



Love INC
Love In the Name of Christ



Winter 2011

Love INC of North Oakland County

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Sandra Weaver
Executive Director
Kimberlyn Spilko
Clearinghouse Coordinator
Rose Pond
Office Assistant

BOARD MEMBERS:

Tricia Chapman
Chairperson
Rochelle Beckemeyer
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Dick Sullivan
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Jennifer Comer
Peggy Bartz
Denise Fouracre
Renee Miller
Roberta (Bobbi) Patton

What's Inside

Love INC Movement

Members come back from national conference reinvigorated. Learn all about the local focus.

3

More Love Stories

Think we can't make a difference? Read how we're working together to transform lives.

5

www.loveincfnoc.org

Help with a Hand Up Not a Hand Out

By Sandy Weaver, Executive Director

There has been a lot of controversy recently in regards to the sanctions placed by the State House on families who do not meet family self-sufficiency plan requirements due to the recent passage of House Bills 4409. It is anticipated that several families will be losing their financial assistance due to a 48-month lifetime cumulative total for collecting family independence program assistance. House Bill 4410 has since revised the criteria that relates to exemptions. Both Bills were effective October 1, 2011. For further information, Google: House Bill 4409/4410.

What does this mean for Love INC of North Oakland County?

It is anticipated that there will be several more individuals who will be inclined to call our clearinghouse for financial assistance. It has always been the mission of Love INC of NOC to build a relationship with everyone who calls for help and to not just help with a "quick fix" to their dilemma, but to equip them to work on long-term solutions.
(Continued on page 2)

Love is the best gift of all.

Donate to Love INC of North Oakland County.
248-693-4357 (HELP) www.loveincfnoc.org

Love INC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Help with a Hand Up...

Continued from page 1

Many individuals or families are unable to work through no fault of their own and Love INC of NOC has been able to help them supplement their income by utilizing many of our free services offered such as:

- Obtaining free clothing at our Clothes Closet
- Shopping for household items at Bed, Blessings, & Beyond
- Receiving free personal products at Little Luxuries
- Providing Gas Cards so that individuals can obtain employment or get to their jobs
- Providing Laundry Vouchers if they do not have a washer or dryer
- Providing Free Meals at four area churches – four nights a week
- Receiving Budget Counseling with one of our own trained counselors
- Providing Job Networking through our support group: "Transitions".
- Counseling at various Love INC Churches for Grief, Substance Abuse, Marriage, Divorce, Stephen Ministry, etc.

Referrals are given for Financial Assistance to various Agencies such as: DHS, OLHSA, Lighthouse, Oxford/Orion FISH, Rochester Neighborhood House, just to name a few.

We need your help!

It is time that we move forward in developing more ministries to help those in need. It is imminent that we need to have a building or location where we can expand our clearinghouse, store furniture and appliances as they are donated, and make it more convenient for individuals to obtain the help that they need.

We cannot do this without more funds! Our churches have provided close to 60% of our income to support our programming. We are finding that many churches are having difficulties meeting their own budget needs at this time, as many of their own members have lost their jobs or homes due to the economic crisis.

Therefore, we need more funding from **Individuals** and **Businesses** in order to accomplish our goals in meeting the needs in our community.

As you are considering your year-end donations, won't you please open your hearts and your checkbooks for those in your own community who need help? We now have a "new poor" and we need to reach out to them! An envelope and a donation form are provided at the back of this newsletter.

As we enter this season of Thanksgiving, I pray that God will bless you and your family!

Blessings, Sandy

*And God is able to make all
grace abound to you so that
in all things at all times, having
all that you need, you will
abound in every good work.*

2 Corinthians 9:8 - NJV

Love INC, A Spiritual Movement

By Tricia Chapman, Board Chairperson

The Love INC National Conference took place the end of October and the theme was: **Love INC - The Defining Difference**. Two staff members and one board member represented your North Oakland County affiliate. This truly was a defining conference. As many of you know, Love INC National restructuring began in January 2011. In the past 10 months, many positive changes have taken place. From our perspective, these changes are strengthening the Love INC movement throughout our nation. Here are the key highlights:

