



Love INC
Love In the Name of Christ

Herald from the Heartland

Spring 2008

Message from the Executive Director

I describe Love INC as a *blessing broker*. However, Love INC is many things to many people.

- *To a family in crisis*, it may be "the only place I can turn to and not feel bad about asking for help. You treat me like a regular person. I know you care."
- *To local social workers*, it's more than a source of Laundromat quarters for an elderly woman. A friendly person will deliver the quarters, laundry soap, and offer to help her with the task.
- *To the man whose wife is dying*, it's someone to greet the kids at the bus, make dinner, clean house, and free him to sit with his wife.
- *To a person in need*, it is a donated car complete with six months of paid insurance so the new owner can get to chemo treatments.
- *To the battered woman* and her children who are starting over, it is everything from a spoon to a shower curtain, a broom to a bed. Love INC volunteers and resources may be her only source of hope.
- *To many*, it is where a loving, respectful person listens to struggles, offers to pray, and seeks solutions.

Terrí Mills Harris
Executive Director

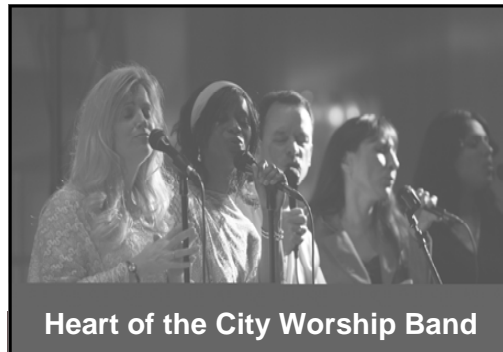
Join us at *Kaleidoscope of Love* on April 20!

Mark your calendars for a truly inspiring and uplifting night when Love INC-Heartland celebrates **Kaleidoscope of Love** on April 20. It will be a night to marvel at and embrace how God takes the fragments of our gifts, skills, and desire to serve, and spins them into a unique kaleidoscope of love.



Love INC-Heartland's First Annual Gathering of Grace

Kaleidoscope of Love will be an evening of fellowship, live and silent auctions, fine dining, and entertainment. The event features the *Heart of the City Worship Band*, an inter-racial group that uses its music to build bridges between races and denominations, and unites listeners with participative worship.



Heart of the City Worship Band

The April 20 event will be at the Rockford Township Hall, 3039 Dague Ave. SE, Buffalo, MN. Tickets are \$35 and will be available at all affiliate congregations and at the Love INC office, 343 Babcock Blvd., Delano, MN

Just like a kaleidoscope's magical, moving pattern, Love INC-Heartland's service begins at the hub (center) and fans out in an ever-larger pattern. Affiliate congregations are bright spots in the pattern, serving and connecting with neighbors in need. Come to **Kaleidoscope of Love** and become part of the colorful pattern!



2007 closes with amazing service statistics

1,900+ individuals served	19 affiliate churches
417 families assisted	295 volunteers
667 families served	5,075 volunteer hours

We look back on a year marked by endless God-filled moments. Neighbors' hopelessness came face-to-face with volunteers' love and prayers. We praise God for the powerful results!

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

Board of Directors

Donna Anderson

Village Evangelical Free

Cheri Ashfeld

Light of Christ Lutheran

Donald Danford*

Montrose United Methodist

Dan Fair

Village Evangelical Free

Dennis Gilbertson*

Village Evangelical Free

Pastor Paul Kling*

Watertown Evangelical Free

Carolyn Knutson

Delano Evangelical Free

Tom Larkin*

Immaculate Conception

Dawn Locklear

Light of Christ Lutheran

Daryl MacLean*

First Covenant Church

K. J. McDonald

*Mayor of Watertown
Immaculate Conception*

Pastor Gale Reitan

Lyndale Lutheran

Barry Todd*

Light of Christ Lutheran

Terri Mills Harris, Executive Director

Love INC Heartland

* These new members were voted onto the board at the Annual Meeting on January 28, 2008. Welcome!

Bag extra savings at Love's Family Closet

The April 12, 2008 clothing sale is only \$5 per grocery bag.

Fill several and dress your family for spring!



Love Stories

Adopted families share their heartfelt thanks here.

"My in-laws are from Peru. My mother-in-law recently received clothing from you for her winter stay here in Minnesota. Her winter jacket will be taken back to Peru to bless another person there. In that way, you give not just unto us but to the many others that come into your midst at Love INC. I have God chills from imagining how many lives you touch."

