



Love INC  
Love In the Name of Christ

## Notes From The Neighborhood

November 2009  
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### A Message from Nathan

God has done some awesome things through Love In the Name of Christ lately. Transformation will not happen in our communities or in someone's life just by receiving assistance for the need. We want our assistance to a client to empower them to get "unstuck" from where they are and move to financial wholeness, to make healthy decisions for themselves and their families.

It is a blessing when we hear a report that God is working in a young woman's life, that she is making needed financial adjustments in her budget to be able to meet her monthly needs.

We provided a gas voucher to a couple and then connected them to a counselor for financial counseling and budget planning. We see God working in their lives as they begin to think about how they can take charge of their finances.

When through the body of Christ, we are able to provide a family with furniture and food during a time of unemployment, we see God being worshipped. We encourage people who are under the poverty level to see themselves as created in the image of God while providing them with a support base. We want to help individuals to see that in Christ, "all things hold together," as the Apostle Paul writes. They can have a positive outlook in difficult times on life. Christ is the solid rock that can make all the difference as individuals struggle with daily living.

Nathan

### A Love Story

We can see the love of Christ in his promise of eternal life or in the forgiveness of sin, but can you recognize it in an auto repair?



One of the recent Love INC clients certainly can. When she called in need of help, the intake volunteer discovered that the client couldn't get to work because her car wasn't running. The client soon found out that Love INC volunteers would be the hands and feet of Christ for her, offering love and grace through car repairs!

Volunteers from the Sycamore United Methodist Church and the Victory Baptist Church quickly stepped up to provide both the parts and labor. The result— one auto in good running order and one happy, employed client.

And now for the rest of the story: The client is now attending Victory Baptist Church, whose members have continued to assist and encourage her. Moreover, she is also bringing some of her friends to worship. Please pray for this client and her friends, for the churches who assisted her, and for the intake volunteer who ascertained her needs, that we all may be blessed to be a blessing.

### Wants and Needs

We continue to have requests to help furnish apartments.

- Other needs include:
- Digital Projector for presentations
- Blankets
- Electric Space Heaters

- Gas Vouchers from area gas stations

Please bring these items to the clearing house.

For the clearinghouse, we need paper and office supplies. Please call the clearinghouse for specific needs, 815-217-0082.

## Someone You Should Know

Valerie Talsma, one of our Intake Volunteers, has stepped up to help with the Administration Assistance role in the clearinghouse office. Valerie, a DeKalb-Malta resident since 2005, is an active member at Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

A strong supporter of ecumenical outreach, Valerie has promoted Bethlehem's partnership in Love INC since the early presentations in 2008.

She completed the intake volunteer training in July and since then has volunteered two to three mornings a week.

Valerie explained that, being between jobs at the present (she is a science-environmental-teacher educator), volunteering provides some structure to her life and provides an avenue for "tithing time and talents when the bank account is low." "You also get to meet some wonderful people among the other volunteers and agency support people," she observed, "and you become much more aware and thankful of the blessings in your own life."

## Gap Ministries

Second Saturday, this month's featured Gap Ministry, is a part of Christ Community Church's service to our community. The purpose of this ministry is to provide an opportunity for volunteers work together, to let the church be Jesus' hands and feet in the community.

Volunteers complete 5 – 6 projects per month that vary with the needs in the community. Volunteers have spent time with the residents at Hope Haven when they have prepared and served a meal for them. They have visited with and played bingo with the residents of the DeKalb County Nursing Home.

Love your Neighbor projects include a variety of services such as raking leaves, snow removal, home repairs, care repairs. When Love INC held an open house last summer, volunteers came to the clearing house patio, cleaned, repaired and planted some flowers. Love INC used the patio for hospitality at the open house and during the rest of the summer.

If you are interested in being a Second Saturday volunteer or if you know of a need in the community, contact Carolyn, Monday – Friday, 9AM to 5 PM, at 815-787-6161.

## Upcoming Events

Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009 --- Intake training at Love INC Office ... Please Call to schedule desired training at 815-217-0082.

Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009 --- 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Love INC DeKalb/Sycamore Banquet ... Details to follow

## Thanks

Thanks to all who contributed good this month. The neighborhood generosity furnished four apartments.

Thanks to:

- Valerie Talsma for accepting the volunteer position of "Clerical Assistant" at the Love INC Office
- Hillcrest Men's Breakfast Group for helping with the moving of furniture
- 1<sup>st</sup> Lutheran Church for developing a Gap Ministry for Linens