



**Love INC**  
**Love In the Name of Christ**  
 of the  
 Greater Livingston Area

**Pastors and church leaders enthusiastically support Love INC because it provides them with the tools they need to develop, implement, and strengthen their church's involvement in purposeful community service and ministry.**

Church leaders frequently are challenged to find the resources and time to develop their own outreach programs. Love INC provides the structure to engage in ministry and, by pooling the contributions of many local congregations ensures that no church is overburdened. Pastors can be confident that Love INC, through its verification of needs and accountability requirements, is demonstrating good stewardship.

*Love INC has given our congregation tangible ways to share God's grace with the greater Livingston community. Within months over 100 people have become involved in meaningful ministry – many for the first time. They are learning first hand that it is more blessed to give than to receive! Love INC is God's gift to both our congregation and community.*

**Dr. Richard Alberta, Cornerstone Evangelical Presbyterian Church**

*In the Gospel, Jesus told us that we are to reach out to those who are suffering, to ease their pain and distress. Love INC does this so well. Love INC has the heart of Christ. This is why I support Love INC 100 percent. They do the good work of the Gospel.*

**Pastor Stanley Stybert, First United Methodist Church, Howell**

*Love INC is quickly becoming a beacon of hope in our community. Local churches are networking to provide improved services and bridging the gaps in community services with additional resources. Together we are able to reach out to those in need.*

**Rev. Ruth Strang, St. John's Episcopal Church, Howell**

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Networking with other agencies within the community is a critical component of the Love INC ministry. When there is no where else to turn, agencies and organizations have learned that one call to the Love INC network will open doors to Christians willing to help those who really need it. Some of our partners include:

*The Arc of Livingston*

*The Connection House*

*Department of Human Services (DHS)*

*Family Impact Center*

*Gleaners Food Bank*

*LACASA*

*LETS (Transit System)*

*Livingston County Catholic Social Services*

*Livingston County Community Mental Health*

*United Way*

*Livingston Educational Service Agency*

*Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency*

*Pregnancy Helpline*

*Salvation Army*

*Women's Resource Center*

*Michigan Rehab Services*

*Michigan Works*

*...and many more!*



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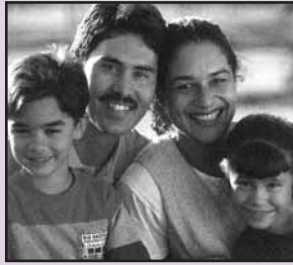
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**"Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth."**

**1 John 3:18**

**Love INC brings Christians together to serve poor individuals and families in our community.**



Churches are a plentiful resource, with caring members who strongly desire to serve the poor in our neighborhoods. But many of them encounter obstacles as they try to fulfill their call to service. Love INC helps congregations transform their love and God's love to action by carrying out a ministry that is organized, collaborative, responsive, and effective. Love INC is about helping those who are unable to cope on their own. It involves compassion, collaboration, generosity, and action. It is Christians working together to transform lives through the amazing power of love: their love, God's love, Love in the Name of Christ.

The congregations and community partners that make up Love INC are addressing serious **unmet** needs in the greater Livingston area. While America is a land of prosperity and opportunity for some, others are living in poverty. Love INC reaches out to these vulnerable people. They are couples, parents, children, and individuals of all ages. Their needs vary. Some are homeless. Others have physical impairments. Some are unemployed. Many are working, but do not earn enough to cover the rent, utility, and food bills.

At the heart of Love INC are thousands of church volunteers, motivated by the desire to share God's love and inspired by Jesus' example of selfless giving. Love INC enables these Christians to pool their time, talent, and treasure to create a network of resources and services that responds to concerns in the community. Together, Love INC partners provide tangible assistance, encouragement, and hope.



**Love INC**

*Love In the Name of Christ*

[www.loveinc.org](http://www.loveinc.org)

*Nationally, Love INC is a growing network of over 8,000 churches that places a high value on relationships.*

*The Love INC network of churches stretches across over 130 communities in 30 states and Puerto Rico.*

*Helping over 1 million children and adults in a year's time.*



**The Love INC Clearinghouse model provides essential and immediate help to those in need and is the foundation of Love INC.**



The Clearinghouse facilitates connections between those who seek help and those who can provide it. Requests for help, whether from a church, community organization, or person in need, are referred to the Love INC office. A trained staff person collects information (name of potential client, make-up of household, address, type of need), assesses the situation, verifies the need, and refers the request to an appropriate service provider (network church or community-based organization). Love INC offers assistance to all people regardless of religious beliefs, gender, race, or ethnic background.

**Our Clearinghouse Approach Has Been Extremely Successful.**

By following this model, our network of churches can:

- Respond to Livingston County's unmet needs
- Efficiently and carefully screen requests
- Help avoid duplication of services
- Effectively tap into the pool of resources
- Follow up on each referral to determine effectiveness
- Create a foundation for short-term relationships
- Connect the person or family to a network church if they desire

**Church involvement is structured around a church's vision, the strengths of the congregation and the needs of the network.**

The services our network offers are based on local needs and the time and resources that participating churches can provide. Congregations complete an "inventory" of their abilities, telling their churches how they can help. This might include professional services (budget and career counseling, legal, accounting), trade skills (carpentry, electric, plumbing), and project involvement (providing transportation, managing the inventory of donated products). There is a wide variety of services provided through Love INC, including:

- **Budget counseling**
- **Clothing ministries**
- **Furniture ministries**
- **Appliance ministries**
- **Job counseling**
- **Crisis counseling**
- **Household items**
- **Bedding & linens**
- **Personal hygiene items**
- **Food pantries**
- **Transportation services**
- **Parenting resources**
- **Emergency baby needs**
- **Gas vouchers**
- **L.E.T.S. tokens**
- **Home repairs**
- **Tutoring**
- **Home visitation**

Several of these ministries may be operated by single congregations in the network, while other programs have teams of churches involved in each. Often several churches will work together to respond to a single referral. For instance, if Love INC offers help to a homeless family, there are likely to be several urgent concerns to address, so congregations will play different roles.

One might provide groceries, another will supply gas vouchers, and other churches will ensure that everyone in the family has sufficient clothing. In helping the family, Christians are modeling Jesus Christ and answering God's call to serve.

