

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.

Picture This!

Oftentimes we find volunteers who have special talents and interests, who want to use their gifts to serve others through Love in the Name of Christ. Recently, Sandy King shared that she loved photography and offered to take photos for us as opportunities became available.

Sandy, who attends Northside Baptist Church, moved to Charlottesville four years ago after the passing of her husband. A native of Richmond, Sandy attended Fairmont Christian Church for many years until she moved to Charlottesville to be near her family.

“Over my years in Richmond,” Sandy tells us, “I did many volunteer jobs for my church— Vacation Bible School, Sunday School teacher, etc. At Fairmount, I took photographs of new members and did other photography for them as needed. “I was a professional photographer for over 30 years and started my career at the International Mission Board in Richmond [a Baptist mission-sending agency].

When Sandy offered her photography services, we began praying and thinking about how we could utilize her. Then we thought, *What if we got Sandy to visit each of*

our “gap” ministry partnerships to take photos of all the wonderful volunteers serving neighbors in need?

Sandy was thrilled to be part of this project, and she quickly got to work setting up times to visit each of these ministries. She was able to capture so many pictures of Love in action! After each gap ministry visit, Sandy would come to our office to show us the photos she captured. She especially loved the ones that encapsulated the joy on our neighbors’ faces as they were shown Love in the Name of Christ through the various ministry volunteers.



Sandy even came to a special gathering we had in our office to celebrate Susan Shellito’s retirement. She sat quietly in the background, looking for the opportune picture-perfect moments to capture on camera. We are so thankful for Sandy’s willingness to share her gifts with Love INC, and we are grateful for all of the volunteers who lovingly serve our neighbors in need—in the Name of Christ! We hope you enjoy this special edition of the LINK filled with pictures of Love in the Name of Christ! ■

All Blessings Flow – Medical Equipment

All Blessings Flow, one of Love INC’s partner ministries, is a nonprofit ministry that exists to provide free medical equipment to people in need while spreading God’s blessings throughout the community. Annie Dodd is the Executive Director, and since 2015, over 9,000 people have been blessed with needed medical equipment. All



those who receive items from All Blessings Flow are also given a small purple bag with a Bible and a gift-wrapped wooden cross. Whenever we receive medical supply donations at Love INC, we send them to All Blessings Flow, and we refer our neighbors in need of medical equipment there as well. We are thankful for this wonderful partnership and for all they do to help show Love in the Name of Christ to our neighbors in need! ■

Introducing our GAP Ministries

A GAP ministry is a partnership between Love INC and the local church that exists to help meet unmet needs in our community. We also seek volunteers from other churches to support these ministries.

GAP Ministry: “Loads of Love” Laundry Ministry – Belmont Baptist

Loads of Love is a gap ministry partnership with Belmont Baptist Church and Love in the Name of Christ. This ministry began several years ago, when it was brought to our attention that it was more cost-effective for neighbors in need to receive free clothing than it was for them to pay for laundry services. Something as simple as providing a free laundry facility can ease the burden of a family that is struggling to make ends meet. That’s when Belmont Baptist opened up the Loads of Love ministry—to help neighbors in



our community by providing free laundry services. This is truly a ministry, as the volunteers also seek to build relationships and pray with their neighbors.

While the neighbors are waiting for their laundry to finish washing and drying, snacks and a small play area are provided for children. Volunteers spend time with the neighbors, ready to listen and pray with them, always showing Love in the Name of Christ. If you are interested in learning more about Loads of Love, or would like to volunteer, please contact our office at (434)977-7777.



Gap Ministry: Children’s Clothing Closet – Immanuel Lutheran Church

The mission of Love in the Name of Christ is to mobilize the local church to transform lives and communities in the name of Christ. We are grateful for the many churches that partner in ministry with Love INC. One of them is Immanuel Lutheran Church.

The Children’s Clothing Closet at Immanuel is a gap ministry, a joint ministry of Love INC and Immanuel Lutheran Church. A gap ministry is developed to help meet the needs of our community. There are many families in need of assistance, and helping to provide free children’s clothing is one way that we can be the hands and feet of Jesus in our com-



munity! Clothing items are free and shoppers are encouraged to visit as often as needed. The clothing closet is open one day a month, and there is a limit of 12 items per shopper, per visit.

Immanuel’s Children’s Clothing Closet is located in the basement of Immanuel Lutheran Church, 2416 Jefferson Park Avenue, Charlottesville. For more information please contact their church office at (434) 295-4038 or call Love INC at (434) 977-7777.

We are so grateful for the many hands who help to sort through donations and organize the clothing for our neighbors in need!



Gap Ministry: Olivet Diaper Ministry – Olivet Presbyterian Church

Olivet Presbyterian relies on faithful volunteers to deliver diapers and wipes once a month to our neighbors in need who are struggling financially. Their volunteers walk alongside these families—not only meeting their tangible needs, but also offering spiritual support through prayer during their monthly home deliveries. Currently the Diaper



Ministry serves 44 children in diapers, and a total of 96 children (including their siblings)!

