

Love Notes

A Quarterly Newsletter from Love INC of North Oakland County

Winter 2015

Many Thank Yous Owed in 2014

THANK YOU! THANK YOU to the individuals, partner churches, and businesses who held fundraisers for Love INC of North Oakland County in 2014. Your generosity allows us to focus on giving hope to our neighbors and strengthening the Body of Christ by serving people in need within our community. We couldn't do it without you!

The Esther and George Jaruga Charitable Foundation

was established in 2012. Dr. Jaruga was a successful dentist with a large practice in North Oakland County. Esther was a prolific artist. It was their wish to leave

A huge thank you to **Golling Buick GMC** General Manager John Cooper, Bill Kokenos, and the Golling staff for sponsoring the 8th Annual Cruise In on September 20th. The event raised over \$4000 to help meet the needs of low income families and individuals in our area. What a blessing Golling Buick GMC is to our community and Love INC. With your support, we can help our less fortunate neighbors with rent, utilities, food, clothing, household items, personal needs, car repairs, laundry vouchers, gas cards and more.



In October, **The Girlfriends Walk** in Downtown Oxford collected over 500 hats, gloves, underwear, socks and personal need items for our Clothes Closet and Little Luxuries Ministries. The annual event is sponsored by a group of Downtown Oxford women business owners who support each other, their businesses and our community. Their generosity helped replenish our shelves just as the Michigan weather turned cold. The event

also raised \$489. We are grateful for the generosity you have shown our community!

The **Schrauger Family Memorial 5K** took place in November. Love INC issued a Partner Church Challenge. Lake Orion United Methodist Church enlisted the most participants in the 5K. Congratulations! We thank the Schrauger family, the Race Committee and the participants for raising over \$3600 for Love INC. This generous support helps us continue to operate our Clearinghouse, where we helped over 500 families in need in 2014. The 2015 race will be on November 14.



Joanne Clarke delivers a very special gift to Love INC Board President, Don Stevens.

a legacy that benefits organizations supporting religious causes, animal welfare, education and the arts. Love INC was chosen as one of this year's beneficiaries. We offer a heartfelt thank you to the Foundation. Because of your generosity, we are able to carry out our mission to transform lives and communities In the Name of Christ.



The Schrauger Family Memorial 5K raised over \$3600 for Love INC.

Love INC of North Oakland County Staff

Executive Director
Deborah Nelson

Clearinghouse Coordinator
Jenny Hoder

Office Assistant
Rose Pond

Board Members

Rochelle Beckemeyer, *Chair*

Daniel Stevens, *Vice Chair*

Don Stevens, *Treasurer*

Deb Lasko, *Secretary*

Tom Korleski

Michael Pelletier



Love INC

Partner Churches

- Auburn Hills Christian Center
- Christ the King Church
- Christ the Redeemer Catholic Church
- Community Church of Christ
- Echo Christian Fellowship
- Firmly Rooted Ministries
- Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
- Howarth United Methodist Church
- Immanuel Congregational Church
- Kensington Community Church
- King of Kings Lutheran Church
- Lake Orion Church of Christ
- Lake Orion United Methodist Church
- Lakeville United Methodist Church
- Living Word Lutheran Church
- New Beginnings Baptist Church
- Oxford Free Methodist Church
- Oxford United Methodist Church
- Paint Creek United Methodist Church
- Pathway Baptist Church
- Seymour Lake United Methodist Church
- St. Joseph Catholic Church
- St. Mary's in the Hills
- Waypoint Church
- Woodside Bible Church, Lake Orion Campus



From the Board

Newness and Growth

Looking back at 2014 in our Love INC affiliate, I will always remember the year as one of **newness**: new executive director, new transformational ministry coordinator and ministry model, new board membership and leadership. Change is difficult, however, and so I will also remember 2014 as a year of challenges. Through it all, the Clearinghouse staff and ministry volunteers continued to carry the vision by working tirelessly to serve the community, “strengthening the church and helping our neighbors find hope.”

As 2015 begins, we are excited to be looking ahead to a year of growth! Look for a maturing of our affiliate as we grow some new transformational ministries, increase church involvement,

train and expand our board, establish a long-term strategic plan, and develop healthy operational policies. Just typing all of that, I realize it will certainly be another year of challenges! If we weren't doing the work in the Lord's strength, and if we weren't working alongside fellow servants like you, all of this change might be overwhelming. Instead of being fearful, however, we go forward together in His power, and we head into this year with faith, hope, and love... in the Name of Christ! Looking forward to seeing you around town!

Rochelle Beckemeyer, Board Chair

2014 Statistics

2581.5	506	1537	3533.5
Clearinghouse Volunteer Hours	Families Served	Family Needs Met	Clothes Closet, Little Luxuries & Bed, Blessings & Beyond Volunteer Hours

Executive Director Deborah Nelson

A New Addition to Our Team

My name is Deborah Nelson. I am the Executive Director

recently hired to join the Love In the Name of Christ team serving North Oakland County.

I feel deeply grateful and humbled to step into such a welcoming environment and excited about what this next chapter will present for our affiliate. Sandy Weaver, the former Executive Director, and the Board of Directors have graciously welcomed me to join

the team. I am excited to continue the partnership with Sandy as she assumes a vital volunteer role.