- 1 The Love INC Mission Statement.
The mission of Love In the Name of Christ is to mobilize local churches to transform lives and communities In the Name of Christ. The wording on the mission statement has been changed to “mobilize **local** churches.” This challenges all the local churches in a community to do mission work in their community. We need to continue to be willing to enter into relationships that have the potential to change lives.
- 2 Every affiliate must have these characteristics:
 - a. Is a Christian ministry
 - b. Networks Christian churches from at least 6 different denominations to work together.
 - c. Forms a nonprofit corporation governed by a local Board of Directors.
 - d. Helps churches organize their volunteers to be available to serve when needed.
 - e. Operates a Clearinghouse where intake staff and volunteers screen requests for help to their nature, extent, and legitimacy.
 - f. Connects people in need with church ministries and church volunteers to meet those needs.
 - g. Builds relationships with community agencies.
 - h. Depends on church volunteer involvement.
 - i. Increases the capacity of churches by assessing community needs and creating new ministry opportunities to meet those needs.
 - j. Brings a clear vision of how God can use mobilized local churches to transform lives and communities in the name of Christ. (Continued on page 4)

Love INC, A Spiritual Movement

Continued from page 3

- 3 Love INC's Value to Local Churches.
 - a. **Unifies the Body of Christ** by bringing local churches together and coordinating their vast resources of expertise, talent, time, and product.
 - b. **Empowers hundreds of volunteers** to use their gifts and talents for legitimate, manageable service opportunities.
 - c. **Oversees a central Clearinghouse** to receive, screen, clarify, and resource needs, tracking client history for reference.
 - d. **Develops a working knowledge and awareness of existing community resources**, identifying service gaps, and pursuing possible solutions.
 - e. **Receives, inventories, and resources a variety of donated products** and coordinates gift-in-kind donations from local businesses.
 - f. **Provides free services and donated products** to assist needy families with both immediate and long-term help.
 - g. **Transforms lives** by offering life-changing opportunities through accountable incentive-based long-term programs that move people from need to living independent, full lives.
 - h. **Promotes good stewardship** by focusing on the person not just their expressed need, seeking to offer people a hand up not a hand out.
 - i. **Offers unique value** because no other business, entity, or organization has the manpower, resources, time or expertise to provide this type of voluntary service – only the unified Body of Christ.
- Over the next few months, the Staff, Board of Directors and several volunteers will assess how well our affiliate is meeting these objectives. Three questions will be asked: Are we doing Love INC? Are we doing Love INC well? Can we do Love INC better? We would ask that you would continue to pray for our affiliate and for the Love INC Movement. It is a spiritual movement that must be anchored in prayer.... for when anchored in prayer, the good work that we are doing becomes a God work that He is doing through us. What a privilege and calling by our Lord and Savior.
- And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. Ephesians 6:18*
- God's Peace, Tricia



Return of Board Member

Peggy Barry Bartz was a member of the original board of LOVE INC of North Oakland County. She is an ecumenical, liturgical musician from this area, and her ministry has taken her as a troubadour to many churches in the Metro-Detroit area. She is also an expert seamstress and designer. She teaches both piano and voice lessons locally, and directs an all-male glee club, *The Gentlemen Songsters*. Her business is called *A Rose in the Road*, which signifies the beauty we can find as we travel the road of life. Peggy has invented a character, Margaisa, the Fairy Godmother. She brings joy to those who need it. As she says, "I don't do miracles, and I can't make anyone fall in love with you, but other than that, I can do a lot!"

Enjoy a few of our recent LOVE stories

One of our clients moved to the Oxford/Lake Orion area after his mother passed away. She was a guiding force in his life, so it was important for him to be around caring people. He had purchased a mobile home for \$1, and as you can imagine, it required many major repairs. He had called several places asking for help. One of our Love INC churches helped him with leveling his trailer, repairing his water heater and insulating his trailer. Another church helped to repair the transmission on his car and purchase car insurance. Most of all, he needed counseling and someone to guide him with his life challenges. He is now receiving the medications that he needs for chronic pain and attends church on a regular basis. He is coping with life's challenges because of the relationships built by Love, INC.

