



Love INC

Love In the Name of Christ

# L'INC Letter

The official newsletter of  
Whatcom Love in the Name of Christ

February 2011

## Message from the Executive Director

*I am blessed every day here at Love INC as I watch our volunteers live out their faith by "being the hands and feet of Jesus". They are doing the work that Jesus has asked us all to do. They are following Christ's example of valuing the poor and the needy. Just how valuable such people are is found in the parable of judgment in Matthew 25. Jesus stated that when the hungry are given food, the thirsty drink, the stranger welcomed, the naked clothed, the sick cared for and the prisoner visited, that doing such for them was doing the same for Him. When I have asked some of our volunteers why they volunteer for Love INC, I didn't get the answers I thought I might. It's more than just wanting to help those in need.*

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Carol Michaelson, one of our phone volunteers in our clearinghouse, has decided to "retire". We want to thank Carol for her dedication and commitment to Love INC and to serving Christ. We will miss you Carol!

## WHAT WE ARE THANKFUL FOR

No, don't panic. It's not Thanksgiving again. However, we think that everyday should be a day for giving thanks. So here's a list of things that happened in 2010 that we, here at Love INC, are thankful for:

- Our **34 partner churches** plus another **16 associate churches**.
- Our **54 volunteers** who serve on the board; work in the clearinghouse answering phones, doing data entry and general office work as needed; and work in the furniture warehouse.
- All of our volunteers who gave a total of nearly **3400 hours** of volunteer time to serve others through Love INC.
- Our **2 "Budget Boot Camp" coordinators**.
- Our **23 budget coaches and assistant coaches** who coached 24 participants in our Budget Boot Camp program.
- Our **6 guest presenters** who came each quarter to do a "Life Skills Class" presentation for our Budget Boot Camp clients.
- **Haggen Food** for supporting our Budget Boot Camp program by providing food vouchers to our participants when they met their weekly budget goals.
- Being able to help, in one way or another, the majority of requests (either by providing assistance or making a referral) of the **4172 calls** received.
- The **65 community organizations** we are able to make referrals to.
- Our **"Furnished With Love" coordinator**.
- The businesses and individuals who donated "gently used" furniture, as we gave away over **450 pieces** to those in need.
- Our **income** being greater than expenses by nearly \$22,000! This enables us to be able to do more for those in need.
- **DeWaard & Bode, Sleep Masters and Northwest Sleep Solutions** for their donations of mattresses.
- Our relationship with **Bellingar Storage**.
- All of **you** for your prayers and financial support.
- Our Lord and Savior, **Jesus Christ**, and His blessings on Whatcom Love INC.

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

## **Board of Directors**

Greg DePaul, Chair  
Hillcrest Chapel  
Jim Schmotzer, Vice Chair  
First Presbyterian Church  
Isabel Crowe, Secretary  
Birchwood Presbyterian  
Kristen Krumdiack, Treasurer  
Immanuel Bible Church  
Peggy Koskela  
Bellingham Covenant Church

## **Partner Churches**

Bellingham Covenant Church  
Birch Bay Bible Church  
Birchwood Presbyterian Church  
Christ Episcopal Church  
Christ the King Community Church  
Christ the King Community Church (N.C.)  
Community Baptist Church  
Cornerstone Community Church  
Cornwall Park Church of God  
Ferndale Alliance Church  
First Presbyterian Church  
Good News Fellowship  
Good Shepherd Community Church  
Hillcrest Chapel  
Hope in Christ Church  
Hope Lutheran Church  
Immanuel Bible Church  
Laurel Community Baptist Church  
Light and Life Christian Fellowship  
Mt View Christian Reformed Church  
North Shore Church  
Northlake Community Church  
Northwest Baptist Church  
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church  
Redeemer Lutheran Church  
Rome Community Bible Church  
Roosevelt Community Church  
Silver Beach Community Church  
Sterling Drive Church of Christ  
Sumas Advent Church  
Sumas Christian Reformed Church  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
Triumph Lutheran Church  
Word of Life

## **Budget Boot Camp**

*“My coaches are awesome”.*  
*“The vouchers have been life-savers”.*  
*‘I can see the light at the end of the tunnel’.*

These are some of the things that have been said about our Budget Boot Camp program. Our Budget Boot Camp program is unique in our community. It is free, provides effective one-on-one personal financial coaching and childcare is provided. It also offers Christians the opportunity to provide professional volunteer services. Here is an excerpt from a letter written by one of our clients:

*“I am so blessed to be on the receiving end of your gracious assistance. I was brought low (to BBC) but He is lifting me up with the loving strength of your hands & hearts, freely shared. The clear reliance on prayer for every aspect & the call to discipline/stewardship (& sharing with those who have less than me) are the tools that give me confidence going forward. Being aware that we are accountable in all things to God, who provides every NEED, has refocused my values as we live in a world geared to constant temptation and immediate gratification. You have truly blessed this life.”*

## **Registration**

The next 12-week session for Budget Boot Camp **starts March 29th in Lynden and March 31st in Bellingham.** The sessions held in **Lynden** will be Tuesday evenings, 6:30 to 8:30 PM, at Faith Reformed Church, corner of 7th and Liberty. The sessions in **Bellingham** will be on Thursday evenings, 6:30 to 8:30 PM, at Bellingham Covenant Church, 1530 E Baker-view Rd. Child care is provided. For further information and/or to sign up, please call Love INC at 671-6201.

