

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.

Above and Beyond

Sometimes our amazing volunteers go above and beyond to meet people's needs. This was one of those days....

A chill hung in the air as the gray clouds rolled in. "Nancy" called and shared her story with us. She had been homeless for some time and was currently living in her car. What she really wanted was a coat. We told her that we could give her a voucher to receive a coat and warm clothing at one of our partner ministries, the Central Virginia Baptist Association Clothing Closet. Knowing her need for a special size, we offered to call and see what they had available.

When we placed the call, the volunteers immediately began searching through their items to see if they had anything she could use. They didn't see a coat in her size but said they would give Love INC a call when



they got something in.

But a short while later, the ministry leader called back! Just that morning, the Clothing Closet had received a small monetary donation, and the Lord put it on her heart to purchase a coat for Nancy. She couldn't stop thinking about her and how cold it was going to get over the next few days.

The ministry leader came to our office to drop off not one, but two coats, plus a warm pair of boots, a pair of leggings, and even a thermal top! We called Nancy to let her know about this blessing, and she was able to come to our office the following day to pick up these items.

The generosity of this ministry leader enabled us to help not only Nancy but another person as well! We were able to bless two people through the Clothing Closet donation. But none of this would have happened were it not for the kindness of the ministry leader—going above and beyond to be the hands and feet of Christ in our community! ■

Transformation— New Beginnings

As the new transformation ministry director, I have spent the last few months collaborating and learning from Love INC in the Valley's Transformation Ministry program. So much of this incredible ministry relies on the love and support of many volunteers who have a heart for the needs of others. I am looking forward to new beginnings in the New Year—especially the re-start of our local Transformation Ministry program!

What is Transformation Ministry? Well, I'm glad you asked! This is a series of 8 week classes, taught by local church volunteers, that help our neighbors in need to see their worth in Christ. These classes are designed to give neighbors the tools to live a better life. We will offer classes on important topics such as self-image, setting healthy boundaries, and budgeting. We will be looking for volunteers to lead these classes, as well as volunteers to become

"mentors"—to walk alongside each neighbor as they journey together through these biblically based classes. We are hopeful that these classes will begin in early 2023.

As we give of ourselves, our time, and our resources, the Lord not only transforms the neighbors in need, but He transforms our hearts as well! At the heart of everything we do in the coming year, may the Love of Christ show through each of us and help bring hope to a hurting world and most importantly our community.

—Jeff Cale

If you are interested in learning about how you can become a volunteer in the Transformation Ministry, please reach out to Jeff Cale at transform@loveinccharlottesville.org ■

Hittin' the Road

On a recent Friday, several of our staff members and board of directors took a field trip to the Love INC in Waynesboro. This Love INC recently celebrated its 10th anniversary, and we went to tour their office and warehouse space, as well as their thrift stores. One of our dreams at our own Love INC affiliate is to have a thrift store in Charlottesville/Albemarle where we can serve the community and provide low-cost items to the public, while at the same time giving items for free to people in need.

The Love INC staff from Waynesboro welcomed us and shared their journey of opening two thrift stores. They had started with a small clothing store and then gradually expanded. It was

amazing to hear how God was with them every step of the way. Waynesboro is staffed almost completely by volunteers from local churches in their community, offering another avenue for people to show the love of Christ.



Every point of contact—from neighbors picking up needed items, to shoppers in their community, to people dropping off donations—is an opportunity for them to pray and share the Gospel with people in their local community.

We were so grateful for the hospitality and the wealth of knowledge from their experience that Love INC SAW (Staunton, Augusta, Waynesboro) shared with us. We are praying for God to open the door to have a thrift store ministry in our own community here. Please pray for

us as we seek God's will in this new endeavor. ■

You Can Do It!

There are many people struggling to pay their electric bills this time of year. With the cost of everything going up, people are in desperate need of assistance. We receive calls daily from neighbors in our community who are struggling to keep their lights on.

We recently received a phone call from "Mary." She explained how she had been sick and was having a difficult time these last few months staying on top of her bills. With extra medical expenses, she found herself unable to pay her electric bill, and she asked if we could help. One of our intake specialists explained that we do not have funding at Love In the Name of Christ, but we would help her any way we could.

We called the electric company to see how much Mary

owed on her electric bill. Thankfully, the receptionist said that Mary was eligible for a payment plan, and due to her medical condition, she was eligible for a payment plan without any money down.

Our intake specialist called Mary right away. "Mary, I have good news for you—you can do it! You can pay this on your own!" When Mary learned that she was eligible for a payment plan, she said, "You just made my day!" All it took was for someone to listen to her situation and be an advocate for her. Mary was so encouraged that she could do it on her own, and that she in fact did not need any financial assistance. Not everyone who calls Love INC needs financial help. In Mary's case, she just needed a little intervention on her behalf. We are delighted that we could provide that! ■

Prayer Is the Most Important Thing

One chilly fall morning, we received an email from a man we'll call "Deon." Deon had lived in Charlottesville for a while but was feeling kind of lonely. He was struggling with health issues, and although he had been trying to make healthy lifestyle changes, Deon was feeling defeated in his endeavors.

We called Deon to check in on him and to see how one of our volunteers could come alongside him to help. He said what he really wanted was a prayer partner—someone who could commit to spending 15 or 20 minutes talking with him and praying together once a week.

Prayer seems like such a simple thing, but one of the most powerful things we can do for others is to pray *for* them and *with* them! We asked one of our volun-

teers from a local church—we'll call him "John"—if he would be interested in being this neighbor's prayer partner, and he said, "Absolutely!"



John reached out to Deon and had a wonderful conversation with him. One of the ways in which Love In the Name of Christ differs from other organizations is that we focus on the "person" and strive to build relational connections with our neighbors in need. John spent time praying with Deon, and they are now looking forward to their weekly prayer time together.

