

LINC LETTERS

THANK YOU RAY | WELCOME DAVID | CARE WAGON

RAY RETIRES



DAVE IS HIRED



Raymond Klein Retires

After more than two decades of service to Central Virginia as the Executive Director of Love INC, Ray Klein retired from active service on March 15, 2025. During his tenure with Love INC, Ray has helmed a revival of the organization, and has helped literally thousands of families in and around Charlottesville, while spreading the Word and Love of Christ throughout the community.

Although Love INC celebrates his many years of excellence, we will greatly miss his leadership on a daily basis. Ray truly personifies what it means to be a person of faith in the modern world. Love INC asks that all of our community join us in praying that Ray is blessed in his retirement with happy days, surrounded by his loved ones, and fish on his line.

If you would like to send Ray a personal message of congratulations and thanks, you can do so by sending written messages c/o Love INC, 198 Spotsnap Road, Suite C-1 Charlottesville, Virginia 22911, or by sending an email to office@loveincville.org with a Subject Line "Thank you Ray!", which we will make sure reaches him.

DAVID OBERG IS NEW EXEC

On March 16, 2025, the LOVE INC Board of Directors announced that they have appointed David Oberg, a local attorney, to succeed Raymond as the LOVE INC Executive Director. David brings with him a knowledge of non-profit operations, experience as a business leader, and most importantly a passion for spreading the Good News and the Love of Christ throughout Central Virginia.

A member of Crozet United Methodist Church, David was formerly a Partner with the Law Firm of Jones Oberg & Green, LLP in Charlottesville, Chairman of CATEC, and a member of the Albemarle County School Board.

In his church community, David has co-taught Adult and Children's Sunday School classes with his wife DJ for more than 20 years. To welcome David please email david@loveincville.org



'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

As Christians we are all called to serve our brothers and sisters in the world. By helping others we are being living witnesses to Christ's Love. If God is calling you to serve, Love INC has great opportunities for you to serve.

Currently we are seeking volunteers to assist with home and yard projects for our community senior citizens and persons with limited mobility. We need drivers to help people get to church and medical appointments. And we need assistance in our office to help organize donations, answer phones, and participate in our prayer ministry. To volunteer visit our website:

<https://loveincville.org/partner-with-us/>

The Klein Care Wagon



In March the LOVE INC Board of Directors announced that it was starting a fundraising campaign to raise money for the purchase and operation of the Klein Care Wagon that the organization and its partner Churches can use in mission to the community. One of the challenges faced by families in need in Central Virginia is for large items such as furniture and appliances. And we are blessed by many families willing to donate items for our brothers and sisters in need. However, it can be difficult to arrange for transportation of the items between the donors and the people in need.

Our goal is to raise \$15,000.00 initially, that we believe will qualify us for an additional grant, to get us to the cost of a used vehicle. By investing in a vehicle that can be used regularly in mission, we believe that the value of the benefit to the community will far exceed the costs of acquisition. If you feel called to contribute to our goal, we encourage you to visit our Go Fund Me site at:

<https://gofund.me/aff570d4>. Or you can scan QR code at the top left hand corner of this page.

Dad Joke of the Season:



I'm always so grateful when the cold weather ends and the trees and shrubs start to revive. Its such a releaf.



IMPACT NEHEMIAH ACTION

On April 8, 2025, hundreds of religious community members from throughout Charlottesville and Albemarle met at the Martin Luther King Auditorium to pray together and to advocate for affordable housing and reliable transportation. LOVE INC is proud of its leaders and members, who participated in this important ministry, including leaders and members from our Partner Churches:

Charlottesville First United Methodist Church

St. Paul's Memorial Episcopal Church

Holy Comforter Catholic Church

Catholic Church of the Incarnation

Crozet United Methodist Church

Park Street Christian Church

Charlottesville Vineyard Church

Grace Episcopal Church

All Souls Charlottesville

Trinity Episcopal Church

One of the disheartening lessons that was communicated at the meeting was the fact that given the current lack of housing in our community, most often, if we are able to find housing for a previously unhomed family, it likely means that another person or family has been recently evicted. The faces change, but the number of our brothers and sisters without a home remains frustratingly constant.

LOVE INC receives calls and referrals on a daily basis from persons seeking assistance with rent and housing issues. Only united together as the body of Christ can we hope to address these needs.

Reverend Christy Haga Turner, Pastor of Crozet UMC and Board Member of LOVE INC Charlottesville/Albemarle addressing the gathering.



Crozet UMC volunteers sported neon green IMPACT t-shirts.



New Exec David with his wife Df

Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter— when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard. Isaiah 58:6-7

Hand Crafted Hugs:

LOVE INC is grateful for the gift of these handmade gifts of prayer shawls and cuddle buddies crafted by Jackie Oberg of Apple Valley, Ohio. It is a great joy when we can gift one of these to people in need of prayers, or children in need of a hug. Thank you to Jackie for her tireless efforts.



If you have new or gently used items that you would like to provide to a good home, if you drop them off at LOVE INC we will find someone who will truly appreciate them. For large items, please contact the office at 434-977-7777 and we will work to coordinate transportation of the items from the donor to the people in need.

HELP FOR A NEW MOM

One of the services we are able to provide to members of the community is providing them with items to help make the place where they live a home. In this case, we were able to provide a beautiful (almost unused) baby changing table and crib to a new mom (along with a cuddle buddy for the baby). If you are performing Spring cleaning and decide to declutter, please keep in mind that we are always on the lookout for donation. Currently we are in need of:

KITCHEN ITEMS: Plates, bowls, cups, glasses, flatware, cooking utensils, pots, pans and frying pans.

BATHROOM ITEMS: Shower curtains, shower liners, hooks, and bathroom rugs.

BEDROOM ITEMS/FURNITURE: Queen Sheets, Queen Beds, Twin Beds, and Dressers

LIVING ROOM FURNITURE: Sofas, chairs, and end tables.

APPLIANCES: We currently have a client who needs a refrigerator.

Message from the Executive Director:

Growing up in a small church in rural Alaska, one of my all-time favorite hymns, which we sang regularly was “They will know we are Christians,” which says that our neighbors in the community will know we are Christians “by our Love.” I think for a lot of us, those words are aspirational, but as a child, I took them as a given. I believed that what made us identifiable as Christians is our Love for our neighbors.

Too often today, I hear people disparaging our Churches and our congregations, for many sins. Some of their criticisms are fair; others are simply unkind. But I realized that I have a choice in life: I can be angry and resent the unfair characterization, or I can do my utmost to live my aspiration. I am SO blessed to be given the opportunity to work with all of you and to walk this path. Our mission: To mobilize churches to transform lives and communities in the Name of Christ. I recently told a mission group that Love INC doesn’t organize charities to give donations; we organize Christians to give Love.

And I am in awe of all that you are accomplishing! You are truly an inspiration to me in your missions, your giving and your love for our neighbors. Together, we are the body of Christ in the world. We are His hands and feet. Together, united and guided by our Savior, I truly believe we can transform Central Virginia. And in the end, they will know we are Christians by our Love.

I ask that each of you who took the time to read this, please offer a prayer for our mission, guidance and wisdom for me, and patience for my wonderful colleagues as I grow into this role. And I hope that you each have a blessed Easter!

He is Risen!

David

LOVE INC BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Tom Balmer, Chair

Lara Andrade

Rev. Liz Emrey

Fran Storer

Beth Fraser

Rev. Christy Haga Turner

LOVE INC EMPLOYEES:

David Oberg, Executive Dir.

Jeff Cale, Care Director and Transformation Minister

Patina Blakely, Community Relations Director and Intake Specialist

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