Love INC Executive Director Deborah Nelson

I come to this role with a background in the not-for-profit environment. I most recently served as Supervisor of Service Coordinators at a low barrier homeless shelter in Pontiac. I have over 10 years' experience serving the homeless, and it is through these ministries that I have developed a passion to see

churches working together to meet the needs of those less fortunate in our communities. Love INC plays

Looking for a Way to Serve?

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

– 1 Peter 4:10

Everyone has gifts and talents. Are you looking to share yours? We would love to talk to you! Love INC gives Christians specific, manageable opportunities to put their faith and love to work in the service of people in need. Here are a few opportunities:

The Clearinghouse

We are looking for receptionists to answer calls that come in to Love INC, or, for deeper involvement, consider a more in-depth conversation as an Intake worker. Both roles seek individuals who model Christ's empathy, provide a listening ear and pray with those in need. Both positions are available on Tuesday mornings starting at 9:00 a.m. Reception ends at 12:30 p.m. and Intake finishes at 2:00 pm.

Call the Love INC Clearinghouse at 248-693-4357 to purchase your 2015 discount card benefitting Love INC! Only \$10!

a vital role in partnering with the Church to reach and serve those in need of food, clothing, and the Good News of Jesus Christ.

My family consists of my husband, Ric, and our daughters Erica, Erinn, and Emily. Erica and her husband Nic have 5-year-old Lilia. Erinn and her husband Mike and they have Mallory, 18 months. Emily is a high school senior. We live in Highland and are members of Highland Community Church.

I consider it a privilege to be part of an organization whose purpose is to mobilize the Christian Church in order to transform lives and communities in the Name of Christ! I look forward to seeing what God has in store for us as we work together to fulfill this goal!

Prayer Ministry

Do you have a heart for prayer? We are in need of individuals who can commit to praying for Love INC. You are emailed a weekly list of prayer requests for our clients, volunteers, and staff.

Clothing Closet and Personal Care Ministries

What about serving an afternoon once a month at our Little Luxuries personal care ministry? Or at our Clothing Closet? Both serve our neighbors in three hours shifts.

Clearinghouse Volunteer Coordinator and Resource Coordinator

These positions work hand-in-hand to bring together volunteers and resources to help meet needs in our community. Knowledge of our community churches and serving agencies is requested.

Board of Director Position

Love INC seeks individuals from our partner churches willing to serve on our Board of Directors. This position includes a 3 to 6 hour a month commitment as well as a 2 hour monthly Board meeting. We seek individuals with a background in business, finances, human resources, policy making and marketing. If interested, call Debbie at the Clearinghouse.

Office Assistant

Do you have the gift of organizing and efficiency? Do you love to file, type and keep track of office sup-

plies? We are seeking an individual to help at the Clearinghouse with day-to-day office tasks and special projects. Days and times are flexible to your schedule.

To learn more about volunteer opportunities, please call Debbie Nelson or Jenny Holder our Clearinghouse at 248-693-4357.

A LOVE Story

This story begins with a gentleman who has not been able to work for several years after being hurt on the job. The outlook from the doctors gives great concern and things look bleak. We received the distressful call that he was in great need of food and was very hungry. He had just been released from the hospital and had no transportation available. He was in a lot of pain. He had lost a lot of weight and his clothes no longer fit. And, on top of all this, his rent was behind due to theft while he was in the hospital.

We were able to get some emergency food from one of our partner churches delivered to him that evening. Later we gave him resources for transportation, a food pantry referral, rent resources, a voucher to our clothing closet, personal needs and household ministries and 2 different resources for support group meetings. We were also able to help out with a winter coat and gloves through a volunteer donor. In time, we were also able to coordinate help for his rent arrearage through three partner churches.

We spoke with him recently and he said he's doing ok now. Things are still not great, but he's trusting in the Lord. He deeply appreciates all the help he has received. We will continue to follow-up and see how he's progressing.



Thank you for your support...

- Yes, I would like to help with a monthly pledge of:
 - \$25 \$50 \$75 \$100 Other _____
- I would like to give a one-time gift of \$ _____
- Please send me more information about Love INC



Name

Address

City/State/ZIP

Home Phone

Alternate Phone

Email

Mail to:
 Love INC of
 North Oakland County
 P.O. Box 104
 Lake Orion, MI 48361

248-693-HELP
www.loveincfnoc.org
 PayPal option available online.



Upcoming Events

Love INC Month: Look for our February calendar at a church near you! We included a daily thought or challenge to help you "Think Love INC!"

Love INC & Paint! Sunday, Feb. 8. Enjoy an afternoon of painting and fun...in the name of Christ! For info/ registration visit www.picassograpevine.com. Bring new/gently used household items to be entered in a drawing for great prizes!

Italia Gardens Fundraiser: Sunday Feb. 22. Restaurant will donate 25% of sales all day.

Wojo's Spring Fundraisers: Thursday, May 21 and Saturday, May 30. Mention Love INC at any Wojo's location; 10% of your purchase donated to Love INC! (excludes gift card purchases)

Golling Cruise In Car Show: Saturday, Sept. 19.

Schrauger Family 5K Run: Saturday, Nov. 14.

www.loveincfnoc.org ♥ 248-693-HELP



Love INC of North Oakland County
 P.O. Box 104
 Lake Orion, MI 48361

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