

His Light



Volume 2 Issue 2

August 2020

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

Our Mission

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

Our Vision

To see Christian Churches united in purpose and fully engaged in actively living out their faith by lovingly serving people in need

**Helping
Churches
Help
People**



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

A Love Story -The Tale of Two Refrigerators

As many are moving their college students back to their dorms, the limitations of space become real. You move in the bedding, clothing, and the infamous dorm fridge. It will hold all of the simple treats of college life; milk, yogurt and occasionally ice cream. Imagine if that dorm-size fridge was all you had to hold the food to feed a family of two. You were expected to get all your eggs, milk, meat, cheese and other essentials including frozen foods in that little box. You were being resourceful in caring for your family when your refrigerator died and the landlord who not only lives out of state but out of the country, failed to replace it. This is the struggle of a single mom with a small child. Each side of this situation telling different stories, but the situation is the same Jennifer (not her real name), a single mom, with a small child only has access to a dorm-size refrigerator. When the prayer newsletter went out with the need for a refrigerator for this family, two churches answered the call to assist.

The landlord expressed an interest in assisting Jennifer, so we waited for his response. With the need and the availability of a second fridge, we reached out to another neighbor in need whose fridge was slowly dying. Sarah, (not her real name) struggles from a traumatic brain injury from an auto accident. When we reached out to verify she still needed a fridge, she shared how she had to adjust the temperature once again because it is not staying cold. When I called to confirm with her that a fridge was donated, she cried and was praising God's goodness. The delivery of the new-to-her refrigerator was provided by The Church on the Rock.

The replacement of the dorm fridge did not seem like it was going to happen. All signs pointed to "no", the landlord would not follow through. Jennifer shared that she previously contacted the landlord and the promised appliance was never delivered. The landlord's story did not match up with Jennifer's, as words and phrasings appeared to be a cover-up. A promised refrigerator seemed suspicious, with no delivered date in sight, and the prayers of God's people went up on Jennifer's behalf. As we waited for the confirmation from Jennifer; we had a back-up plan. Bethel Baptist was willing to assist with providing a fridge, if needed. Then the neighbor in need called. She not only had a receipt for a new fridge but a newly delivered refrigerator in her kitchen. The out of the state and the out-of-the-country landlord came through and prayers were answered.

Sometimes God reminds us that His thoughts and His ways are not the same as ours. Two neighbors in need were blessed with refrigerators as two churches were willing to answer the call. The simple task of storing grocery items that require refrigeration was rectified, as one church was able to help and a landlord provided a refrigerator as he promised. Meanwhile another church waits to answer the call when needed.

Teamwork Makes A Difference

The Love INC perspective

Joan (not her real name) reached out to Love INC as her family of five was struggling through COVID impacted issues. Her husband, James' work hours had been cut and their special need's child required special diapers that overtook their limited income. Tired and stressed, the whole process for seeking assistance was overwhelming for Joan. Often conversations with the Love INC Connections Center volunteers resulted in frustration for her as she was dealing with several agencies with similar requirements. The staff and volunteers worked extremely hard to genuinely listen and care for Joan, showing her the love of Christ. After providing for her child's diaper needs through the Gap Ministry at Jamestown Free Methodist Church and connecting her with Pastor Dodi, Joan was breathing a little easier. After an additional request for diapers, we began looking a little deeper as to how we could impact greater on this family's struggle with the love of Christ. As we partnered with Jamestown Free Methodist for diapers for this family, we also learned they were struggling with overdue utility bills. The partnership provided the opportunity to assist this family and make a greater impact in the Name of Christ during a difficult time in their lives. The Flexible Funding Grant through the United Way seemed like an option.

The Flexible Funding Grant is a grant in partnership with the United Way of Southern Chautauqua and the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation to assist families experiencing difficulties because of COVID related issues. Love INC received a grant along with several other agencies in our community to provide assistance for those struggling with COVID related issues for such items as, cleaning products, diapers, and internet service for school. It was eventually expanded to provide assistance with utility bills and rent.

