



Love INC  
Love In the Name of Christ

## Notes From The Neighborhood

April 2010  
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### A Message from Nathan

Spring is here. A time of refreshing temperatures and new birth to plants, flowers, and other beautiful things begins. Baseball season starts with the hope of one's team playing in October. Spring is here. We at Love INC desire to see the renewal in lives as churches build relationships with those in need who come to us. We count it a privilege to see churches spring into the community to bring positive transformation as they help meet needs.

What an awesome time to start to make a difference in our communities with the refreshing spring weather. It is a time to spring into action and use the resources and abilities God has given you. As one of our volunteers has looked at her involvement she said, "It is a chance for me to tithe my time." Spring is a time for you to give back to God a portion of your time that he has given you. As we continue to mobilize the church, we can find things for you to do in the community.

Spring into Love In the Name of Christ with the opportunity to show DeKalb/Sycamore who you belong to, Jesus. "By this people will know that you are my disciples if you love one another" (John 13:35). I John 3:18 challenges us with the command, "Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth." Showing genuine love with action is a transforming relational activity that can make differences around us as we choose to give back to God and build relationships with people.

Spring is here so let's partner together to bring re-birth and beauty to people's lives and our communities.

Nathan Scott,  
Executive Director

### Gap Ministry

According to the Love INC definition, the purpose of a Gap Ministry is to fill a gap in services to our community. The need is on-going and not currently met by government, agencies, or existing church ministries. Typically, a church agrees to house and manage a ministry, and other churches network together to provide volunteers, services, and/or products. Love INC then refers those in need to the Ministry. This model has three results:

- The needy receive the assistance that is required
- Volunteers have opportunities to meet those needs
- Churches working together demonstrates the unity of the Body of Christ

"At the heart of Gap Ministries is the truth that God cares about every need a person has and desires to meet each one, demonstrating His intensely personal love. As Scripture says, 'And my God will meet ALL your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus' – Philippians 4:19."

Gap Ministries fall into these categories:

- Clothing
- Family Support Services
- Food
- Health Cars
- Life Skills
- Shelter
- Seniors

If your church is considering a Gap Ministry, please call the clearinghouse for assistance. Someone from an existing ministry will come to your church to share how to begin.

\*Excerpted from an article in the Summer 2009 National Newsletter.



## Someone You Should Know

This month's Someone You Should Know is Mark Cordes. Mark was elected to be the chair of the Love INC board for the coming year. He has served on the board since Love Inc's beginning. He is a member at Hillcrest Covenant.

Mark first heard of Love INC from a development committee member who also attends Hillcrest. He was especially impressed by two things about Love INC: its focus on the Biblical mandate to care for the poor and needy and the idea of churches working together to be the larger Church.

Last year he chaired the Personnel Committee. This committee is responsible for job descriptions for volunteers and staff, screening policies for volunteers, and staff development.

When asked about the future, Mark sees Love INC's goals as to (1) continue to solidify relationships among the churches and with local agencies, thus building a deeper commitment in member churches. He hopes for (2) more hours and volunteers at the clearinghouse to build that ministry. And as Love INC enters its second year, begin to (3) build a relationship ministry with clients.

## The Church Ministry Coordinator

As we grow, one of the volunteer positions that Love INC relies on is the Church Ministry Coordinator or CMC. This position serves as the liaison between needs referred by Love INC and the volunteers with a congregation.

The CMC performs a variety of tasks, depending on the number of volunteers in each church, the skills of each volunteer, or other resources that are available within the congregation. The CMC prepares his or her congregation by developing a resource inventory of volunteers and by identifying existing church ministries that could be used by Love INC.

A partial list of these tasks includes:

- Receives referrals or volunteer needs from the Clearinghouse and links the volunteer or other resource to the need.
- Refers needs known to the congregation to Love INC.
- Informs the church about Love INC's ministry and ongoing needs.
- Recruits volunteers within the church.
- Helps to develop a Gap Ministry to partner with Love INC.

If your church needs a CMC and you believe that God might be calling you to ministry, please consider this opportunity. Check with your congregation and then contact Love INC for information on CMC training and materials that you will need to be a CMC. There will be a training later this spring.

## Upcoming Events

- April 10 - 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Love INC Banquet at St Mary Memorial Hall, Sycamore
- April 20 - 25 – Love INC national conference in Minneapolis
- May 1 – CMC Training, 9:30 – 11:30, location TBD, tentative

## Wants and Needs

- Beds in good condition (various sizes)
- Lightly used mattresses
- Gas vouchers
- Kitchen tables & chairs
- Dressers
- Sofas
- Living room tables
- Bikes
  
- For the clearinghouse, we need paper, file folders, a pencil sharpener and other office supplies. Please call the clearinghouse for specific needs, 815-217-0082.

## Thanks

Thanks to:

- All the volunteers who are working on the banquet preparations to make it a success.