

THE LOVE CONNECTION

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Love INC
Love In the Name of Christ

The Need

By Love INC National office

Need can't be stereotyped. Sometimes it's a family huddled in their car, home standing vacant in foreclosure. Sometimes it's a single mom, embarrassed in line at the food pantry with her kids because she can't make ends meet. Her children sleep on the floor of their apartment because she can't afford beds. It might be a husband and wife forced to work far beyond their retirement years because their life savings has been depleted just keeping up with bills. Or it could be a senior citizen on a fixed income, having to choose between prescription medications or groceries.

Across America, 43.6 million people or 14.3 percent of the population are in poverty, according to a 2009 Census report. And double the numbers from a decade ago, almost 50 million people skip meals just to make ends meet—the definition of food insecurity.

It's worse for kids. Children account for a fourth of those in poverty—and almost one of every two poor children lives in extreme poverty.

But it doesn't take a poverty-level income to have unmet needs. Need has risen sharply since 2007. The number of people in extended unemployment continues to surpass WWII levels—it now takes on average nearly 9 months to

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find a job. It's a problem that impacts people today, but it will also impact the future of Americans for years to come.

Jobs and food are just two issues facing millions of hard-working people in America. But the needs run deep. And the consequences of living in need can last for years. Poverty is experienced not just as lack of money, jobs, or material things, but the lack of choices, mobility, improvement, participation, and self-esteem. For too many, poverty is shaping their lives in distorted ways, and moving out of poverty becomes not just finding a job or an apartment, but restoring a spirit, developing a healthy body, and renewing a mind.

Sponsors needed for our Annual Dinner

It is that time of year when we start planning for our annual fundraiser dinner. So much work goes into this one event that helps us raise the money we need to operate. At this event we usually have two-thirds of the people are being introduced to the ministry for the first time. It's the beginning of our relationship building process and also helps us build our network of people willing to help those in need. Last year we had about 370 in attendance from 38 different churches.

We need to recruit dinner sponsors to help cover the cost's of the meals and venue rental. Total expenses for the dinner run around \$7500.00. Please contact

Sherry if you are willing to help us with a contribution of \$240.00 for a "Table Sponsorship", \$500.00 for a "Silver Sponsorship", \$1000.00 for "Gold Sponsorship" (this includes dinner for 8 with your guests at a premier table) or \$5000 event sponsorship (includes 2 tables at a table of your choice, and dinner for 16 of your guests.

Email her at execdir@loveincpiercecounty.com .

We can also use some special people who are willing to put together & donate themed baskets of goodies that can be used for our raffle. The dinner will be February 4th 2011 at the Puyallup Fairgrounds again.

Our Response

By the Love INC National office

Love In the Name of Christ is a proven model that networks local church ministries and church volunteers, across denominations, to help people in need. Through Love INC, churches and individual Christians are mobilized to work together, along with community organizations and government resources, to provide coordinated help to the poor and needy.

But more than merely providing goods and services, Love INC aims to meet people's needs with the love of Jesus Christ. Through Love INC, Christians are living out who they say they are by putting their faith in action and providing help, hope, and God's love to neighbors in need. They are building caring relationships with those who are struggling, and moving beyond the expressed need to help address the underlying issues that contribute to poverty and hopelessness.

Love INC's work across the country focuses on six key areas that impact people in need, and nearly all Love INC affiliates provide supportive services in each area. Needs we address include Food, Clothing, Shelter, Health Care, Life Skills, and Family Support Services. The exact programs and services an affiliate offers depend on the needs and interests of those volunteering, and the churches interests in outreach in its local community.

Family Support Services

Loving in Christ's name means caring for people down to the smallest detail. Love INC seeks to surround people in need with broad support. For example, school supplies, tutoring, and books, or donated bikes, musical instruments or sports equipment can have a tremendous impact on the

If you are willing to help, to be a responder to the needs around us please contact our Judy at our office at 253-531-2365. She will help you get connected.



Leslie, Steven, Joyce, Timothy and Earnest at our Top Donor Appreciation Dinner

direction and future of a child's life. Gas vouchers or car repair services can offer parents the gift of transportation—sometimes the one thing needed to keep a job. A donated hair cut by a professional stylist can lift a spirit. The extra care demonstrates the Body of Christ's deep love for their neighbors in need.

