



TRANSFORMING FROM INSIDE OUT Love In the Name of Christ

Winter 2019
VOLUME 27 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.

Together We Can

Not all of our clients are, well, pleasant. That's why we love folks like Nancy. Our wonderful donor Nancy called us just before Thanksgiving. She was getting a brand new washer and dryer, but she wanted to donate another set that was too small. Plus, she would let us use her truck and deliver it the day after Thanksgiving. Terrific!

This presented an unusual problem, though, because most of our clients are looking for a washer or a dryer, but not both. Some of our on-file requests stipulated both, but the telephone numbers of those folks were out of service. And another request came from an elderly single mother in a wheelchair who needed so much more than a washer/dryer. So who could we give this great Thanksgiving gift to?

Well, a volunteer named Ben, from the Korean Community Church, had been lovingly delivering food for a few years to a woman we'll call Marla (this was ever since another volunteer, Jeff, from Lake Christian Church, was no longer able to do so). Ben had mentioned the previous month that Marla's washer and dryer were no longer working. Love INC staff asked Ben if he was willing to act as a go-between for Marla and the donors. He agreed.

But Marla wasn't so sure about all this. Did the units even work? And what *size* were these free appliances anyway? Plus, there was a shelf above the old machine that was in the way. Furthermore, what was she going to do with the old appliances? Who would hook up the new ones? And could she really trust them in her home?

We at Love INC have found through the years that patience is a virtue borne of effort, so we put forth our best effort for Marla. Our staff reminded Marla that her "good friend" Ben

was willing to oversee the whole process, and that he knew how to do all kinds of plumbing and carpentry (perhaps the staff exaggerated a little?). "Fine," she said. But she still wanted the model number so she could research it online. We then put Ben and Nancy in touch with each other.

After the fact, Ben explained the operation to us in great detail.

"Hello Susan, I called Marla for more details about her concerns and ended up going over to see her. I finally told her we would make it happen once they delivered the washer and dryer. When I called Nancy back I found out that her son

would be coming in on Friday and he could help. They would give me a call as to when I could get with him to pick up the washer and dryer. He helped me load and unload. Marla's son and I removed the old washer and dryer from inside her apartment to the outside patio.

"So the washer and dryer have been delivered and hooked up. Nancy even had someone there to help me load and unload. I showed Marla how to use the washer and dryer. I believe she is all set. We decided to not stack the dryer, but sit it beside the washer, thereby eliminating the need to remove the shelf she was concerned about."

Ben gave us more of the particulars and then ended with this: "I believe she is happy." Yes, sometimes our clients are difficult—frequently because they're sad, alone, fearful, and sometimes faithless. But we are so grateful for you, Ben and Nancy! You show people God's love. Together you have acted as the hands and feet of Christ.



No One Likes these Procedures Anyway...

It's bad enough for folks to go through a colonoscopy, but these days a patient must have a designated driver to go with him or her and wait during the procedure for the return trip home. A taxicab will not suffice. What is a patient to do without family or available friends?

Love INC has had a number of calls from would-be patients unable to make a colonoscopy appointment until a guaranteed ride has been established. In a couple of cases, the patients have rescheduled their appointments several times when rides have fallen through. Sometimes this is not just a matter of inconvenience—it can be life-threatening when cancer is suspected. Love INC has been trying to meet these transportation needs with the help of caring volunteers from our partner churches.



One lady had to reschedule three times before Love INC got involved. We know her well, having worked with her for more than 20 years. She has a rare disability and requires frequent medical interventions. A driver from Peace Lutheran Church assisted with this transportation. Another man heads a government agency near Washing-

ton D.C., but he has no family and no one in this area able to drive him. He was assisted by Mary, a church volunteer from Chestnut Grove Baptist Church. We also found someone from Living Hope Delivery Outreach Ministries to drive for an additional hospital appointment.

And yet another man had moved to Charlottesville from out of state, but before he could start his new employment, the poor soul had three heart attacks! His doctor, noting substantial weight loss, also recommended a colonoscopy. This patient had to reschedule several times when no ride could be found. He had gone to UVA decades before, but he no longer knew anyone in the area.

For this appointment, Randy, a volunteer from First Baptist Church agreed to be the driver. Sensing the need, Randy has also reached out to this man in friendship to let him know he is not alone. We are grateful

to all our volunteers, but we know we are going to need other drivers in the future...perhaps you?

Not only is driving someone a chance for a volunteer to serve others with the love of Christ, but it is a chance to gently present the Gospel to a person who may not understand the marvelous truths presented in God's Word.

"I Used to Make My Husband's Suits"

Barbara is our new Goodwill Senior Community Service Employment Program volunteer. SCSEP, as it is called, is an on-the-job training and employment program designed to help seniors update their job skills, build work experience and confidence, and continue to have economic security and well-being. Barbara's gentle, soft-spoken ways and her sensitivity to people's feelings make her a perfect candidate for a Love INC volunteer position. In fact, with her social services background and previous volunteering at a Love INC in another state, she is a perfect fit.

The other day, however, she demonstrated a skill we did not know she had. This came about when she found a



very large and very heavy men's overcoat among some donations. "Look," she said, "it's a size 54! Do we know anyone who needs this?" We thought for a minute, then remembered that our friend, Peter, a very large man, didn't have a coat that fit him. We telephoned his wife to inquire. "Peter will come tomorrow," she said.

Peter came the following day—without any jacket at all despite the bitter wind and cold. We showed him the double-breasted coat. He admired it, but couldn't get it buttoned across his chest.

Suddenly Barbara had an idea. She said she could rearrange the buttons so that he could wear it! We searched the office for a needle and heavy thread and Barbara got to work. "I used to make my husband's suits when he was alive," she said. It didn't take her long to make the alterations.

