

TRANSFORMING FROM INSIDE OUT Love In the Name of Christ

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VOLUME 25 ISSUE IV

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.

Transforming Lives One Car at a Time

In 2014, Bill Heck was watching the news in his hometown of Ft. Lauderdale, FL and was moved by the story of a local organization who was donating cars to single mothers in their community who were in need of transportation.

Bill was drawn to the idea because he could see the profound impact these donations had on the lives of the women and their families. “Owning a reliable car allowed these women to reclaim so much of their day by cutting out the long commute times involved with taking public transportation. It provided these women with more time to be with their kids, so I wanted to be part of making that happen” Bill recalls.

Bill has been the co-owner of The Heritage Inn of Charlottesville, an assisted living and memory care facility located in the Pantops area, since 2011. One of his values as a businessman is to do everything he can to give back and help people in the city his business operates.

After watching the news story, Bill contacted that organization and asked if they would be willing to partner with him to give cars to people in need in Virginia – unfortunately, they were not. This launched Bill on a year-long mission to find the best organization in Charlottesville to partner with in order to give away cars to people who needed them. After numerous meetings and conversations, including one with the mayor, Bill was connected with Love INC.

Bill understood that the biggest challenge to giving away cars would be identifying the recipients to ensure they were truly in need and would have the means to maintain

the car after receiving it as a donation. After meeting with Ray Klein, Executive Director of Love INC, Bill was confident he had found the right organization to partner with. “I really liked Love INC’s philosophy of giving a ‘hand up’ and not just a ‘hand out’” Bill said.

Before Bill and Ray met in 2015, Love INC had received cars from donors occasionally and had been able to donate them to neighbors who required a car to maintain or qualify for employment. Partnering with Bill has allowed Love INC to formalize the program by working with Malloy Ford to identify quality used cars for sale between \$5,000 and \$8,000.

Once identified, the dealership completes a thorough inspection and provides the necessary maintenance at a discount. Love INC then purchases the car using funds donated by Bill on behalf of The



Heritage Inn and notifies the next person on Love INC’s waiting list of neighbors in need of a car. *(For the other side of the story read “Samantha’s Car” - On Page 3)*

In discussing the program, Ray Klein stated “Bill’s desire to give back to the community demonstrates that he is a man with genuine compassion for those struggling to

provide for their families. The joy we see in each recipient is heartwarming and Bill is the catalyst that makes it happen.”

Because of your support, Love INC operates at the intersection of individuals in need and people like Bill who have the desire and means to meet those needs in a way that gives the glory to God! If you would like to learn more about the needs in our community and how you can make a difference please contact Ray Klein at office@loveinccville.org or (434) 977-9777 – we would love to speak with you!

Devoted LINC Editor Takes Well Deserved Retirement

More than twenty-five years ago, I volunteered in the newly opened Love INC office as one of two volunteer coordinators -- at that time not realizing where this would eventually lead me. Well, it wasn't long before there was some clarity. As the leadership of the ministry recognized, there was a need to better inform the growing church and volunteer cadre of the fruit of the ministry-- and to stir more willing hands to use their gifts and talents to serve our community.

And grow it did as others caught the vision. The six original participating churches grew to twelve in the first year and today there are forty-eight partners in the network, with thirty-eight additional churches contributing on occasions. Additionally, the Love INC office coordinates with seventy-two agencies in the community. Since I began, over 28,000 family requests have been met with the love of Christ.

Now, with time passing, the ministry has seen other changes. Since Bob Osborne served as the first executive director and, initially, helped get the ministry headed in the right direction, others have followed. But, in late 2003, Ray Klein came aboard in this role and has helped bring the ministry to an even higher level. One key action he made was to hire Susan Shellito as the first Clearinghouse Coordinator, a role she has served with distinction – including doing all the “leg work” for the love stories you read in

the LINC.

And now, you have the background for what will be the next organizational change. With this issue of the LINC, I am relinquishing my role as editor to Jamie Miller, who has already worked with me for several years as my assistant. Jamie is a seasoned writer, who I am confident will help convey meaningful stories to you of lives being touched through the ministry of Love In the Name of Christ.

While, our records do not tell when I moved into the editorial role, I do know that I was serving as a volunteer when the first issue of the LINC was published in the summer of 1992. Since that time, you have been encouraged to read the love stories of hundreds of families and individuals who have seen that Christians do care enough to invest their time, talents and gifts in helping to meet their needs. Concurrently, many of those helped have been reoriented back towards the church and, for some, into a living relationship with the Lord Himself.

I thank you for your encouragement over these years and pray that you will give Jamie the same support while he takes over the reigns as editor of the LINC.

Bill Landes

The staff at Love In the Name of Christ, wish Bill the very best in enjoying his retirement. Several years ago he moved to be closer to his family but yet continued to give us the leadership and spiritual guidance in our publications. He emphasized the importance of local Churches being the hands and feet of Christ in order that those in need become part of a Christian community. God Bless you, Bill!