Pastor Dodi and Jamestown Free Methodist Perspective

"We have worked with the family of Joan a couple of times now through our Gap ministry in Partnership with Love INC. Though their needs were high, their requests for assistance were always very modest and her response was always humble gratitude. She was so kind and a pleasure to work with and we longed to help their family in a more tangible way. After a conversation with Susan at Love INC and a follow-up conversation with Joan. I was able to glean information about other ways in which we can help them during this time, Joan had disclosed that her husband's hours at his job had been greatly reduced because of this COVID pause which had caused them some financial stress. As a result, they were a month behind in their rent and gas bill and they had been issued a disconnect notice for the gas company. Hearing this, I knew we had a new way we could help. With the assistance of Love INC, we were able to pay the family's gas bill and make them current with the gas company. In addition, with the little we had left from \$200 grant, we were able to purchase a large number of pull-ups that two children use to help the family going forward until their lives and income stabilize. We are so grateful for the Flexible Funds Grant and the ability to assist this amazing family in their time of need," stated Pastor Dodi.

As we worked together, Love INC and the Jamestown Free Methodist Church, a family's struggle was greatly impacted. God's love was shown as many hands and feet served for the cause of Christ.



From the Neighbors We Serve:

"Thank you so much for building a ramp for me! All of your work for others is so much appreciated and we are blessed to have you in our city!" -a woman with MS helped by a team of volunteers from Christ First UM Church and Bemus Point U.M. Church

Love Your Neighbor With Love INC

“You are loved!” are words we all want to hear. Love In the Name of Christ of Southern Chautauqua County wants you to show love to those you care about while supporting our neighbors in need through the “Love Your Neighbor Campaign.” For \$15.00, a “You Are Loved!” sign and personalized card will be delivered by a Love INC volunteer to your loved one within Southern Chautauqua County. The sign will remain in the yard for one week and then be relocated. If your loved one desires to relocate the sign immediately a relocation fee of \$20.00 can be paid allowing them the opportunity to tell someone else that they are loved.

As our community has faced some difficult times over these past few months. The stress and anxiety are impacting everyone. We all need encouragement and reminded we are loved, whether we are a child, a family experiencing financial struggles or a senior citizen in isolation. This is a way to show caring and compassion of others, support the ministry of Love INC and an opportunity for the community to know that Love INC is here, and we care about our neighbors.

Join us in loving our neighbors!

To request a “You Are Loved” sign visit www.LOVEINCSCC.org, or our office located 553 W. 3rd Street, Jamestown between 10 am and 2 pm on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday or request an order form by emailing loveyourneighborwithloveinc@gmail.com



Give Electronically!

Go to our **Facebook** page **Love INC of Southern Chautauqua County** or **website** LoveINCSCC.org and **Click** on the **Donate link**

Join the Monthly Kingdom Club

Become a monthly supporter of Love INC with a gift of *any* amount and help the Kingdom of God grow as the love of God is shared with those in need

By giving on a monthly basis you will receive :

- ◇ A monthly thank you letter which includes an update on the kingdom work or 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
- ◇ And knowing you are making a difference in the lives touched by Love INC

How do I become a Kingdom Club Member ? Write “*Kingdom Club*” on the General Fund other line on the enclosed envelope and enclose your first months support.

Staff

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Do you have a passion for those in need?

Do you have gifts and talents in administration?

Do you enjoy living out your faith in God?

Board Members needed. Meetings are held the second Thursday of the month at 7pm. Please contact Lory Hatfield by email –

loryhatfield@hotmail.com

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**Helping Churches
Help People**



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Client Needs Ongoing:

Toiletries

Soap

Toothpaste

Toothbrushes

Body wash

Shaving cream

Razors

Feminine products

Shampoo

Diapers

Wipes

Gloves

Cleaning Products

All purpose cleaner

Disinfectant wipes

Toilet cleaner

Toilet brush

Buckets

Glass Cleaner

Dish Soap

Sponges

Paper towels

Garbage bags

Office Needs:

Volunteer Bookkeeper/Accountant

Board Member with Skills in Social Media

Postage stamps

Copy paper

**The 11th Annual Purse Auction
has been Cancelled**

**Our supportive local businesses are
struggling and the health and safety of
attendees are a concern for us.**

**Please support local businesses
and
stay safe during this difficult time.**