If your church would like to get more involved in being a responder to the needs please give Sherry a call at 253-468-6236. We can help you work through the strengths in your church and maximize your effectiveness, help in building outreach activities that impact those in need and make a kingdom difference in our community.

A Love INC network is only as effective as the Churches willingness to reach out to it's community and outside it's own church walls to the people around it.



Sarah and Lisa, selling raffle tickets in 2010

What's at Love's Treasury?

We have a big collection of rare and out of print Christian Books.

Person & Work of the Holy spirit by S. Ridout no published date

Builder of the Beautiful by H.L. Piner published in 1903

The Son of God Rides on by R.E. Golladay 1st Edition published in 1938

The Representative Men of the bible (From Adam to Job) by George Matheson published in 1911

History of Christianity in the Apostolic age buy A. G. McGiffert published 1951

The Representative Men of the bible (From Ishmael to Daniel) by George Matheson published in 1906

The culture of the Spiritual life by William Dickie published in 1906

Treasures Galore! Stop in and see us! 10213 139th St. Ct. E. #B1 Puyallup

"Books are the quietest and most constant of friends; they are the most accessible and wisest of counselors, and the most patient of teachers. ~Charles W. Eliot

Who is our neighbor?

By Sherry Phinisey

This month's neighbor is a gal who is disabled, 65 and living in her car for 4 years. We've tried to recruit some help for her and it seems we all go through the same mental processes: we ask a lot of questions because it's hard to understand what is standing in her way to getting help. "There are many, many social service agencies around, someone must be able to help her get off the streets," we often think. In her mind, she reasons things, and her conclusions are not the same as what we would call a sound minded person. That is part of her disability. In her mind, she cannot give up all her personal possessions that she pays 50% of her disability check to keep in storage. In the meantime, she doesn't have the money to afford a low income apartment. She reason's that one day she will have that apartment again and then she will need all those things in storage and she can then sell some of the extra things for income.

In her mind, she reasons it's getting colder and the weather is terrible and she must have shelter now. But to her, shelter is getting her car fixed so as she lives in it she can move it around and not get it towed again to an impound lot.

In her mind, she couldn't possibly stay in a shelter. She has many chemical sensitivities and can't be around bed bugs and such, because she can't use the chemicals needed to get rid of them if they land on her body. She can't be around odors, or fragrances. They cause her to get headaches and feel ill. Continued on pg 5

Fundraiser Guests 2010



An elderly lady in Tacoma needs help once a week

We have been contacted by a hospice social worker who has been helping an elderly lady in Tacoma once a week with housekeeping.

Hospice is no longer going to be involved in her care so she was wondering if we could have a church volunteer (s) maybe rotate and come in once a week to help her out. If you are willing, please contact Sherry at 253-468-6236 for more information. It would be such a blessing to her to have the help and I'm sure the company as well.

Blessed, to be a blessing!

Would you be one of our Table Hosts?

I am recruiting 50 table captains ~ hosts who can be the Love INC ambassadors & invite new people from your church to come learn more about the ministry, & ways you can get involved with the ministry to our neighbors in need. There is no cost to you or your guests to come to the dinner, though we will be asking for a financial contribution at the end of our program.

To be involved, here is what you do. 1. Contact me and tell me you will partner with us and invite people to join you at the dinner.

(execdir@lovincpiercecouny.com) 2. Start asking people at church who can commit to joining you. As you get your YES people then you will later give them the reminder invitations that will be sent to you, once you agree to partner with us. Personally ask people first, then, give the invitation as the reminder. (This helps us not to print invitations for people who won't be coming. People respond a lot more when personally asked first! As people confirm, you RSVP to me the names of who will be joining you and I will reserve your table and make sure everyone is assigned to the same table.

Comfortably we fit 8 to a table. I will also need to know if you want one or two tables. Two tables is only 8 couples! Thanks ahead of time for your help in making this a success!

Table Host's are the biggest Love INC cheerleaders! They are the ones so sold on the benefits of this ministry that they can easily share it with those at their church to help us build a bigger and bigger network of Christians working together to help those in need.

We are blessed to have so many people working alongside of us, impacting our community!

Together we can do so much more than any one of us alone.