Some of our volunteers like John provide boots on the ground; others sustain us financially; still others are prayer warriors. All three are critical for us to keep the lights on and to serve our neighbors in need with the love of Christ. We are grateful to the Lord for all of you! ■

You Just Never Know...

You just never know when God will present an opportunity to you to glorify His name.

While processing donations at Love INC, the other day, a lady stepped in and wanted to know what Love INC was all about. I explained the ministry to her. She then shared an issue her daughter was facing. While she was sharing some family history related to the issue, I felt the Lord's leading to focus on this lady rather than the issue she was describing. I asked her, "Have you come to the place in your spiritual life where you know for certain that if you were to die today you would go to heaven or would you say you're still working on that?" Her answer was that she was not sure. On further questioning, it turned out that she was a



Christian. Sharing several scriptures with her, I was able to show her that she was a Christian with the certainty of salvation. After this, I asked her the same question and she was able to give an affirmative answer.

The joy of seeing the joy burst upon her at the knowledge of the assurance of her salvation was wonderful to behold. The interaction was much more lengthy than described, but the essence is there. By equipping her, God was preparing her to deal with the situation with her daughter.

When the scripture speaks about being instant in season and out of season, this is what it is talking about. It is really fabulous to be used of God to accomplish His purposes.

So be ready, you just never know....



Local Churches Helping Neighbors In Need

Every year, Maple Grove Christian Church has "Compassion Sunday", where they go into the community to serve instead of having a typical worship service.

This year, three of their projects were helping with maintenance and repairs for neighbors that Love Inc paired. One of the team leaders reported that "When we arrived at Mrs H's house, she greeted us at the door and was still filled with surprise that we were there to clean her yard. She said, "Are you sure this is what you want to do on a Sunday?" We said, "yes ma'am! Helping you is our church today!" She said "Bless y'all thank you so much!" We cleaned up her yard and patio, and were able to make the space safer and more use-able for her. "



church accomplished that day. Mrs I. said many times how blessed she was and had no words to express her love for what we did for her.

We love the opportunity Love Inc provides for us to connect to individuals in our community!"

Cornerstone Community Church also had an outreach day to help another one of our local neighbors in need. Their team leader reported "We had around 35 volunteers show up to help trim trees, bushes, mow the entire yard, and haul everything away. The volunteer team was able to clear years of growth that our neighbor was unable to keep up with and manage. The team also prayed with her."

We are so grateful for the many volunteers from local churches that seek out opportunities to show Love In the Name of Christ to our neighbors in need!

If you or your church is interested in an outreach project to help a neighbor in need, please contact our office at 434-977-7777.



At another project site, they completed various repairs and yard maintenance were completed for Mrs. I. Another team leader said "She was amazed with everything the

Transformation Ministry

Transformational Ministry is a series of sessions that teaches individuals to take control of their lives by relying on themselves instead of outside resources.

It begins with ***Affirming Your Potential***, a 12-week course that helps to restore their hope; requiring them to have an active hand in shaping their future.

Finally comes ***Renewing Your Mind***, also 12 weeks, which opens the door for one to make peace with their past, leading to fulfillment for the balance of their natural existence.

Classes will be begin early next year.

Redemptive Compassion

Redemptive Compassion® is a study guide offering a biblical perspective on how the Church is called to holistically help people in need.

This study guide is a great educational resource for individuals, groups, and churches to use as they work through how to live out the second greatest commandment in the Bible and answers these questions: *Why do so many of the commonly-used methods seem so ineffective in reducing or alleviating ongoing need?*

Why have good intentions to help others produced such devastating results?

Transformation Ministries

Our mission at Love In the Name of Christ is to “mobilize local churches to transform lives and communities in the name of Christ.” In order to fulfill this mission, we are re-starting an initiative called “Transformational Ministry.” This is a way to build lasting relationships where the hearts of everyone involved would be transformed.

The first step is *Redemptive Compassion* – a 7-week series where local believers who wanted to become “doers of the Word and not just hearers” could take a radically different approach to mentoring those in need: by focusing on the individual instead of their need or situation.

The next step is a self image course called *Affirming Your Potential*. “Neighbors in need”, with the aid of mentors, undertake their new journey by applying Bible-based principles to everyday choices and decisions. The 12 weeks of sessions teach life-changing skills such as: *facing challenges with inner strength, controlling your thoughts and speech, and making peace with the past while building a better future.*

During the pandemic, Transformation Ministry was put on hold. We found that online zoom classes just didn't work due to the relational connections that are naturally developed through in-person classes. Before the pandemic, it was an

extremely successful gathering that truly Transformed lives- “In the Name of Christ,” and we are looking forward to the re-start of this ministry!

This spring, we are re-introducing Transformation Ministry. This fall, we stepped out in faith, and hired a new Transformation Coordinator. Our new coordinator, Jeff Cale, has spent the last several months attending classes and learning the programs at our sister Love INC in Staunton, Augusta, Waynesboro. The focus will be on providing lasting solutions instead of concentrating on the temporary, immediate situation. Change happens because people embrace their existing talents and abilities and set about applying lessons learned to their everyday lives. Transformation takes place not only in the hearts of the neighbors in need, but in the hearts of the mentors as well.

Want to help transform lives In the Name of Christ? Call us at 434-977-7777 or email at transform@loveincville.org. ■



Blessings,

INSERT SIGNATURE

Raymond Klein

Executive Director



Volunteers:

Elaine Callaghan
Jane Demming
Beth Fraser
Dan Harris
Meghan Hart
Rachel Heynen
Ben Mosby
Barbara Murray
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LOVE INC Contact Hours

Monday through Friday
9 A.M.— 4 P.M.

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