Continued, I Used to Make

Peter put on his new coat which now fit perfectly. “It’s really warm,” he said as he thanked Barbara for her help.

“Disheveled” Was an Understatement

We’ll call her Sophie. She was smart and well-educated, quite capable in many ways, but to look at her, one would never have realized her potential. Sophie came to Love INC, referred by some friends who were exasperated with trying to help without much success. She needed rent and car repair... and a bath! How on Earth could this person ever get a job?

The first thing we needed to do was stabilize Sophie’s housing and her vehicle situation. Her friends in the community were more than willing to help financially; they just had no idea how to help long term. The next thing Love INC did was to get Sophie into our Transformational Ministry class. Surprisingly, she really enjoyed the classes and attended faithfully, week-in and week-out throughout the series. One of the ladies in the class, in

The Least of These

Booker was finally getting an apartment. Of his own! He was being released from jail again, but this time he wouldn’t be going back to his girlfriend and his familiar haunts. He would be working with an agency for ex-offenders and they referred him to Love In the Name of Christ to get furnishings and household items. He took the bus to the Love INC office to find some dishes, flatware, and pots and pans. He was invited by a friend to start attending Love INC’s Transformational Ministry classes. One of our furniture donors offered to deliver some items to Booker, which was helpful as he had no transportation. If Booker had thought no one cared, suddenly God proved the contrary as Booker was surrounded by people taking an interest in him.

Then one day a Love INC volunteer arrived at Booker’s apartment. Looking around, she noticed that he had only the bare minimum of necessities in his kitchen and bathroom. As she scanned Booker’s barren apartment she had an idea. “I wonder if I could help some of these

He went back into the cold morning. Barbara smiled. “I feel like I’ve been useful today,” she said. Yes, Barbara, you are much more than useful! You are a treasure and a God-send here, and we thank the Lord for you every day.

her inimitable and direct manner (we’re talking tough love here), took Sophie to task for showing up with such an appalling lack of hygiene. Sophie seemed to be unaware of the impact it had on others. The classmates also gave tips on how to dress and do self-care. So along with learning life skills such as interacting appropriately and being more open with others, there has been a positive change in her appearance.

Sophie has been able to get a very fulfilling job doing something she is really good at. She looks people in the eye when she talks. She has a new confidence and a re-kindled faith in God. And she no longer looks like an unmade bed. Her life has truly been transformed. Love INC is so grateful for the funding—yours!—that makes possible success stories like Sophie’s. Likewise, we remain constantly amazed by the Lord’s goodness as He looks after those who have fallen through the cracks.

Love INC clients who are getting apartments for the very first time,” she thought. The wheels began to turn.

This wonderful volunteer formulated a plan and ran it past the Love INC staff. She would gather together items for the kitchen and bath—incorporating Love

INC donations whenever possible—and then prepare Housewarming Boxes for folks setting up house for the first time. Love INC would give her the name and address (with the individual’s permission, of course) of clients who might appreciate a box of love for their new homes.



So far we have given our volunteer three names of new households in our area. And we’re not finished! Because of Booker and the visionary who helped him, Love INC now has a wonderful new ministry. It certainly is a joy to serve God by serving His people. Matthew 25 speaks to this: “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”

Wheat and Chaff

In our struggles with the never-ending forces of malevolence in this tiny area of galactic space, Love INC has managed to uncover a number of unscrupulous people asking for help. For example, we have a client with several accomplices—and aliases!—attempting to fleece churches and agencies. As well, there's a potentially dangerous man from our past who has resurfaced, and we discovered that one of our clients had a previously undiagnosed mental illness. We've also encountered a mendacious family group, now banned from the office, and there have been a multitude of false claims of theft and disaster that prove unverifiable.

We are kept *quite* busy! And we say it again and again: "Before you give away your church's money, please check with Love INC." Chances are good that we'll be able to unearth some of our long-time scammers in new guise.

Think of Love INC as the hub of a wheel with churches as the spokes. When a request for assistance is referred to Love INC, it eliminates the possibility of a neighbor in need visiting multiple churches for the same thing. Referring a person to Love INC also allows us to do a thorough intake and vetting process on

behalf of that church. This is the role of the Love INC Clearinghouse.

On the other hand, our Love INC staff has been able to find assistance for a number of legitimate clients unable to help themselves due to age, disability, or catastrophic illness. We report to the referring churches what we have found. And we are no longer shy about asking for funding for those in desperate straits. Of late, ten individuals and families have received rental and utility assistance at the recommendation of Love INC staff. Eighteen others were denied. And we give out-of-state people who call us, phone numbers of their local agencies that might be able to assist.

Through the years, and through trial and error, Love INC has become worldly wise, so today we try to live out the biblical injunction of Matthew 10:16: "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves." For us, that means exercising discernment and compassion, all In the Name of Christ.



Blessings,
INSERT SIGNATURE
Raymond Klein
Executive Director



Office Volunteers:

LINC Editor: Jamie Miller

Phone and Office Volunteers:

Betty Bradney, Barbara Brown,
Audria Hicks,
Virginia Morris, Phyllis Penley,
Pat Searle, Bonnie Taylor,

And the small army of wonderful volunteers that get our mailings out on time!

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
Raymond Klein, Bill Lloyd,
Ricker Polsdorfer,
Bill Riesmeyer Secretary,
William Ward, Butch Wells

Staff:
Executive Director: Raymond Klein

Clearinghouse Coordinator:
Susan Shellito

Furniture Coordinator:
Patina Blakey

Intake Specialist: Bonita Howard

Transformational Coordinator
Bill Lloyd

Accountant: Laura Woodworth,