



Love INC  
Love In the Name of Christ

## Notes From The Neighborhood

March 2010  
Volume 1 Number 7

### A Message from Nathan

Love In the Name of Christ is a mobilizing ministry. We are able to connect needs of individuals to the local church, and give the local church opportunities to make a difference through acts of love and service. What an awesome privilege it is to be involved in Love INC.

In Matthew 28 Jesus gives the ultimate mobilization challenge. In verse 19-20 he says, "Go make disciples...baptizing them...and teach them to obey what he has commanded." That is a big task but he assures us in verse 18 with the ultimate confidence to get involved with people's lives, their homes, and families. He says, "All authority in heaven and on earth is given to me. Therefore GO!" Jesus, the one with full authority of all things, said I control everything now go. Impact your communities. Make a difference for me. Get involved with the people. Let them see me in you. Let your love shine. In fact in Matthew 5 he says, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." Simply put, those you are connecting with, may be exposed to me and praise me.

Our volunteers and churches are making a difference! I remember one of our callers during our first full month in May 2009 called needing assistance with an electric bill. We were able to work with a church that met that need. In the process of meeting that need, Westminster Presbyterian was able to connect even further and provide mentoring to this single mother which she greatly appreciated. Her daughter enjoyed the youth ministry and people there, and the mother invited a friend as well. The family returned to church through this experience, making them disciples and teaching them to obey God's commands. What a blessing!

There are lots of ways to connect with our community and those in need. Call the Clearinghouse to find out how you can get connected.

Nathan Scott,  
Executive Director

### A Love Story

The volunteers of Love INC are blessed to be able to show the love of Christ in a remarkable number of different ways. No matter the need, we respond.



The clearinghouse received a call from a woman whose father had recently passed away. One of his last wishes was that his belongings be given to people who needed them. However, she had no idea how to accomplish this. The family lived out of state and didn't know who could help them with the request. The passing of loved ones can be a very stressful time. Add to that the need to fulfill loved ones' last wishes and it can become overwhelming.

Salem Lutheran Church in Sycamore suggested the family call Love INC. The daughter felt that Love INC's reputation and connections to the community was a perfect way to help fulfill her father's wishes.

After she contacted Love INC, volunteers went to work, helping to move furniture and sort through 47 boxes of household and personal items. Through these donations, many area families will be blessed with needed items from furniture and linens to books and kitchen utensils.

We are grateful to the family who called and happy to be able to help show the love of Christ to them and to those who will receive their donations. May God be praised!

### Someone You Should Know

This month's Someone You Should Know is Mike Baron-Jeffrey. You might also know him as Citizen Mike, someone whom God has used to help bring Love INC to our community.

When you ask Mike about his role, he will tell you that the Holy Spirit moves him to be His messenger boy. Events happen in our lives that move us to know what the Holy Spirit would have us do. The Spirit's message is like the hub of a wheel; the wheel needs spokes and a rim to function. And we, the community of Christ, can become the spokes

and the rim to make the wheel move. And so about five years ago, when Mike learned of Love INC, he recognized that this was one of those Holy Spirit events.

In our community, people could see the need but were not yet ready or able to act to meet that need. Mike saw Love INC as a way that our community could work together, to walk along side each other to accomplish God's purpose. He is quick to point out that none of this was his idea; it was and is the Holy Spirit using him and others to accomplish God's plan, God's command to help those in need.

So in June, 2006, Mike began talking with several local pastors about Love INC. They prayed together to learn what God wanted in DeKalb and Sycamore. This group spread the idea with informational lunches and presentations. Eventually, the pastors and a few lay persons became the Development Committee.

In 2008, the Development Committee officially started Love INC with Articles of Incorporation and application for tax-exempt status with the IRS. On February 29, the churches and interested lay persons came to a first training led by a representative from Love INC. In 2009, Love INC opened for business.

Why does Mike use the moniker, Citizen Mike? To deflect from Mike, to capture the idea that everyone can be a part of this calling from the Holy Spirit. We are in this together; we can all be good citizens of the kingdom.

## Community Support

NAPA AutoCare Centers of DeKalb, Sycamore and Cortland is comprised of Archer Alignment, Barb City Automotive, Bockman's Auto Care, City Auto Repair Inc, Chuck's Auto Center Inc, Illini Tire of DeKalb, Inc, Milex Auto Care & Mr Transmission, The Motorworks of DeKalb, Inc, Ritz's Southtown Auto, Suaber Car and Truck repair and University Shell, Inc.

For the past ten months these businesses have donated a portion of their revenues received from oil changes to a local charity. These donations have now totaled over \$7000.00.

Jon Bockman, President of "NAPA AutoCare Centers of Dekalb and Sycamore" and owner of Bockman's Auto Care in Dekalb, presented Love INC of Dekalb/Sycamore a donation for the month of January.

Love INC wishes to thank each and every one of these participating businesses for their contributions to the needy people of our community.

## This and That

March signals the beginning of spring and that means garage sales. When you are out "garage saling," consider buying something for Love INC.

Set a budget for yourself, maybe \$20. Then look for items that are clean and useable or that you can repair. You might want to carry Love INC business cards or brochures to give to the sellers. They might even give you a discount or donate other items after the sale.

Your favorite spring pastime is now a blessing to Love INC.

## Upcoming Events

- March 11<sup>th</sup> – Annual Meeting at 7:00 p.m. Trinity Lutheran Church
- March 20 --- "Heart for the Community" conference at First Baptist Church in Sycamore. To get registration materials call our office or email Nathan (both contacts are below).
- 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

## Wants and Needs

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

## Thanks

Thanks to:

- The Ralph & Florence Kostka family for it generous donation to Love INC