

# His Light



Volume 3 Issue 1

April 2021

**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

## **Making a House a Home**

His apartment was desolate. As you looked around the room he only had a microwave, a folding chair and a bed made of clothes on the floor. He moved here from Dunkirk where he was “couch-surfing” with friends. In his 60’s, struggling with health issues and the recent loss of his mom, Frank (not his real name) wanted to start over after having made poor choices in the past which resulted in jail time.

After some conversation, it appeared Frank had an understanding of the Bible. The volunteer encouraged him to give his life to the Lord and to let Him lead. Frank also shared he knew a local pastor, with who he was encouraged to reconnect.

The Furniture Ministry volunteers delivered many furnishings to Frank. A recliner, kitchen table with two chairs, a stand for his microwave, a coffee table, two end tables and a couch that would fit up the narrow steps filled his apartment. A bed was provided with bedding and pillows giving him a warm and comfortable place to sleep.

When Frank looked around his apartment after everything was set up he said, “All I need now is a job!” Then the volunteer shared with him about job openings at a local business he had heard about on the radio. Later that day Frank messaged the volunteer stating he had gone to the local business and was hired on the spot. In his message, He gave Jesus all the credit for the job and the love he felt through Love INC.



## **From the Our Neighbors:**

“ Now I have a Home!” stated a neighbor in need after the furniture she had requested was delivered.

“She was extremely grateful and expressed her gratefulness in prayer.” stated a Furniture Ministry Volunteer after delivering a sofa for a neighbor in need.

“Thank you for meeting the needs of the hurting and suffering people in our community. May God bless your work.” – Donor



## God Impacted Lives in 2020

Love INC's Impact Celebration - 2020 A Year in Review was shared with area pastors at the Family Center of Hillcrest Baptist Church on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. While enjoying coffee and doughnuts the pastors heard from several volunteers and staff regarding what God did through Love INC in 2020.

God answered many prayers for Love INC during the pandemic. Stories of assisting neighbors in need through the Connections Center and while delivering furniture were shared. The addition of a Spanish-speaking volunteer to the Connections Center team was one of those answers. Karen joined our team just weeks before the shutdown. (Learn more about Karen and volunteering through Love INC in Shine His Spotlight on the back page.) Dave, a volunteer with the Furniture Ministry team, shared the impact of making a house a home with the deliver of furniture to a neighbor in need.



A display of Christmas bags, toiletries, a jar of chocolate kisses and a bed decorated the room. The 34 Christmas gift bags represented the 34 children assisted with Christmas gifts through the Pop-up Toy Shop at Realife Church with the help of Greater Chautauqua Credit Union and their patrons. Three of the children assisted were from a family whose newly remote jobs and the need to purchase equipment over-extended their limited budget. A display of 24 toiletries and cleaning items represented the 24 individuals and families assisted with those items through the Cleaned & Polished Pantry at Bethel Baptist Church. A bed display filled with 43 stuffed animals, purses, duffel bags and sports balls represented the 43 beds that were delivered to area residences for men, women and children giving them a warm and comfortable place to sleep. A jar of 449 chocolate kisses sat on the table, exemplifying the 449 lives impacted through Love INC in 2020. Of the 449 lives, 396 men, women and children were prayed for by 49 volunteers serving and receiving the blessings for doing so, along with 4 staff who have the honor of praying for our neighbors in need and our volunteers as they serve God through leading the ministry.

As the Executive Director, I was excited to share the wonderful news of God's blessing on the ministry. We made budget for the first time in 5 years with over \$74,000 raised, during a pandemic. After canceling 2 fundraisers and quickly planning another, the Love Your Neighbor (Sign) Campaign, God demonstrated His blessing on the ministry.



The last portion of the program included sharing a video of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of a Transformational Ministry Program at Love INC Treasury Valley, Idaho. Transformational Ministry is classroom-type programming including budget, discipleship and life-skill classes. We are planning to assemble a team to explore what this ministry would look like in the greater Jamestown area.

We are grateful for God's blessing on Love INC throughout 2020. We were blessed with financial support, resource support and volunteers; the heart of the ministry and a vision of Transformational Ministry in our future.

(Upon completion of the program the displayed bed was delivered to a teenage girl living with her father.)



**Ministers March Mania** Love INC's Spring Fundraiser was cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions.

## A View from the Executive Director's Desk...

In Luke 10 we hear Jesus share the story of the good Samaritan, about the man who had been beaten and robbed, as an example of who our neighbor is and how to love them. We learned many walked by the injured man, but the man from Samaria did not. He showed him compassion, bandaged his wounds, put him on his animal and took him to an inn. After giving the innkeeper money to cover the costs of the injured man's care, he said he would return to cover any additional expenses. The Samaritan man went above and beyond. The injured man must have been overwhelmed when he realized what had been done for him. When we invest in people, we value them. Sometimes that investment helps others to see they have value. It reminds me of that adage, "people don't care what you know until they know that you care."

### Do you want to put your faith in action?

Join our team and serve your church while investing in the lives of others through Love INC with the love of Christ.

**Unsure how you can get involved?** Contact us at 716-338-9828 or [susan.loveinc@gmail.com](mailto:susan.loveinc@gmail.com) and let us share with you the ministry as God leads you to how you can get involved.



### Give Electronically!

Go to our **Facebook** page **Love INC of Southern Chautauqua County** or **website** [LoveINCSCC.org](http://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 Bi-Annual Newsletter with acknowledgment as a Kingdom Club member
- ◇ A reminder call or email regarding your monthly gift (if requested)
- ◇ 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

#### Executive Director

Susan L. Justham  
Lakewood Baptist Church

#### Connections Center

#### Coordinator

Letty Love-Smith  
Kiantone Congregational Church

### Board of Directors

#### Board Chair

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#### Vice Chair

Greg Edwards  
Panama U. M. Church

#### Secretary

Greg Johnson  
Zion Covenant Church

#### Treasurer

Will Mosier-Peterson  
Gerry FMC

#### Board Members

Ann Kneppshield  
Church on the Rock

Faith Baker

Fluvanna Community Church

*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 Susan Justham

[Susan.loveinc@gmail.com](mailto:Susan.loveinc@gmail.com)

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**Helping Churches  
Help People**



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## Top 10 Wish

Prayer Support

Board Members

Social Media Influencer Volunteer

Church Ministry Coordinators  
(Ambassador between Love INC & Church)

Storage Resource Coordinator  
(Organize donations in storage facility)

Call Center Intake Volunteers

Office Reception Volunteers

Transformational Ministry Team  
Members (Explore what TM would look  
like in our area)

Furniture Ministry Volunteers

Fundraising Coord. Volunteer

## Shine His Spotlight on Volunteers

Karen Carlson came to Love INC as an answer to prayer. We were praying for a Spanish-speaking volunteer and Karen was seeking a place she could serve using Spanish. She was encouraged to contact Love INC by her church. She has served as a missionary in Peru for 42 years creating evangelistic and discipleship curriculum for children, leading teacher training and as a seminary instructor. Family needs brought her home to Jamestown.



She has been volunteering for 1 year in the Connection Center, interviewing neighbors in need over the telephone and completing their intake paperwork. According to Karen her favorite part of volunteering "is talking with our clients; encouraging, (instilling) hope and letting them know God loves them." She attends Christian Missionary Alliance Church in Jamestown and enjoys going for walks, reading and traveling.

If you would be interested in learning more about volunteering in the Connection Center or where you can serve in the ministry of Love In the Name of Christ please contact Susan at 716-338-9828 or email Susan.loveinc@gmail.com