



Love INC

Love In the Name of Christ

L'INC Letter

The official newsletter of
Whatcom Love in the Name of Christ

June 2011

Message from the Executive Director

Many of you may have heard "The Starfish Story", by Loren Eiseley, but in case you haven't, here it is:

Once upon a time, there was a wise man who used to go to the ocean to do his writing. He had a habit of walking on the beach before he began his work. One day, as he was walking along the shore, he looked down the beach and saw a human figure moving like a dancer. He smiled to himself at the thought of someone who would dance to the day, and so he walked faster to catch up.

As he got closer, he noticed that the figure was that of a young man, and that he was not dancing at all. The young man was reaching down to the shore, picking up small objects, and throwing them into the ocean. He came closer still and called out "Good Morning! May I ask what it is you are doing?"

The young man paused, looked up, and replied "Throwing starfish into the ocean."

"I must ask, then, why are you throwing starfish into the ocean?" said the somewhat startled wise man. To this, the young man replied, "The sun is up

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Because of Love INC...

- and one of its 35 partner churches, Michael, who was living in a re-entry facility, received clothes, boots and tools which were all necessary for him to begin his new job.
- and its furniture ministry, Kim, who was finally able to move into her own place, received beds for herself and her 3 children, along with a couch, a chair and a table.
- and the churches and individuals who give financially, Amy, who has 5 children, had her water bill paid which prevented her water from being shut off.
- and some men from a partner church, a man in a wheelchair received help moving from Maple Falls to Bellingham where he is closer to his caregiver and life is much easier for him.
- and a small group from one of our partner churches, an elderly couple received help in sorting and disposing of a full storage unit.
- and a partner church, 3 women helped clean an apartment for a woman who had an inspection coming up. If she had failed the inspection, she would have lost her housing.
- and its furniture ministry and a partner church, a 16-year-old girl received her birthday wish, a bed and bedding in her favorite color, blue.
- and its volunteers who answer the phone in the clearinghouse, people are listened to and prayed for.

Please prayerfully consider being a clearinghouse volunteer

Upcoming Events:

Budget Boot Camp Coaches Information Meeting

(For people interested in becoming a budget coach)

Thursday June 16th, 7 PM

Bellingham Covenant Church, 1530 E Bakerview Rd.

Clearinghouse Volunteer Training

Wednesday June 15, 1PM

Love INC office, 1998 Midway Lane, Bellingham

RSVP to 671-6201 for either meeting

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

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Partner Churches

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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
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Light and Life Christian Fellowship
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Redeemer Lutheran Church
River of Life
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

Love INC's Budget Boot Camp is truly unique in our community. Where else can a person go to receive free one-on-one financial coaching?

One of our recent graduates came to the program overwhelmed with all of her bills. She didn't know where to begin. Her coaches worked with her to begin paying back her bills, make a budget just for her and see some light at the end of the tunnel. Also, during the time she was attending Budget Boot Camp, she began to deal with other issues in her life. She stopped smoking, lost some weight and finalized a separation from an abusive husband. As she was leaving the program, she stated "Love INC has been a lifesaver. Thank you all. You all mean so much to me".

Registration

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

Budget Coaches Needed

Do you have a heart for helping people with finances and budgeting? Please plan to attend our upcoming information meeting. See page 1 for details.

Gap Ministries

A Gap ministry is an outreach that fills a need or "gap" in services to people in need which are not currently or sufficiently being met. As we have prayerfully considered what "gaps" the Lord would like Whatcom Love INC to pursue, we feel lead to develop the following:

Diaper Duty:

We receive many calls from clients in need of diapers. One agency provides a limited number but the need is far greater.

Blankets of Blessings:

Many people call our clearing-house who don't have beds to sleep on. Through donations from businesses and individuals, our furniture ministry has been able to provide beds for many people (and continues to do so.) Many of our recipients, however, are also in need of bed linens. Just think how nice it would be to give recipients of these beds a "gift bundle" which would include a new or gently used pillow, mattress pad, sheet set and comforter/quilt.

We are praying for churches/small groups willing to be involved in these new ministries!

Vocational Coaching:

Many people attending our Budget Boot Camp program are in need of a job or a better paying job. To assist our clients in their job search we are looking for individuals who would be willing to provide vocational coaching on a limited basis.

Please call the Love INC office for more information!

Furnished With Love

Our furniture warehouse is nearly empty again, as we have given away many, many pieces of furniture. Our Furniture Ministry Coordinator, Lynette Kenoyer, is putting out a plea for the following gently used furniture: dressers, tables & chairs, couches, armchairs, coffee & end tables, lamps, and mattresses, queen, full and twin.

The recipients of the furniture are so grateful for what they receive. After being given a chair, one mother stated, "Now my daughter and I have something to sit on while I am reading to her". After receiving a bed one woman stated, "Now I don't have to sleep on the floor". Please continue to keep us in mind if you have any furniture to donate.

Love INC is a movement of God. We thank God in advance that He will move some of you to help support our operations financially. You can use the sheet below to send your support.

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

(Message from the Executive Director continued from page 1)

and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them in, they will die."

Upon hearing this, the wise man commented, "But, young man, do you not realize that there are miles and miles of beach and there are starfish all along every mile? You can't possibly make a difference!"

At this, the young man bent down and picked up yet another starfish, and threw it into the ocean. As it met the water, he said, "It made a difference for that one".

Like these starfish, there are more people in desperate need than anyone of us could possibly hope to reach. Their numbers are daunting, causing many of us to resign ourselves to the notion that nothing we do can have any real impact on a problem of such magnitude. And if solving the problem is the goal, they are right. After all, Jesus himself told us, "You will always have the poor."

But at Love INC the focus is on touching individual lives. It may not significantly affect the world's poverty problem if one more person has a warm bed to sleep in. It may not drastically change any statistics if one more family's power remains on. And the help a family receives by learning how to budget their finances, and therefore pay their bills, and remain in their home may not make a difference to those focused on the "big picture". But we know it made a difference in each of those lives, one family or individual at a time.

Kae Unrein, 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



Lynette Kenoyer has lived in Bellingham her entire life ... born & raised here & loves it. She is a self-employed bookkeeper & has 3 grown children (2 daughters & a son) plus 4 young granddaughters, all under age 6. Lynette & her husband,

Chet, attend Christ the King in Bellingham & she enjoys a twice-monthly women's small group. Lynette started as a phone volunteer for Love INC about 3 years ago. She really felt a connection & compassion for the clients who called for assistance. Over a year & a half ago she volunteered to coordinate the furniture ministry. She found it takes many hours of phoning clients, plus coordinating furniture pickups & deliveries. It also takes patience & trust that God will provide the furniture. She feels it is worthwhile & a real blessing. The furniture ministry continues to grow & she looks forward to even more exciting growth in the future. In Lynette's free time she enjoys traveling with Chet & spending time with family, friends & her granddaughters. Thank you for all you do at Love INC, Lynette.

Mark Your Calendars

Love INC's Second Annual Fundraising Gala

“A Light in the Darkness”

**Friday Evening, October 7, 2011
Bellingham Covenant Church**

**It promises to be a fun evening featuring
Yummy appetizers,
A fast and furious dessert dash
Silent and Live Auction Items
(more details to come)**

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