Samantha's Car

Samantha* told me her story as we were waiting at the DMV to transfer ownership of her new car. Samantha told me that her parents had come from the Deep South and had “run away” to New England when they were newly married at age 18. She and her sister were born in New England and were raised attending an Episcopal church sporadically. Samantha was baptized in that church. During her teen years her father died, leaving her mother to raise the sisters alone. There were many struggles.

As the girls entered their 20s, their mom decided to move back home with her family in the South. Samantha's sister moved to Virginia. Feeling alone—and by that time, recently divorced with a child of her own—Samantha followed to Virginia to be closer to her sister.

“I had good jobs when I first came to Virginia,” she said. But after 2008 and the market crash, she admitted to having difficulty finding steady work. Considering her situation and her lack of education, Samantha started work at Piedmont Community College to get an Associate's degree in business administration. She worked part time, taking out loans and procuring grants, and she finally made it through the program. But finding a new job was not as easy as she had hoped. Only temporary work kept her and her child from being homeless. She was still struggling. There were job offers, but she lacked independent transportation to jobs outside the bus routes. She turned to Love INC in hopes of getting a car. Here is her “thank you” in her own words!

“My name is Samantha, and I just want to thank the Love INC for the vehicle that was donated to me and the wonderful gentleman who personally made it possible for me to get to the places I need to go. I work with local temp agencies here in Charlottesville, so when they call with a spur-of-the-moment work request, I am now available to fulfill those requests without having to check to see if the business is located near a bus stop.

“I had owned a car three years ago but I didn't have the money to buy a new one when it broke down. I was so hurt, but I prayed and asked God to give me the mindset to accept what happened and to help me move forward and to be thankful that this town does have public transportation. Then I remembered someone telling me about Love INC and how they help people in need. I called, and they explained that there were many people needing assistance and in the same situation as myself, and that they would be happy to put my name on a waiting list. I was very grateful to hear that.

“After waiting through the cold winters and steaming hot summers and the sweat and tears, that won-



derful, blessed call came from Love INC and I just dropped to my knees so happy and thanking God for this organization and for blessing me with transportation to become more self-sufficient and independent—to move forward in life.

“Again, thank you, thank you, thank you, Love INC—and everyone involved with caring for people in Christ's name!”

* Name has been changed.



Love INC
Love In the Name of Christ

Letter from the Executive Director

Merry Christmas!

As the year comes to an end, all of us at Love INC are counting our blessings and thanking God for how he has moved in and through Love INC this year. 2017 has been a year of tremendous growth and change for Love INC and none of it would have been possible without you!

I have had the privilege of serving as the Executive Director of Love INC for nearly 15 years, and I can't remember a time I have been as excited about an initiative as I am about our newly launched Transformational Ministry program that is partnering with local churches to engage in meaningful relationships with neighbors in need to address their true need – an identity built on a relationship with God through Christ.

We are currently offering two programs as part of the initiative. The first program, Redemptive Compassion is designed to help church members better understand the challenges faced by individuals trapped in generational poverty and to cast vision for a discipleship-like approach for lasting change. Participation in Redemptive Compassion is available for individual church members in a setting with other Christians from around the area or can be planned as a program within a single church with no future obligation required of the individual participants or church that is hosting. For those who catch the vision after participating in the Redemptive Compassion program will have an opportunity to serve as 'mentors' in the second program.

The second program, Affirming Your Potential, is a training program for neighbors in need seeking to transform their lives. The program is built on the foundation of helping participants understand the gospel – the good news of the wonderful grace of God – and how a relationship wonderful grace of God – and how a relationship

with God the Father through the atoning work of Jesus Christ changes everything about who they are and why they exist. From this truth, the program helps participants by teaching them skills to overcome the barriers to lasting change and pairs them with a mentor committed to walking alongside them as they seek personal transformation.

To date, we have had two Redemptive Compassion classes with 18 participants and we just completed our eighth Affirming Your Potential class. We are so grateful to our partners at Connect Church and Cross Life Church who got excited about the Transformational Ministry program early and have hosted these first classes.

John Healy, a member at Charlottesville Community Church described his experience in this way:

“Attending the Redemptive Compassion class and learning about the Affirming Your Potential program provided the most biblical and gospel-centered approach to helping those in need that I've encountered. It provided the answer to a question I had been struggling with as a follower of Christ but didn't know how to properly ask before attending.”

Your support – in all of its forms – makes the work of Love INC and initiatives like Transformational Ministry possible. Please do not hesitate to contact me personally at Raymond@loveincville.org or (434) 977-9777 if you would like to meet or have me speak at your next church function. I welcome any

opportunity to share stories about how your support is transforming lives... *in the name of Christ!*



Blessings,

INSERT SCANNED SIGNATURE

Raymond Klein

Executive Director

LOVE INC OFFICE

Monday through Friday
9 A.M.— 4 P.M.

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