Love INC's 2010 Board of Directors

Serving on our Board of Directors this year are:

Jeff Ott, President from Celebration Christian Fellowship

Mike Boisture, VP from Puyallup Nazarene Church

Paul Dawson, Secretary from Rainier View Church

Mark Anderson, Treasurer from Puyallup Nazarene Church

Leslie Giba from Real Life Family Center

Timothy Acker from Chapel Hill Presbyterian Church

Karen Asbjornsen from Lighthouse Christian Center

Who is our Neighbor continued from page 3

With the help of one of our churches, we were able to help get her car out of impound. Walmart had it towed because it would no longer work, and couldn't be moved around the lot. It needs a new engine. It's parked at an auto repair shop for now. To fix the engine it would cost about \$3000.00. One Christian auto repair place offered to help us get it fixed if we can raise that amount of money. I thought to myself, "It would be cheaper to try to find her another used donated car." But in her mind, she reasons and says, she has tried hundreds of other cars and the smells of them are horrible! She smells the old cigarette smoke, she smells things, and is extremely sensitive to things I don't even notice and I wonder, how can someone live like this? She has tried apartment life, but said, it makes her sick when neighbors would cook with garlic or onions, she can smell it in her apartment. She can't live in a place with carpet, because she gets sick from smelling the glue holding down the flooring. She can't live with someone who has pets because of the smells and her sensitivities.

I tried to call shelters for her, to be honest, there really aren't any openings anywhere. On any given night I believe there are about 400 shelter beds or transitional home beds available in Pierce County, and over 1800 homeless people. The priority goes to adults with children when there is an opening. I called though, and there was no answer at one, and another was told to leave a name and phone number and be put on a waiting list. She's homeless, she doesn't carry a phone with her. She can leave my bookstore number, but if they call back and say she needs to come down today for an interview, I have no way of knowing where she is at any given time.

The YMCA has been kind to her and allowed her to shower there, for years, but she is being cut off at the end of this month and asked to pay to be a member, based on her income and there is a fee to use the towel services now as well.

There are quite a few people who don't fit the cookie cutter situations that make it easy for us to help people. One volunteer noted how hard it was for me to get my work done, when this gal comes into the office to see me and says goodbye, walks out the door, then comes back in 5-10 times having a little more to say before going on her way. It can be awkward, but I don't look at it as an interruption of my work, but part of the ministry. To the rest of the community she is an invisible homeless person, who most people just walk by and don't notice, or don't take the time to listen to. To me she is one God so loved... and if He sees fit to allow me to minister in His name then I try to do what I can.

It's hard to be that bridge though, from people in need, to people who truly do want to help in this situation because no one quite knows what to do with her. At first I hated to see her living in her car, than when she lost that and had nothing, I thought at least she had some shelter, some safety in the car, a place to rest, to get some sleep. She doesn't have that now. She spends her evenings wandering Walmart or riding buses to stay out of the cold.

It seems each time she visits, I find out a little more about her. She is sound minded enough to selectively tell you what she wants you to know, and not telling you the whole story. As she's talked with me, I've written notes in front of her so she knows I'm listening and trying to get all the info needed to help her. She told me in the past she was in court, she was never convicted of any crimes she said because they felt after testing at Western State that she wasn't competent to stand trial, but she was competent to take care of herself. She doesn't have the money to get a lawyer to get the charges off her record so they are still there if anyone tries to look. She doesn't appear to me to be a danger. Just someone trying to survive day to day with a disability and no one knows quite how to find the help she needs. I'm still trying. It would be a great Christmas miracle to get her the help she needed wouldn't it?

Love's Treasury

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Helping Churches Help People

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.lovincpiercecounty.org

www.lovestreasury.com

We recognize that a piece of your heart is included when you write that check and we appreciate and guard your trust, support and your partnering with us to make a difference in our community.

**Yes, I will help meet the financial needs of Love In The Name of Christ as indicated below:*

Special Gift of \$25___ \$50___ \$100___ \$250___ \$500___ Other \$_____

I'd like to be a Table host for the February 4th Fundraiser _____

I'd like to help with Love's Treasury Ministry _____

_____ I'd like to sponsor a child for a prom dress (\$25.00 will cover the dress and the cleaning)

Charge my credit card for easier processing:

Card # _____

Expiration date _____

Your Name _____

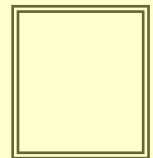
Email address: _____

Billing Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone number _____

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Customer Name
Street Address
City, ST ZIP Code