



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

# OUR HEART OUR COMMUNITY

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF LOVE INC OF  
THE GREATER LIVINGSTON AREA

*"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in Heaven"*

*Matthew 5:16*

## A NOTE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

### OUR HEARTBEAT

Our Love INC receives an average of 100 calls a month to the Clearinghouse Care Center. We are answering many calls from neighbors who have never found themselves in this difficult place before. We are listening to calls that are very hard for individuals to make. We listen, as they share fears, anxieties, sadness, and confusion. As we gather information and learn their story, we offer encouragement, while affirming to them their bravery, tenacity, and strength. We offer prayer. We connect tangible help through our partner churches and community resources which help navigate a journey that may be confusing.

Through the past year, God has been so faithful. He has privileged Love INC to shine His bright light! To His glory, we were able to partner with churches to **keep the heat on for 75 families. Together we were able to serve over 1,800 residents** with (the elusive) paper products and cleaning supplies, also toiletries, transportation, furniture, kitchen supplies, bedding, diapers, cribs, laundry certificates, car repair, and so much more. We encourage our neighbors to join our New Creation program, which offers a **community of hope and ongoing support, by wrapping around the whole person**, physically, emotionally, relationally, and spiritually. Courses and mentoring offer education and counsel in finances, healthy boundaries, stress management, healthy cooking, gardening, and our personal favorite, a course called Affirming Potential that affirms the beauty of whom we are created to be as we learn to embrace the future. **We are preparing for this new climate, and understand for many, life is forever changed.** Over the last 2 months, we have added new volunteers! 5 will be Faith and Finance facilitators, and 3 are volunteer support staff, plus 2 financial coaches, who are all joining our growing New Creation volunteers! **God is preparing us.**

**We are so thankful for the prayers and partnering of churches and the community. We continue building toward the future, giving our neighbors hope and transforming our community together.**

### REFLECTIONS ON 2020

2020 surprised us all; nothing was as it "should" be. There were hard challenges, heartbreak, and immense joy. My year started off with a bang. Four days before 2020 began, I experienced an injury which left me unable to put full weight on my left foot for almost three months. As I healed, COVID hit and my husband and I experienced the uncertainty for our 43-year-old business. As the year continued we experienced deaths of loved ones and new life in a beautiful new grandson. Summer offered a renewed love of precious time spent outdoors and exploring new and old places in car rides, like when I was young! Fall arrived and amazingly, I find myself in this new position as Executive Director of Love INC of the Greater Livingston Area! What a year! Through it all, God's love carried me. Mark 6:25-27 continually whispered to me, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?" I put my trust in Him and rejoice in this privilege to serve our great God, His Church, and the community of Livingston County.



Laurie Bourbonais

# NEW YEAR-NEW STAFF

We are so excited to welcome our new staff



Becky Carpenter  
Developer

I was blessed to join the Love INC staff at the beginning of December 2020. I come from a church ministry background plus banking and resale store experience. I am a born and raised Hartland girl. I have been married for 11 years and have a 9-year-old daughter and a 6-year-old son. From the moment I first worked with Love INC through my church staff role, I knew the mission was significant and I wanted to be part of the movement.



AnnMarie Brown  
Store Associate

I've been married for 30 years to my wonderful husband Steve, and we have four daughters. I am the youngest of nine children. I love painting, photography, tennis, scrabble, volleyball, and being with my family. It's been a huge blessing spending my time at Love INC, working with many wonderful volunteers, and knowing that lives and hearts are being touched in our community. I'm so thankful to God for the beauty of nature He reveals to me daily, and I never want to take it for granted.



Kay Pfaff  
Store Associate

I grew up in a small Catholic town with a population of 500. Graduated from MSU with an accounting degree and received a Master's degree at Aquinas College. After 30 years in manufacturing accounting, I decided to retire. Volunteering has always been part of my values so I am enjoying my next journey at Love INC.

# WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER



Bill Drabing

I joined the Board of Directors with Love INC this January. I am married with three children and we are members at Brighton First United Methodist Church. Two children are off to college and one is attending Brighton High School. I love seeing churches work together and I am inspired to see so many people volunteer to assist our neighbors. I see God in each of the contacts Love INC has with the community and He provides hope.



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# CHURCH PARTNER HEART thenaz

Recently The Naz came by our Love INC office with a donation to our mission for 2021. We are so thankful and blessed to have some of the best partner churches who support the mission and vision! When The Naz told us **"we are wildly appreciative of what you do"**, our hearts were warmed and propelled to carry on with the light God is asking us to bring into our communities. Thank you Brighton Church of the Nazarene.

**Thank you to these churches and businesses who joined us in blessing 58 families through the Christmas season.**

Northridge Church

Grumlaw Church

U of M Brighton Center  
for Specialty Care

**Join us as we pray for each of these partners who mobilize and carry out our mission.**

# VOLUNTEER HEART



Char McLean

When Char first drove by the office and saw "In the Name of Christ" was part of our organizations name, she was giddy. She knew this was the place God was calling her to volunteer. That was nearly 10 years ago.

Char is a local resident who retired from the City of Novi, has attended Cornerstone Church in Brighton, and loves that love is our premise to helping neighbors. Char said, "life is not easy, and when I share with someone on the phone part of my own story and journey with Christ, it makes them more comfortable and able to share where they are truly at in their life." She believes then the real help can begin. And we start to see God show up.

Showing the love of Christ in people's lives is what Love INC is all about. Char understands this mission and is so dedicated to the ministry. **We thank all of our faithful volunteers.**

# UPCOMING HAPPENINGS



Throughout the month of March, we are sharing stories of ...

**Hope  
Transformation  
and the  
Love INC  
movement**

## Celebrating Cheerful Hearts for Giving 2021 Campaign (formerly Heart for Giving)

Join us in sharing your heart for the Love INC mission. If you use social media be sure to use...  
#livingstonloveinc



**Donate NOW**

# RESALE STORE HAPPENINGS

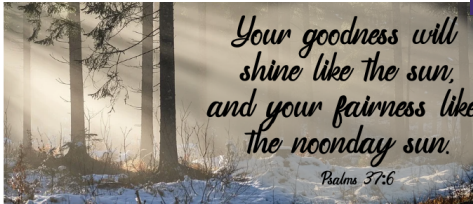
This a fun place to serve and shop!

HOURS: Tuesday – Friday 11:00 – 5:00  
Saturday from 10:00 – 4:00

**Volunteers NEEDED!** Whether you like offering friendly floor support to our shoppers or you want to help process incoming donations; we have a variety of tasks at the resale store during each 3 hour shift. Visit our website at [livingstonloveinc.org/volunteers](http://livingstonloveinc.org/volunteers)



Love INC  
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Resale Store



# Thank You!!



Thank you for your delicious fundraiser, giving back from your culinary trip around the world in February

Thank you for helping support our Boot Ministry with Centerpointe Church



**Knights of Columbus**

COUNCIL #7304

FATHER J. LEO MCCANN



**J. Mills  
PLUMBING  
& WATER TREATMENT**

Thank you to several of our recent local business partners. Going above and beyond to help neighbors.

**HOME DECOR SALE!**

HOME decor SALE

ENTIRE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

**VALENTINE'S DAY SALE!**

ALL RED ITEMS ON SALE

FEBRUARY 2<sup>ND</sup> - 13<sup>TH</sup>

**LINENS SALE!** FEB. 16<sup>TH</sup> - 20<sup>TH</sup>

**GLASSWARE SALE!** FEB. 23<sup>RD</sup> - 27<sup>TH</sup>

**PURPLE BAG SALE!**

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27<sup>TH</sup>



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