



Love INC
Love In the Name of Christ

Herald from the Heartland

Fall 2007

Message from the Executive Director

Did you realize that God has picked you for His team? The bible tells us in Ephesians 4:11-13 that God gave us apostles (followers of Christ), evangelists, pastors and teachers "to prepare God's people for works of service so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the son of God and become mature attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ." God chose us to learn, grow, and teach each other as we work in unity.

When Jesus walked on the earth, He did many miracles -- healing, providing for the needy, delivering from demons, raising from the dead, calming storms and more. When preparing to return to heaven, Jesus said that His people here on earth would not only do what He had done, but would do even greater things because He was returning to God and God would send the Holy Spirit to empower us.

Remember, God is doing all of this for our sake. I believe it is through *works of service*, side-by-side together, that the Body of Christ will be built up and reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God. Then we will become mature and have the chance of attaining the whole measure of the

Executive Director

Sponsor someone Sleeping Out

Humid summer nights quickly transition to crisp (make that **cold**) nights that Sleep Out volunteers experience while tenting outdoors to raise funds for Love INC Heartland. Beginning on **Saturday, October 20**, an ever-growing number of church groups, neighborhood friends, and individuals will bundle into sleeping bags and tents. Money pledged on their behalf finances Love INC's commitment to transform our communities by helping neighbors in need.

Sign up at your church for one night or many! Pitch a tent at your church, at Love INC's Delano location, or in the 'comfort' of your own back yard. Even if your tent is unoccupied some nights, it is a visual reminder of this community effort.

Lullaby Ministry "rocks" with new moms!

The Lullaby Ministry is the newest specialty ministry sponsored and supported by a Love INC-Heartland affiliate congregation.

This ministry meets a crucial need because even though county assistance programs help families buy food, rules prohibit purchasing diapers, baby cream, laundry soap, etc., with these funds. Mothers who are unable to get a job that pays enough to cover child care costs find themselves unable to purchase even basic necessities like diapers.

Lullaby Ministry volunteers encourage other organizations to host an annual baby shower. The ministry particularly needs cribs, baby swings, bouncy seats, and new or like-new clothing (especially for baby boys nine months to 24 months). For more information contact Lyndale Lutheran (Independence) at 763-479-1719.

The kickoff to this annual event is a Pancake Breakfast at the Delano Applebee's on **October 20**. Join us between 8-10 a.m. for great food and even better fellowship! See details on page 4.



Why support Love INC?

Because neighbors needed you during the 2nd quarter of 2007

- Love INC-Heartland staff and volunteers served 70 adults and 130 children (under age 18) during April/May/June of 2007.
- The agency made 112 referrals to other assistance sources.
- Volunteers worked over 1,000 hours at Love INC or through affiliated congregations.
- The Lullaby ministry began. Expansions were made to both the clothing ministry and a second car care ministry.

Our mission is to mobilize the Church to transform lives and communities In the Name of Christ.

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Lyndale Lutheran

Terri Mills Harris, Executive Director

Love INC Heartland

Baskets of Blessings are right around the corner!

Love INC Heartland affiliated congregations sponsor Adopt-a-Family Thanksgiving baskets and Christmas food baskets for many appreciative families.

If you want to participate in these or the Christmas Gift program, contact your church to join in.



"I need to move!!" were Sally's first words over the phone. "I can't take it here; I can't stay here!"

Her words were packed with emotion. "I just want to move. Please help me," she pleaded. She told of her isolation and pain, and the many hours spent alone without anyone to talk to. Sally has disabilities and lives in a secluded building with five other seniors. She no longer had a phone of her own; she was calling on a borrowed cell phone. Her daughter and son-in-law lived too far away to visit often.

Through tears Sally explained that she wrote her rent check before discovering a miscalculation in her checkbook. She needed to borrow a few dollars and get it to her bank in a neighboring town to cover the discrepancy. She felt hopeless and alone. "I can pay you back when my social security check comes on Monday," she promised.

Our volunteer prayed with her, *"Dear God, we know you love Sally and you know her situation. We thank you that in the Bible you said that you have plans for her life -- plans to bless her and to prosper her. Please comfort her and give her peace in this situation. Please, dear God, guide and show us how we may help her. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen."*

Sally was so grateful for the prayers. "I didn't think anyone cared. Thank you so much for talking to me."

One call to Sally's social worker assured us that her need was valid. Her social worker recom-

Love Stories

mended that Sally approach us because she had seen Love INC-Heartland help other clients.

Sally and her social worker were already looking for better housing which the county would help with. However, they needed a way to move Sally's belongings.

Love INC-Heartland volunteers gathered to pray and brainstorm. A bank call confirmed the impending overdraft. A call to the local church generated a short-term loan and a volunteer's offer to promptly deposit the money.