A mother called to see if she could get help with paying the last \$350 needed for her daughter to start attending Cosmetology School. Two Love INC churches were able to pay the amount needed. Because of this, a young lady has a bright future ahead of her and is able to obtain her goals.

A woman moved into the area after inheriting her mother's home, and was finding it difficult to afford everything as a recent retiree. A partner church she was attending referred her to Love INC for help with food. Through a referral from Love INC, she was able to receive food on a regular basis from FISH. She is also attending the Community Free Meals program, as well as other ministries Love INC offers such as the "Clothes Closet" and "Bed, Blessings, & Beyond." She will begin looking for work through our "Transitions" ministry in hopes that she will be able to secure enough income to live comfortably from now on. Love INC has been her saving grace!



Our Partner Churches

Auburn Hills
Christian Center

Christ the King Church

Christ the Redeemer
Catholic Church

Community of
Christ Church

Echo Christian
Fellowship

Good Shepherd
Lutheran Church

Howarth
United Methodist Church

Immanuel
Congregational
Church

Kensington
Community Church

King of Kings
Lutheran Church

Lake Orion
Church of Christ



Love to Laugh Festival was a **BIG HIT**

By Jennifer Comer

This year's Love to Laugh Festival was so much fun and a great way to bring Love INC partner churches together! A warm thank you to King of Kings Lutheran Church for hosting this year's event, as well as all who volunteered.

Everyone enjoyed the variety of music, entertainment and games. The sunshine and warm weather brought out the Army, the Lake Orion Fire and Police Departments, along with many local businesses. With all the contributions from area businesses such as HAP, Villa de Gucci and Angela Duva-McConnell from State Farm, Lake Orion Learning Center and King of Kings we were able to provide t-shirts to our volunteers.

Contributions from Salon U, Funky Monkey, The Oxford Chiropractor, Alexander's Car Wash and others allowed for a great silent auction. A Lion's autographed football was included in the auction and sparked quite a bidding war.

Next year promises to be even better! Plan now to join in and have your church or group participate. We would love to laugh with you!

Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are all parts of his body, and each one of us has different work to do. And since we are all one body in Christ, we belong to each other, and each of us needs all the others. Romans 12:4-6 NLT



Our Partner Churches

Lake Orion
United Methodist Church

Lakeville
United Methodist Church

Living Word
Lutheran Church

Oxford
Free Methodist Church

Oxford
United Methodist Church

Paint Creek
United Methodist Church

Pathway on the Hill
Baptist Church

Seymour Lake
United Methodist Church

St. Joseph's
Catholic Church

St. Mary's in the Hills
Episcopal Church

Clothing Ministry – Located at St. Mary's in the Hills Episcopal Church

2512 Joslyn Rd. – Lake Orion, MI
New or gently used clothing for children and adults.
Hours for drop off of clothing are Tuesday's and Thursday's from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m. (noon).

Household Goods Ministry – Located at Christ the King Church

1550 W. Drahner Rd. – Oxford, MI (west of M-24)
Household and miscellaneous goods such as pots and pans, dishes, glasses, bedding, towels & washcloths, small appliances, blenders, toasters, microwaves, etc.
Hours for drop off of items are Tuesday's and Thursday's from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m. (noon).

Little Luxuries – Located at Christ the King Church

1550 W. Drahner Rd. – Oxford, MI
Everyday necessities such as: soap, colognes and perfumes, deodorants, make-up, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoos, etc. Hours for drop off are Tuesday's and Thursday's from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m. (noon).

STATISTICS

YTD Calls Rec'd – 3,776

Church Referrals Given: 542

Agency Referrals Given: 879

Family Beneficiaries: 562

Families Needs Met: 1829

Love INC Operation Volunteers: 36

Love INC Volunteer Hours: 2,819

Church Volunteers: 159

Church Volunteer Hours: 2,936

Nature photography courtesy of Dick Lowthian.

Love INC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

- Yes I want 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.



Love INC
Love In the Name of Christ

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

248-693-HELP
www.loveincfnoc.org

Name: _____	
Address: _____	
City: _____	
State: _____	Zip: _____
Home Phone: _____	
Work Phone: _____	
Email: _____	

Love INC of North Oakland County
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