

Title



10th Anniversary Issue

October 2018

Love In the Name of Christ of Southern Chautauqua County

Our Mission

To mobilized the local churches to transform lives and communities in the Name of Christ

Our Vision

To see Christian churches united in purpose an fully engaged in actively living out their faith by lovingly serving people in need in their community

Helping Churches Help People



Love INC
Love In the Name of Christ
of Southern Chautauqua County



Love Your Neighbor as Yourself

Weston originally came to us back in 2016. He was in need of a refrigerator, as his new apartment did not come with one and he was sleeping on his couch because he had no bed. His health issues prevented him from being able to work, which was a frustration to him as he doesn't like sitting around. He called for assistance a year later when his apartment became infested with bedbugs. Once the bedbugs were eradicated, we continued to work with Weston. along with other community agency's to provide for his need. As time has gone on and Weston's health is an ongoing struggle, he has continued to keep in contact with Love INC and he has become friends with a volunteer in the Love INC Furniture Ministry from Hillcrest Baptist Church.

Our neighbor in need Weston began a ministry of his own. He had invited an alcoholic, homeless woman to move in with him. I know the decision to invite someone with their own struggles may seem questionable, but the friends took care of each other. Sherry's health began to fail and Weston cared for his no-longer homeless friend. When Sherry's time came to an end, the Love INC volunteer from Hillcrest Baptist Church was the one who was contacted by Weston as he mourned the loss of his friend. The volunteer was blessed by the opportunity to attend Sherry's funeral and was available to support Weston during his time of loss. Weston and our Love INC volunteer are incredible examples of what loving your neighbor are supposed to look like and how the just being a friend is how the church can help those in need.

A four-alarm wake up call! By Susan L. Justham, Executive Director

A recent fire in our neighborhood brought to light how much neighborhoods have changed from when we were kids. The days of playing a game of kickball in the neighbor's yard seem to have all but disappeared. The care and concern for one another seem limited to those few close relationships we each have, regardless of the proximity. As I watched the firefighters battle a blaze on a piece of property that did not belong to any of the many members of the multiple fire companies present, Mathew 22 came to mind. We are told in verse 37 *the greatest commandment is to love God with all of our heart, soul and mind* and then in verse 39 we are to *love our neighbor as we are to love ourselves*. As my neighbors spent the last month renovating their new home I watched for opportunities to introduce myself. Not wanting to bother them during their work, the opportunity never seemed to come along until a fire made an opportunity. How awkward to meet your new neighbor as they are watching their home be consumed by fire. The chances of them remembering your name are slim but remembering your care and concern for them will speak volumes to their hearts.

At Love In the Name of Christ, it's all about loving our neighbors whether they live on our block or not. Our ministry is about connecting those in need with those willing to help. Most of the neighbors we serve are living life as if, every-

thing is on fire. They are living in anxiety and panic regarding food, housing and other basic needs, mostly because it is all they know. If we do not know any different and no one is willing to come alongside and help to seek something different, nothing will change. Everything will remain as if their life is on fire.

Taking a lesson from those many first responders and a 2 AM alarm, I am going to try harder to make the most of the opportunity God gave me with the recent fire in my neighborhood. I will continue to reach out and connect with a neighbor in need. I am unable to rebuild their home or contact the insurance company, but I can listen, encourage and lend a hand when it is needed. We have many neighbors in need in our community, some live on your street, some live across town in a struggling neighborhood and some live in the next community over, but they are all *our* neighbors. They could use a listening ear as many are lonely and they could use a word of encouragement as many feel hopeless. A helping hand to come alongside them is met with great appreciation.

A firefighter makes a commitment to help, but a believer in God is required to love their neighbors. It all comes down to a choice. I am working hard at trying to assist a neighbor in need and loving them as God does. How are you doing at loving your neighbors?



From the Clients:

“...Thank you for the bed. I so appreciate it! I am so thankful for so many who love and care for me. God is on my side.” —a single man recently release from prison

“...Thank you for helping me when no one else I know was willing.” —???

“The prayers and support are very much appreciated. Thank you for all that you do for our community. It is nice to know that when people need help with basic needs, an organization such as your is available to help us.” — as single woman in recovery from addiction who was provided toiletries by Bethel

Love Plus a Spark Equals FIRE

by Ed Vos, Board Chairman

Winter is coming, and the cold hard truth is that we are going to go into a season where being indoors is better than being outdoors. That is, if you are lucky enough to have a home. Maybe even one with a fireplace for extra heat and coziness! But what if you don't? What if you need to choose between heat and food?

It has been said that when humans harnessed fire, it changed the world and gave us metal, energy, hot food, trains, airplanes, cars etc. What would happen to the world if we harnessed love like we harnessed fire? Could the impact of love in the world change the way we think about people like fire gave us transportation? Christ's love showed us how the world could be changed, for He changed it. His spark should be the one that changes us enough to create a forest fire of love and support for those who are without.

We at Love INC, along with the help of many volunteers, are trying every day to bring the spark of love to a hurting world. For everyone we help, it is like having warm food and a warm house to come home to on a cold winter's night! But this love sharing cannot happen without your support. Please consider giving the gift of hope to those who have none by supporting Love INC with a financial donation.

Winter is coming and those who are without have many critical decisions to make every day. Please consider supporting Love INC so that we together may bring the spark of love to those who desperately need it in our community.

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Kingdom Club

Become a member of the Kingdom Club by becoming a monthly supporter of Love INC for a gift of any amount.

By giving on a monthly basis you will receive :

- ◆ A monthly thank you letter which includes and update on the work at Love INC and a love story regarding how we are seeing God at work through the volunteers from area churches at Love INC
- ◆ A quarterly Newsletter with acknowledgment as a Kingdom Club member
- ◆ A reminder call or email regarding your monthly gift



Love INC
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Office Needs:

New or used laptop (internet capability to show videos for training)

Professional multi-line phone system

Postage

Client Needs:

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