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Sally's newly-found housing was in a town with a Love INC partner church. That congregation supplied a truck, trailer and volunteers to help Sally move. They also alerted resi-

dents that a new neighbor would soon move into the building.

On Moving Day volunteers witnessed God working miracles. Their early-morning prayer was for Sally and their time with her – that they might bring God's love to Sally. One volunteer struck up conversation as she helped Sally move the small items that Sally's disability allowed her to carry. As they talked about Sally's grown children and her life journey a true friendship developed.

This new friend and her husband personally drove Sally to the new apartment, detouring briefly to show Sally how close their church was located to her new home. As movers carried Sally's belongings into her new home she was overcome with joy and the first hint of peace that many had prayed for.

(Love Story continued from page 2)

Announcements

Clothing sale is 3rd Saturday, hours added

Love's Family Closet's monthly clothing sale is now on the **third** Saturday of every month from 9 a.m. to noon. The store is also open for purchases or donations every Monday-Tuesday-Wednesday from 9 a.m. to noon and Wednesday evenings from 7-8:30 p.m. Come see the quality selection! Expand every family member's wardrobe!

The next 3rd Saturday clothing sales are October 20, November 17, and December 15.

Love's Family Closet is located in the Love INC building at 343 Babcock Blvd in Delano (one-half block north of the Hwy 12/County Rd. 30 stoplight).

2 on 2's-day

Each Tuesday at 2:00 p.m. you are invited to pray with us wherever you are. Join your faith with ours. A prayer as simple as "God bless my community and the ministry of Love INC" is powerful. So, set you alarm on the cell phone or an e-mail alert...whatever it takes...because at 2 on 2's-day we will be praying with you. If you would like to join us, stop by the office where we will be praying for our communities at 2 on 2's-day.

**2 ON
tuesday**

The following Monday morning Sally joyfully reported weekend events and how she witnessed God taking care of her. First, her daughter and son-in-law arrived to help arrange the apartment. Then a knock at the door was a neighbor in the building welcoming her with a plate of cookies. The neighbor introduced herself, invited Sally to the resident's afternoon coffee hour where she would meet more people, and offered a ride to church on Sunday. At church, Sally met more people and recognized a volunteer who helped her move. "I couldn't help myself; I just ran up and gave him a big hug and thanked him! He introduced me to the pastor."

"I can't even believe it," she said. "Just *three* days ago I had no one. Now I have a new home, a church family, friends in my building, more than 20 new acquaintances...and I feel safe and loved. I am so thankful. I know that God did this for me and I just cannot believe it. I am so blessed!" She repeatedly thanked Love INC and its volunteers.

Words cannot express how appreciative Sally was or how much she changed. Volunteers felt they were talking to an entirely different person. This was not something Love INC did; it was the transformation that comes from our loving, gracious God. He loves us so that we can love others. As we unite together to love our neighbors in need in very simple ways, His love spreads to our community. Love INC sees God all over!



You can help make a difference in the lives of people in need.

- I want to help with a monthly pledge of ___\$25 ___\$50 ___\$75 ___\$100 ___ Other
- One time gift of \$_____
- Please send me information about volunteering in the Love INC Heartland office.

Mail to:

Love INC Heartland
P.O. Box 143
343 Babcock Blvd.
Delano, MN 55328

Tel. 763-972-6547
Fax 763-972-6549
loveinc@frontiernet.net

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone (_____) _____

Work Phone (_____) _____

E-mail _____

Church Affiliation _____

Partner Churches

Delano Assembly of God Church
Delano Catholic Communities
Delano Evangelical Free Church
Delano United Methodist Church
Faith Community Church, Independence
Light of Christ Lutheran, Delano
Lyndale Lutheran Church, Independence
Immaculate Conception Church, Watertown
Maple Plain Community Church
Montrose United Methodist Church
Our Father's Lutheran, Rockford
Riverwood Covenant Church, Rockford
St. John's Lutheran, Howard Lake
St. Mary's Catholic Church, Waverly
St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Delano
Trinity Lutheran Church, Watertown
Village Evangelical Free, Independence
Watertown Evangelical Free

**Join us for flapjacks
and fellowship!**



**Saturday, October
20**

8-10 a.m.

Delano Applebee's

Hwy 12 and County Line Road

Love INC Heartland Office Hours

Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday: 9 a.m.– noon

Clothing Sale (open to the public):

3rd Saturday of the month, 9 a.m.-noon

M-T-W 9 a.m.-noon; Wednesday 7-8:30 p.m.

For a donation appointment, call:

Clothing: Love INC Office—763-972-6547

Bedding: Laurie Hanson—763-477-4834

Furniture: Mike Kluetz—763-955-2064

Questions about donations?—Office –763-972-6547



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Delano, MN
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