



# TRANSFORMING FROM INSIDE OUT Love In the Name of Christ

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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.

## “I Can’t Believe You Remembered Me!”

One of the great blessings of being at Love in the Name of Christ since 1991 is re-connecting with folks we haven’t heard from in years. It is always a blessing for our staff to find out how the clients are doing. But sometimes it can be a greater blessing to a client at the end of her rope to hear that friendly voice on the phone—“Oh, hi! I remember you! You called us years ago! How are things going for you?”

One time a mom called on behalf of her daughter, now grown and experiencing great difficulties. She was not only remembered but the staff knew the daughter and some of the issues leading to the present difficulties. “So you know about J\_\_\_ and what she is like?” Suddenly the mom gave a great sigh of relief, “I don’t have to go into everything. You know what I’m going through!”

Another mom, along with all of her other issues, had a problem with anxiety, which led to impulsive and angry outbursts. Our staff knew this from previous encounters and treated her accordingly—patiently and gently, as any of us would like to be treated. We have “educated” others who deal with her so that she is accommodated according to her weakness.



Yet another mother was a walk-in. With tears in her eyes, she told us she was pregnant...*again*. We remembered that she was already overwhelmed with children and that she had her tubes tied several years ago. She had found a job and the other children were in school, but now this! We put our arms around her for love and comfort, and then we set her up at the diaper ministry *again*. “Whatever you need, just call us!”

Then there was the time that a man called us with a somewhat rambling story about a father-in-law who had a terminal illness. One staff person recalled the man’s name, but couldn’t figure out who he was. As it turned out, we knew his wife very well but had never spoken with *him*! We then made the connections, and our churches were able to step in and assist the dying man.

A JAUNT employee called with a request about a man needing a one-way ride to his brother’s home each week. Not only did our Love INC staffers remember who the two brothers were—dating all the way back to 2008!—but they remembered the backstory and which churches to ask for help. The JAUNT employee was quite surprised!

There can be another side to all of this wonderful knowledge, though. Rev. L H telephoned us about a

## Remembered, continued

request his church office had received for children's school clothing. The kindly pastor had a gift card and was planning to take it to the woman making the request. Love INC staff asked the address of the person in need, and *Oh my!* That seemed to be the residence of one of our longtime scammers! A quick phone call to the Department of Social Services proved our suspicions to be correct. Our pastor saved the gift card and later gave it to someone truly in need. In Matthew 10:16, we are told, "Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves." We get the point: as well as being loving, we must be wary.

At Love INC, we have churches calling us every day about people looking for assistance. That's just as it should be. Sometimes we simply jump in and recommend help, but not infrequently, we recognize a name from the past and with that knowledge guide the churches in the wisest course of action.

## Blessings All Around

**E**llen had no one to give her a ride. It turned out that Sherry, a parishioner from City Church, wanted to volunteer with Love INC, but she was unsure of her capabilities in doing so. Kim, a social worker at Sentara Health, was trying to work the whole thing out. Add to the mix Love INC, where we are constantly matching church volunteers with people in need. Now if all these players could just figure out a game plan.

Our Ellen was a dear old lady who was quite ill. She really needed Medicaid. Ellen qualified for medical assistance but couldn't sign up for it without a proper Commonwealth of Virginia ID card. Although she had the necessary forms of identification to obtain an ID card, Ellen was too weak to take a cab and walk into the DMV, never mind stand in the long lines waiting to be served. Estranged from her family, Ellen seemed to be all alone in the world. So Kim called Love INC to ask if there was a kind soul willing to pick up Ellen at her apartment and drive her to the DMV, helping her while she got the identification card.

Unsure of herself, Sherry was hesitant to say yes. But that's when Kim and Love INC put together a plan that Sherry was comfortable with. It worked. Sherry accompanied Ellen to the DMV and Ellen finally got

Medicaid. Of course, along with that came another blessing from the Lord: as it turned out, Sherry and Ellen got along famously and forged a new friendship! The experience was great for both of them, giving Sherry confidence and giving Ellen the comfort of knowing that there were people who cared about her.

What we did not know at the time and only found out recently was that getting Ellen's identification and Medicaid would be an emotional turning point for her. Ellen's Medicaid opened the doors for her doctor, Dr. Kellams, and her other social worker, Rob Hull (well known to Love INC), and Hospice of the Piedmont to work with her on family issues and reconciliation. These services were invaluable to Ellen and they helped mend many fences—and hearts, too.