They are always looking for more volunteers to help, and they accept diaper donations as well. If you would like to serve in this ministry, give us a call and we will connect you to the Diaper Ministry leader.



Gap Ministry: Personal Care Closet – Connect Church and Charlottesville Church of the Brethren

Imagine struggling to afford basic needs such as shampoo, soap, and cleaning products.

At Love INC we receive calls every day from clients who need these basic items for themselves and their families. Twice a month, the Personal Care Closet opens at Connect Church to serve our neighbors in need, offering them various personal care products and cleaning supplies. The volunteers develop relationships with the neighbors, spending time getting to know their stories and praying for them each time they visit the Personal Care Closet.



et. The volunteers look forward to hearing praise reports from the neighbors, and they even reported back to us—for example, one person they helped had undergone surgery and chemo for cancer and is now cancer free! Praise God!

We are excited to share that a second Personal Care Closet has opened at the Charlottesville Church of the Brethren. They served their first neighbors in need this past August!

The need is great, and we have many people on a waiting list to receive these items. ■

Car Repair Gap Ministry- Ground Zero Church

A need that many of our neighbors have is for assistance with car repairs. We were blessed to connect with Ground Zero Church- a new church that has started a car repair gap ministry. A mechanic from GZC graciously donates the



labor, and the neighbor in need purchases the parts required for the repair.

We have referred several of our neighbors to Ground Zero Church for car repair assistance, and we are grateful for their partnership and for how they show Love In the Name of Christ in our community! ■

Knock and the Door Shall Be Opened

One day during our morning devotions at Love INC, a gentleman knocked on our door. We were just finishing our prayer time—praying for God to bring us neighbors in need who need to hear the Good News, and praying for volunteers to help us.

This gentleman literally knocked, and came through the doors the moment we finished our prayer. He attends a local church and was simply looking for a meaningful place to volunteer. He had heard about Love in the Name of Christ through a friend and was curious about what we did. We shared with him the mission of Love INC: to mobilize the local church to transform lives and communities in the Name of Christ. He wanted to get to work volunteering right away!

That same morning, we gave him a task—calling neighbors on our waiting list to let them know we had items they had hoped for. Our new volunteer was a huge blessing that day. One neighbor was not able to pick up the items they needed as they didn't have transportation. Our volunteer asked us, "What do you do when you have a neighbor in need of

something who can't pick items up?" That is a great question, and we told him the answer was simple—find another volunteer to help!

On the spot, our new volunteer offered to deliver personal care products once a month to five people who are disabled or who have no one to pick up the items for them. This has been such a huge blessing to these families! After the deliveries, several of the neighbors have called to thank us and tell us how God has blessed them through this wonderful man's generosity.

And that's not all he does! Now our new volunteer stops by to pick up donated items to deliver them to gap ministries, and he has even picked up donations to bring them into the office for us.

We are so thankful that he knocked on our door that morning! **Our door is always open for YOU—the CHURCH—to volunteer. After all, Love in the Name of Christ would not exist without the Church and its people!**

If you would like to volunteer at Love in the Name of Christ, please reach out to us at (434) 977-7777, and we would be happy to find a meaningful place for you to serve! ■

Renewing Transformational Ministries

Love INC's mission is to mobilize the local church to Transform lives and communities in the Name of Christ. Isn't that the mission of the church? Mobilizing does not mean we're in charge- but simply that Love INC provides the local church with opportunities for Christian service.

We encourage the church to reach neighbors in need in our community by sponsoring a GAP Ministry, or by supporting another church's GAP. As an example, we put out a call for personal care items to restock our GAP Ministry and the response was great! Many thanks to all who donated! But that's the way it should work- churches working together! If one church has a ministry, think of what an impact we could have on our community if other churches provided the product and volunteers!

Example: Olivet's Diaper Ministry. How many more single moms and children could we reach and witness to if others came to witness, mentor, and form a relationship with our neighbors in need?

One GAP Ministry that we are desperate to get established is Transportation. There are so many people that need a ride to the doctor, store, church, etc.

Another need is for furniture delivery. We lose a lot of furniture because of our limited ability to do pickups and delivery. Other than rent and utilities, furniture is our number one request.

It is our experience that those that reach out to help our neighbors in need, become more involved in their church, not less. Anyone interested in starting a GAP Ministry for their church, please give us a call: 434-977-7777



Blessings,

INSERT SIGNATURE

Raymond Klein

Executive Director



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Raymond Klein, ED

LOVE INC Contact Hours
Monday through Friday
9 A.M.— 4 P.M.

Telephone Line
Neighbor Help Line:
434-977-7777