## **Budget Coaches Needed**

We receive many calls from people who are not able to pay their bills, are facing eviction or their utilities being shut off. Yes, some have made unwise decisions. Others may have made the best decisions they can but are caught in our tough economic times. And others just need help with budgeting and making wise financial decisions. No matter what the case, Budget Boot Camp is here for them.

If finances and budgeting is of interest to you then please consider volunteering as a one-on-one Budget Coach. The need is great and the experience is rewarding. If you would like to help others and serve Christ in this way, then please call either Kae Unrein or Ginger Hansey at Love INC, 671-4055.

**Please note: Child Care-givers are also needed.**

(Message from the Executive Director continued from page

## Furnished With Love

Please continue to think of us when you are donating any gently used furniture. The furniture we receive goes out of our warehouse just as quickly as it comes in. Because of a generous donation of 26 pieces of new furniture from DeWaard and Bode, we were able to bless many people at Christmas. DeWaard and Bode gave us permission to sell the leather pieces we received. The proceeds of the sale will go to the building of a much needed loft in our furniture warehouse/storage unit. We have a 3 piece cream leather set, which includes a sofa, love seat and chair. All 3 pieces recline. We have set a price of \$1,500 for all 3 but will consider offers and selling the pieces separately. We also have a brown leather sofa (doesn't recline) for \$400. If you are interested in any of these items, please give Love INC a call. Lynette Kenoyer, Furniture Coordinator.

*Love INC is not just about meeting needs, it's about building relationships that have the potential to transform lives. Involvement in the ministry is rewarding and life changing for volunteers as well as those receiving help.*

*They are here because they sincerely want to "serve" the client. They say it is a privilege. Many have said that by serving those in need they have seen a transformation in themselves. God has things He wants them to learn also. Wow! Most of us do not have any idea what it's like to live in poverty. We haven't had to worry about whether we will have enough to eat or how we are going to get somewhere we need to be or how to pay for a much needed prescription or where we're going to live after we are evicted. It's easy to criticize the poor or needy for the decisions they make. It may seem to us that they're not doing enough to help themselves out of their situation but we haven't walked in their shoes. We don't know what it's like to "just survive" and we don't know what they've had to do to just get by. That's probably the biggest lesson I've learned since being here. Tolerance, understanding and compassion. Our volunteers are not here to earn a "gold star" in their crown. They consider it a privilege to serve those in need. Yes, it can be frustrating when it appears a client is not doing what we think they should, but they don't give up. They just keep "serving".*

*Kae Unrein, Executive Director  
Executive Director*

\_\_\_\_\_ I want to help with a monthly pledge of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ One time gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I have enclosed a check made payable to Love INC

\_\_\_\_\_ Charge my credit card (circle Visa, MasterCard or Discover)

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Security No: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Church Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

## Meet one of our volunteers



Paula Green has lived in Bellingham for almost 21 years. She enjoys volunteering for Love INC and answers the phones every Tuesday morning. As one who really enjoys helping others, Paula finds it tough to listen to situations and not immediately

jump in with suggestions, but has learned that fixing symptoms might be getting in the way of what God is trying to accomplish. Love INC is interested in long range goals as well as short terms solutions, a lesson Paula tries to apply to her own life. Paula and her husband, Glenn, attend Christ the King Church. They have a daughter and 2 grandchildren. Paula works part time at her husband's optometry practice and takes care of her grandchildren 2 days a week. In her free time, Paula enjoys Bible study, time with family and friends, cooking new healthy dishes, gardening and riding motorcycles. We are so happy that Paula is part of Love INC. Thank you Paula for all you do.

## Join us for Love INC's 4th Annual Spring Brunch

**Saturday, March 26, 2011  
Eleven AM  
Birchwood Presbyterian Church  
400 Meadowbrook Ct. Bellingham**

### **“Being a Light in the Darkness”**

**Our guest speaker, Heather Emerson, is inspirational, warm, energetic and fun. Her life is a beautiful testimony of God's love and grace. We know you will enjoy Heather's contagious smile, her delightful accent and her clever sense of humor.**

**Bring a guest and enjoy a time of blessing while you support a great cause! For tickets (\$12) call Kae or Ginger at the Love INC office 671-4055 . Please purchase your tickets by March 18th.**

## Love INC

Love in the Name of Christ  
PO Box 1602  
Bellingham, WA 98227  
(360) 671-6201

office@whatcomloveinc.org  
www.whatcomloveinc.org



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