Ellen saw great contentment before she died, and in the recent obituary, we were happy to see the family's healing. Her daughter penned these words: "Mom enjoyed reading, going out to eat, and social time; her friends were important to her! I would like to thank Dr. Kellams, Rob Hull, Hospice of the Piedmont, and the staff at the Cedars Nursing Facility for their care! Going through this journey with her, I learned that love, courage, forgiveness, friendship, and faith heal all wounds!"



## Just a Place to Live

Life always has obstacles to throw at us. Sadly, some people have to duck a lot more than others. Such a person came to us recently at Love INC.

Lisa Marie's story is one of determination. She first emailed Love INC asking about a place to live. Her situation was a little hard to fathom: Lisa Marie was dealing with disability, spousal abuse, and homelessness while at the same time doggedly attending classes to earn a nursing license. She had moved across the country to be a live-in caregiver for an elderly gentleman in western Albemarle, but he came to need more care than Lisa Marie could provide, a nursing home, so she was facing homelessness. Lisa Marie was an amputee, but she was an excellent caregiver and was very eager for another placement. Further, she was getting her own medical care through Blue Ridge PACE, and she was going to school to get her nursing license. Wow!

She neglected to give us any personal information, though, so we were unable to contact her again. Besides, we did not have any inquiries for a caregiver, never mind one with a disability. A month passed. Then Hillsboro Baptist Church contacted us about



her, verifying Lisa Marie's information and filling in some of the blanks for us. Could we find her a home? A room to rent? Another placement?

At Hillsboro's recommendation, we put out a call for help. Nancy answered from Ruckersville. She had an extra room and would have liked the company. She was retired and could also use a nice person to share the rent. Several other kind volunteers called with offers for Lisa Marie, though they were out of the range of Lisa Marie's healthcare provider, a significant issue in her housing concerns. But then the perfect placement opportunity arrived.

Barbara, the pastor's wife at Mountain Plain Baptist Church, saw the request. She had been looking all over for a live-in caretaker for an elderly person she had been working with. Seemingly no one wanted a live-in position. She called us quite excitedly! And with that same excitement, we put her in touch with Hillsboro Baptist Church and Lisa Marie. To make things even better, the potential placement was nearby, right in town!

Now *that* is God's planning! Two churches, each with a person in need, connected by Love INC to assist two of their church family members. Working as we do at Love INC, we see this kind of thing over and over, and we know that in God's kingdom, there's no such thing as a coincidence.

## Many Thanks to Eddy Family Chiropractic!

Jonathan Eddy, whose office is next door to Love in the Name of Christ on Spotnap Road, would often watch our volunteer, Linda, struggle to and from her car at work. Dealing with M.S. and numerous surgeries on her neck, Linda was often in terrible pain, accompanied by debilitating headaches. Dr. Eddy saw Linda's struggles each day and decided to speak to us about her. "I think I can help," he told us. "At least I can help her with the pain." That was in the early summer.

With disregard as to insurance reimbursement, Dr. Eddy began meeting with Linda once a week. What an amazing difference in a few short months! Her pain level has

dropped significantly. She doesn't fall as she did before. She walks upright for the first time since we have known her. And there are no more headaches! Yes, the change is miraculous.

But this happy story does have a downside...sort of. For the first time in years, Linda is now able to be on her feet for a regular 8-hour day. She has found competitive employment in the community. So now we no longer have her in the office, unless she chooses to come and grace us with her presence. But that's a loss we're pretty happy to absorb! So, thank you, Dr. Eddy. Thank you for your kindness and generosity. The Lord sees this goodness in you, and He is greatly pleased.

For my **Executive Director** comments, I'd like to share a testimonial of one of our Transformational Ministry participants, one person's Love INC experience:

## **“The Unity is AMAZING!”**

**I felt so alone ... I didn't know where to begin ...**

**Love INC made me feel human...**

**I actually felt a part of something ... I started to have hope again ...**

**See a way when there was no way ... You have no idea what it means ...**

**All together teaching each other something ... I was able to pass it on ...**

**All we have is each other ... Felt more from life than in years ...**

**Showing me, not JUDGING me ...**

**I miss our time in class; once you start learning, you want to be there more & more ...**

**An act of kindness, to sit down, eat & talk**

What better impact could we have on our society than to connect people with our churches and bring a sense of community, one small group at a time? Experiencing God's love through our local churches will change hearts. A small number of churches have taken that leap of faith to support Transformation, wanting to bring change to our community.

**Would YOUR CHURCH like to experience**

**The excitement of sharing in Transformation?**

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Monday through Friday  
9 A.M.— 4 P.M.

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Neighbor Help Line: 434-977-7777

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Blessings,

INSERT SIGNATURE

Raymond Klein

Executive Director

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