

Love INC

Love In the Name of Christ

Heartland

763-972-6547

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER..... VOLUME 2

JANUARY 2006

FROM THE DIRECTOR

This community will never be the same. Since the doors of Love INC opened, lives have changed, communities have opened up, and people have begun to eagerly get involved. I just did our year end reports. The numbers are staggering. (See page 3 for the facts.)

I am blessed and honored that God allows me to be here serving with all of you. I can't wait to see what He has planned.

May our precious Father continue to bless and guide us .

In His love, *TONY HARRIS*

Through you, our volunteers
and partners in ministry

I HAVE SEEN GOD...

- Restore families
- Save a man from suicide
- Give warmth to homeless
- Give hope to the hopeless
- Freely give love and prayer for the helpless children
- Warm a lonely elderly heart
- Feed the hungry
- Clothe the cold and weary
- Do consistent miracles
- Give peace to someone terminally ill

*I continue to
be astonished,
overwhelmed,
humbled and
amazed at
how God is
blessing this
ministry!*

Our mission is to respond to our neighbors in need and to empower and transform our communities through the Love of Christ.

Our Values:

- *We are Christian. Everything we think, say, and do is in the name of Christ.*
- *Prayer is an integral part of who we are.*
- *We follow Christ's example of valuing the poor and needy.*
- *We value unity of the Body of Christ.*
- *We value transformation in the lives of people and communities.*
- *We value churches living out the two great commandments to love God and love their neighbors.*
- *We value building Christ-like relationships.*
- *We value the connectedness of the Love INC movement.*
- *We model excellence.*
- *We value continually maturing in our capacity to meet people's needs.*

My Prayer

Dec. 2005

Dearest Lord Jesus:

I want to thank you today for the "loving" hospitality of the greeters when we picked up our Christmas gifts—your love shined through them and touched our hearts deeply.

Thank you Jesus, for the generosity and thoughtfulness of the people who so lovingly picked out gifts for my granddaughter and me... Thank you for your caring people who gave so much to be there to put together the food baskets and to help deliver them to our car....

But most of all, Jesus for coming into this world as a baby to teach us / show us how to love and care unconditionally for each other.

And one more thing, Jesus, I'm so grateful that each day I can start over again... KNOWING that my sins are forgiven—I've been saved by your GRACE alone and that you're waiting for us in Heaven. We love you and appreciate you Lord!

Thank you for blessing all the people who gave so much of their hearts to bring my little family so much JOY!

**Participating Member Churches
of Love INC. Heartland**

Delano Evangelical Free Church	763-972-2393
Delano United Methodist Church	763-972-3492
Faith Community Church Independence	763-479-2461
Light of Christ Lutheran Church Delano	763-972-2400
Immaculate Conception Church Watertown	952-955-1458
Maple Plain Community Church	763-479-1620
Our Father's Lutheran Church Rockford	763-477-6300
Riverwood Covenant Church Rockford	763-477-9126
St. John's Lutheran Church Howard Lake	320-543-2227
St. Mary's Catholic Church Waverly	763-658-4319
St. Paul's United Church of Christ Delano	763-972-6689
Trinity Lutheran Church Watertown	320-955-1891
Village Evangelical Free Church Maple Plain	763-479-3433
Watertown Evangelical Free Church	952-955-1745

Thank You!

As I sit here with my children tucked into bed, knowing that they are full of food, love and happiness. I, of course, am reflecting on the people that made that possible for me, and for them. You are the biggest part in our holiday season happiness. Even though the children think the clothes I picked out personally, the food I bought at the store, and the toys Santa brought. **BUT I KNOW** if it wasn't for you (or one of the organizations that pointed us toward help) we wouldn't have the clothes, food in our tummies and toys tucked in with the kids as they sleep. We also got to participate in a cookie exchange, because we got an extra peanut butter which gave us extra treats in our home.

Please, know that the gifts you gave were not the most important things you gave my family. You gave my kids the peace of knowing we don't always have to go without, you gave extra's so they felt like other regular kids and not a kid of a disabled mother **AND** you gave them extras so they could go bake cookies and go with everyone else to the cookie exchange. I got to feel their overall happiness and excitement as they open presents they thought I already knew what they were, and see wonder and excitement in their eyes. I **KNOW** It was the volunteer's time and efforts (that took them away from their own families) that made it possible for my family to have such a holiday. From those that went out and purchased and wrapped, to those that organized and helped pass out the gifts or food. I want to tell you **ALL** thank you from my heart for your gifts of time, presents, food, toys and most of all **LOVE** and kindness to others.

