megan all showed up

Out To Dinner

Many of us enjoy going out to eat on a regular basis. We look inside our refrigerator and decide, "Let's go out to eat. But the arrival of the Coronavirus, confined many of us to our four walls! Then we heard on the news that restaurants were offering curbside, touch free, takeout meals. Relief! We would not have to eat our own meals continually!

But what about rural folks without ready access to takeout meals? What about those on fixed incomes? Tabor Presbyterian Church congregants had an idea for serving their community during this difficult time! Rev. Liz H.

Adam let us know that she had received money to deliver homemade or purchased meals to shut-ins and other people with needs in the Western Albemarle County area. She asked if Love INC had folks that we knew of who might benefit from extra support at this time. She also would be on the lookout for a need of gas cards and face masks.

Susan compiled a first list. The phone numbers and addresses of several families

eager for their assigned work. All these friends of our Lord had been grounded by the Coronavirus shutdown and were very desirous to help the community. Careful to maintain social distancing, they worked for hours and hours. You can see the pictures of their handiwork. They performed essential yardwork, planted flowers, and even built a safety railing. One more blessing these friends added to their projects was the purchase of groceries, delivering them when they came to do the other work.

For many elderly and shut-ins, getting to the grocery store not only takes hours but also puts each vulnerable adult at risk of exposure to the virus. Our nine young volunteers have been the hands and feet of Christ for five households at a very difficult time. Helena loves it. The other households love it. We at Love INC love it. And most of all, the Lord who connected all these disparate dots, He loves it!

had changed and the clients could not be reached. But of that first list of fifteen names, six families received meals, gift cards and masks and a visit through the door with prayer. Only one declined the offer due to dietary restrictions. It was time for a second list!

There were three very nice surprises on the second list of eighteen. Three single moms who had not been doing well for years were thriving. All three had full time jobs, even during the pandemic, and the emotional health and well-being of each family had improved significantly. To hear cheerful upbeat reports rather than desperate and chronic

depression was indeed a miracle. Another family about whom Love INC had grave concern had already been reported to the church and was receiving delivered meals more than once a week. That also seemed a small miracle. To know that so many of our clients were being cared for and loved added abundant joy to

Love INC staff who were trying to work from home. Many thanks to Rev. Liz Adam and her wonderful church!



"Yardwork at Kiki's"

May was delighted to receive the groceries that we purchased for her.

The building that Kiki lives in is divided into 3 or 4 apartments. Two apartments occupy the top two floors. The walk-out basement was converted into one or two apartments. When we arrived Saturday, the front yard was already cut. She explained to us that a neighbor cut her front yard the previous evening. My son Michael and I worked on clearing the right side yard. Here the yard slopes downward. We raked up about one tarp-full of loose sticks, leaves, and loose ivy. After removing the ivy that was intruding onto the walkway, we blew off the stairwell and called it a day. Kiki communicated that a different group of volunteers from Love, INC came out about a year ago and cleared out the leaves from the backyard. A mixture of grass and low growing ivy is growing there now.

Recommendations for next year:



The sloping portion of the side yard is mostly ivy and rocks. Bring a rugged gas powered weed whacker to cut down any tall weeds in this area.



Fred's "Thank You!"

Fred had surgery up-coming in the spring, a complicated eye surgery. He had moved from another part of the state to the Charlottesville area to be closer to the specialist doctors who would be able to help him. So here he was, moved into a new apartment in the Charlottesville area, but he STILL was having transportation problems! In order to get this particular surgery, he would need an assistant to take him to the surgery, be there in the waiting room for the duration of the surgery, and then transport him home afterwards making sure that he was safely in his apartment.

Dennis from First Baptist Church on Park Street has many gifts and talents, so it might seem a shame to waste his talents being a chauffeur, but Dennis has spiritual gifts that give him love and compassion for the lost and

hurting. This time (it is not the first time he has given a ride to someone in need) the risks were much greater.

No one knew at the time Dennis agreed to do the trans-



portation that Covid19 would be rearing its ugly prickly head in such menace. No one knew that the whole state would be on lockdown! But Dennis had a mission. He and his wife, Ruth, took care of Fred not only for the transportation but afterwards. Fred let us know that his surgery had been suc-

cessful. Fred explained that it had been such a time of confusion and great trial for him, but having Dennis and his wife to walk alongside him was an enormous help and made all the difference in the world for him.

Love Is Blind

Because Love in the Name of Christ, Charlottesville/Albemarle does most intakes by phone, very little is known about the demographics of those who call in. Our staff does not ask for that information and it is rarely offered. Staff may be quite surprised later upon meeting our Love INC clients. The client or family may appear quite different from earlier assumptions! Sometimes we are stumped by a male sounding voice with a female first name, but we take folks as they come, asking the spellings of their names.

We have had donors request to give their food or items to “African American” recipients. We have to explain that we are not aware of folks’ race or ethnicity when we take requests so we cannot guarantee that they are “African American.” That being said, we probably assist more folks who might not consider themselves “white” than not. Some families are mixed racially, while others are refugees from other countries, information which may not be immediately known through a telephone call.

Those in need often live in poverty, but occasionally they are not poverty stricken. Love INC makes determinations based on need, not on demographics. An elderly person may need grocery shopping assistance or transportation because they have no family or friends to help. Sometimes they have no idea how to find someone to help, even if they are able to pay.

And of course, with the pandemic, there is much anxie-

ty and apprehension over what might be to come. Families face displacement or eviction. Jobs have been lost and businesses closed. A potentially lethal disease lurks unseen. And just when folks need the consolation of their places of worship the most, restrictions designed to protect congregants place additional obstacles to finding the comfort needed. There are many hardships.

In the midst of all this, Love INC is open to all without inquiring into race or gender or creed or sexual orientation or financial circumstances. We may ask further questions so as not to pair a volunteer and a person in need in such a way as to make either feel uncomfortable, but all services are provided with the love of Christ, given freely as He gave to us. Our mission is still to *mobilize local churches to transform lives and communities In the Name of Christ.*

Thank you for your continued support as we continue to provide for our neighbors in need during these difficult times. Like any ministry, we cannot achieve our mission without your financial support. Please give as you can!



Blessings,
INSERT SIGNATURE
Raymond Klein
Executive Director



LOVE INC OFFICE
Monday through Friday
9 A.M.— 4 P.M.

Telephone Line
Neighbor Help Line:
434-977-7777

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Office Volunteers:

LINC Editor: Jamie Miller

Phone and Office Volunteers:
Staff have rotated coming to the office.

For safety, our loyal volunteers have been given a break while the office is officially closed. Many thanks to them!