"We are truly grateful! My daughter loved the nice warm jacket and snowpants. Her jacket was so thin and cold while waiting for the bus. Our whole family has been touched by your kindness."

"Although Christmas is not about gifts, but rather the gifts God continues to provide, it was really nice to have nice gifts to open for ourselves and the kids. Thank you!"

"Without your kind hearts and gentle hands my family and I would not be having any Christmas this year. Thank you so much for your kindness and generosity."

Thank you for everything you have done for our family this Christmas. It really helped us out. God bless!

"Our deepest thanks and heartfelt appreciation for adopting us. It is wonderful that people still open their hearts to people less fortunate. We know that the Lord is always with us and times will get better. Thank you for caring for us this season!"

"You and your family gave of yourselves without even knowing whom you would be helping. It did not go unnoticed or unappreciated. You share His love in such a tangible way. It is truly a blessing!"

"Thanks to you we were able to go visit family. Thank you for putting a big smile on my daughter's face."

Adopt-A-Family serves 270 families at Christmas

Anne Crowley coordinated the 2007 Adopt-A-Family program.

I never imagined experiencing and witnessing so many blessings. Love INC and partnering communities reached out joyfully to spread the message of love to neighbors in need at Christmas. Clearinghouse Coordinator Connie Orman calls these experiences **bell ringing moments**. They never end at Love INC.

Just when things seemed overwhelming, God sent another adopter for a waiting family. When we didn't have enough gift cards for teens, God brought forth angels with the exact amount needed. A last-minute family needed gifts; God sent a surprise shopper. Those with last-minute requests encountered gift bearers with age-appropriate toys!!! Families adopted in past years worked to bless others.

None of us knows if we will need Love INC's services. I particularly remember one mother tearfully hugging all of us as she received her family's gifts. The need arose following an accident when her child's medical bills overwhelmed her financially.

I want to give a huge *thank you* to everyone involved in this project. It was an opportunity to be blessed by many bell ringing moments!

—Anne Crowley,
Adopt-A-Family Vol. Coordinator

Announcements

SleepOut raises over \$34,000

The third annual SleepOut roused past donors and awakened the call within new participants and contributors. Together, they raised \$34,767 for Love INC services to our neighbors in need. This is especially amazing because the SleepOut total matches 2006 but within a shortened timeline. The fundraiser began with the Pancake Breakfast at Applebee's and ended at the community Thanksgiving Service on November 21.



Everyone associated with Love INC **thinks** the many participants and contributors for helping fund services for our neighbors in need.

Clothing sale is 2nd Saturday, hours added

Love's Family Closet's monthly clothing sale is on the **second** 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 2nd Saturday clothing sales are March 8, April 12 and May 10. Love's Family Closet is located in the Love INC building in Delano, one-half block north of the Hwy 12/County Rd. 30 stoplight.

Volunteers needed to 'power' projects

Love INC is the vehicle for endless blessings and day-to-day miracles. You can be part of the experience! Here are new opportunities; is one perfect for **you**?

- "See" that semi loaded with food? Love INC can buy it for \$475 and feed 300 families. **Food for Friends** is a new program to distribute 30,000 lbs. food during a two-hour period....if 40 volunteers come forward. It's an amazing new opportunity.
- Help plan the April 20 **gala** and auction.
- Help in the Love INC **office** (phones, data entry, writing thank you's).
- Offer **rides** for office volunteers who don't drive.
- Develop Love INC-Heartland's **web site**.
- Provide **accounting** services.
- Brainstorm Love INC's 4th of July **parade float** and festivities.

Call the Love INC office to offer your service.

Love INC Heartland Office Hours

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

Clothing Sale (open to the public):

2nd 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: Love INC Office—763-972-6547

Lullaby ministry donations—763-479-1719

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



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 763-972-6548
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
Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church, Loretto
Trinity Lutheran Church, Watertown
Village Evangelical Free, Independence
Watertown Evangelical Free



Kaleidoscope of Love

Sunday, April 20, 2008

Rockford Township Hall
 3039 Dague Ave. SE, Buffalo, MN

5:30 p.m. Silent auction begins
 6:00 p.m. Dinner
 7:00 p.m. Program features Heart of the City

Tickets are \$35 and will be available at all affiliate congregations and at the Love INC-Heartland office.



Love INC-Heartland's First Annual Gathering of Grace



Love INC

Love In the Name of Christ

NON PROFIT ORG
 US POSTAGE PAID
 Delano, MN
 PERMIT NO. 32

Love INC Heartland

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

Tel. 763-972-6547
 Fax 763-972-6548
loveinc@frontiernet.net