From: *Mother of one of the richest families in town because of your Kindness and Love*

Amazing Facts

743 lives were touched by the Love of Christ through our local Love INC
 Over 4300 volunteer hours were given
 Over \$30,215.12 has been donated through our first Sleep Out Fundraiser
 269 people received Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets and gifts
 Several Churches & school groups joined to adopt families for Christmas.
 Thousands of toys and books were donated for our FREE toy store.

LOVE STORY

BY NORM OLSON 83 YR OLD RETIRED PASTOR AND VOLUNTEER FOR LOVE INC

Thoughts while sleeping out in a tent... What is true Thanksgiving worship and praise?

The author of the Letter to the Hebrews writes: *"Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that confess His name. And do not forget to do good and share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."* Hebrews 13: 15-16

Sleeping out for Love In the Name of Christ Heartland ongoing fundraiser to raise funds for the year 2006 has made me a more appreciative and thankful person. The night of November 15, my 7th night of sleeping out in my tent, was especially memorable. According to the bank thermometer, the temperature dropped to 14 degrees F. But more than that, it was the wind and gusts of

wind all night long that had me worried. Just before she went to bed, my wife, Barbara, looked out the window and saw that one corner of the rain dome was flapping loose. She came out and fastened it.

The tent kept flapping and I kept thinking that the tent pegs might be pulled up by the wind. So I didn't sleep well that night, but instead had many thoughts. I thought about homeless persons who might be sleeping under bridges on old mattresses pulled out of dumpsters. They would be out—not by choice as I was—but by necessity. And they would not even have the benefit of a tent! I thought of people who have had the experience of light and heat being turned off. I thought of people in very poor, rundown houses. I thought of people putting up in cardboard boxes. I

thought—where would I be, what would I be doing, on a night like this?

More thoughts kept coming. There was enough light coming through the walls of my tent, so that I could see about 3 inches of seam had opened up. What would happen to my tent if the whole seam went?

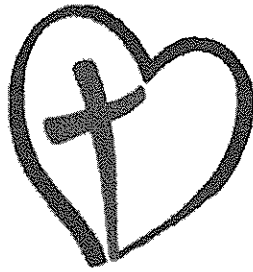
Our Love INC Heartland office in Delano, the clearing-house for now 15 Love Inc churches from 8 denominations, has been staffed since the last week in October. Our Director Terri Harris reports that from day one, people with various needs in our area began coming. The needs in our area from Plain to Howard Lake and from Rockford to Watertown are greater than we normally think or see.

How fragile, how vulnerable we human beings are in the

face of the elements, What if, in the middle of the night, I should have to go out and pick up something with my bare hands? How long would I last in the cold and the wind? Where would I get things to repair with? The margins for helping ourselves in dire situations become smaller and smaller when we are face to face with the elements!

For the sake of neighbors in need—You shall love your neighbor as yourself—bring those of us who are sleeping out, in from the cold. There are quite a few of us in the area sleeping out these nights.

To date over \$30,215.12 Has been raised for Love In the Name of Christ Heartland. Thank you to everyone for your hard work and efforts that made this all possible. Donations are still being accepted. Please use the enclosed envelope or bring it to a member church. THANK YOU!



LOVE INC
LOVE IN THE NAME OF CHRIST
HEARTLAND

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Fax: 763-972-6548
Email: LoveINC@frontiernet.net

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.LOVEINCHEARTLAND.ORG

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
TERRI HARRIS

LOVE INC SPECIAL NOTES

DONATIONS Our office does not take donations of items such as clothing, bedding or furniture. Please call ahead to arrange with the ministry leaders.

Clothing Coordinator: Jean Iverson 763-972-6547

Furniture Ministry: Barb/Norm Olson 952-955-1134

Bedding and Linens:

Waverly Deb Fall 763-228-1644

Rockford Laurie Hanson 763-477-4834

Office hours :

Noon-4:00 Mon.

9:00-4:00 Wed.

9:00-4:00 Fri.

Watch your church bulletins for the next clothing drive. Our Public sales are the second Saturday of the month 9:00 - 12:00 am at the Love INC office.