



**Love INC**  
Love In the Name of Christ  
of Littleton

# LOVE IN ACTION

*The Love INC of Littleton Newsletter*

A community of believers ...of one heart and mind ...that there would be no one among us in need (Acts 4: 32-34)

Winter 2012

From the Executive Director  
Rev. Doug McKinney



### Foundations!

No matter how wonderful a house or building may be, without a solid foundation it will crumble.

Jesus used this illustration to emphasize the importance of our foundation in Him in faith.

I recall as I began my studies in college that I took the foundation courses in each discipline. In any organization it is important to look at the foundation and founding principles. Love INC's foundation is Christ as lived out through his two great commandments, to love God and to love our neighbors.

To ensure that as an organization we look like Christ, all 157 Love INC affiliates around the country are made up of partner churches from many denominations. It is an intentional practice so that what the community sees is ... Christ. Love INC is guided by 10 core values that are closely aligned with scripture. Our guiding scripture is 1 John 3:18 "love God with your actions."

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**Join us for a fun pre-Valentine's Day concert  
February 11, 2012, 6:30 p.m.**

This year's music, directed by Dr. James Ramsey, includes the Ministers of Swing Jazz Band and the five sopranos in "The Soprano Effect." Enjoy the sounds of big band and jazz ensembles.

- ♥ Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy ♥ My Funny Valentine
- ♥ Blue Skies ♥ Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree ♥ Satin Doll
- ♥ Skylark ♥ The Battle of Jericho ♥ Heaven ♥ My Love
- ♥ The Lord's Prayer

The concert will feature a dessert break intermission, where you can enjoy divine desserts prepared by some of the best cooks in town, and an opportunity to shop at a silent auction. The pre-ticket price is \$12 (\$15 at the door.) Proceeds from the concert benefit Love INC of Littleton.

**Love and All That Jazz** will be held at  
St. Luke's United Methodist Church  
8817 S. Broadway, Highlands Ranch



### Message from the Executive Director

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In Love INC's operation, the clearinghouse is our foundation. As we grow and mature we recognize that the most important thing we do is to listen to **each** client, verify his or her need and help identify resources in the community and church that can assist with the need. We prayerfully consider the decisions we make at Love INC to do what Jesus calls us to do to affirm that our actions are loving and Christ-like. Love INC practices developmental compassion. This requires an investment of time, patience and understanding as we walk with our clients, offering a hand up as opposed to a hand out.

Love INC, as a unifying agent in the community, helps churches connect their volunteers and ministries with a growing population in need. The joy comes as we see that all are blessed in the process!

Grace and Peace,  
Rev. Doug McKinney

### A NOTE FROM LOVE INC'S BOARD CHAIR LISA FELLOWS:

I have been on the board for the past 18 months and have been personally amazed by how God is at work through this wonderful organization. As the world has declared 2011 as being a difficult year, this has NOT been the case at Love INC. Over 3,300 client needs were met through a network of 20 partner churches and hundreds of committed volunteers. With such an amazing year, the Love INC board has even greater hopes for the organization as we kick off 2012. Some focus areas for 2012 include:

**Continue to refine the clearinghouse operations.** This is the heart of Love INC as client needs are identified. Following a best practices model, further refinement will help meet the growing demands of the community.

**Build stronger relationships with our church partners.** There are few organizations that can reach across denominations to "serve and love our neighbor and community" as a united body of Christ. Yet, Love INC is doing just that! Our strength comes from the commitment of our church partners.

**Identify the most effective methods of development to support the on-going operations.** Although a minimal budget is required with a volunteer-based ministry, there are still costs that are required to support the organization. Opening a Thrift Store in 2012 is one initiative in developing support. One of our partner churches has stepped up with a very committed team to start this initiative—all of our partners will be needed to make our Thrift Store a reality.

**Many thanks** to the outgoing board members, Dr. Phil Trimble from Faith Community Church who served as the first board chair in 2008, and to Pamela Spencer from Pax Christi Catholic Church who began serving in 2009.

**Thanks also to the volunteers, church partners, businesses and community agencies that make Love INC what it is!**

### MEET CINDY AND TERESA

Cindy Johnson has been a great addition to the Love INC staff team as our clearinghouse coordinator since October. Cindy coordinates our client care with the help of 20 volunteers who come in Monday through Thursday mornings and afternoons. Cindy is active at Abiding Hope Lutheran Church. She and her husband Wayne have two children, Jennifer and Adam.

Teresa Weesner is Love INC's new ministry coordinator. She works with the ministry coordinators at each partner church to enhance relationships, helps to develop Love INC's gap ministries and works in development with Love INC's events. Teresa is active at Greenwood Community Church where she is a Stephen Leader and is involved in a number of special projects. She and her husband Matt have two daughters, Brianna and Mackenzie, and a son, Tanner.



## Love INC of Littleton Plans to Open a Thrift Store

Love INC serves varied needs in the southwest metro-Denver area by mobilizing churches of different denominations in the area to help our neighbors in need. By providing transportation, diapers, meal delivery, elderly visitations, financial counseling and many others services, Love INC volunteers from more than 20 member churches are meeting these needs. With space limitations in our partner churches, Love INC's ability to accept donations of clothing and household items and distribute these items to needy families has been limited.

The vision for the Love INC thrift shop is to provide a self-supporting retail operation to the community that will be run entirely by volunteers. Through the combined efforts of our member churches, we plan to establish a place where Love INC client families can shop in an inviting and friendly atmosphere for school clothes, household goods or other necessities using vouchers provided through the Love INC clearinghouse. It will also be a place where the community can shop for quality, "gently used" clothing and small household goods at a reasonable price. It will be an outlet for our member church congregants to donate salable items and to volunteer their time in a fun and inviting retail operation. Often times, clients want to "pay back" for the help they have received; the thrift shop will also provide an avenue to give back. Our primary goal is to serve Love INC client families. Any profits made over and above our operating expenses will go to fund other Love INC ministries.

We temporarily have the use of a donated storage unit, and are currently taking donations of clothing and small household items. A small sale was held in November 2011, and we plan to have additional sales in the coming months as we prepare to open a permanent store location. The target date to open the thrift shop is during the second quarter of 2012. We currently have a team of volunteers eagerly working toward making the thrift shop a reality. **Listed below are several ways you can get involved to help in that effort.**

- ⌘ Pray for a successful thrift shop ministry that will meet client needs that are not currently being met.
- ⌘ Volunteer to help lead team efforts as we plan for and open the thrift shop. These teams include fundraising, volunteer coordination, donation coordination, special sales/events and others.
- ⌘ Volunteer to help with community sales in the coming months.
- ⌘ Volunteer to work in the store after it opens.
- ⌘ Help with fundraising as we work to raise enough funds to cover start-up costs and six months of operating expenses. We're well on our way to reach that goal, but still need to raise approximately \$15,000.
- ⌘ We need free or reduced-rent retail space in Littleton. We need space one weekend per month temporarily until the store opens and then we'll need permanent space.
- ⌘ Donate a retail cash register/computer system.
- ⌘ Donate high-quality clothing and household goods.
- ⌘ Donate longer term storage/warehouse space.
- ⌘ A construction contractor is needed to help with the build-out at free or reduced rates.
- ⌘ Donate a utility trailer, preferably enclosed with a lock.
- ⌘ Donate clothing racks and shelving to display items we sell.
- ⌘ Donate shelving units and construction materials when we're ready to "build-out" the retail space.
- ⌘ Volunteer your expertise in working with eBay and/or Craig's List.

For information or to volunteer, contact Jerry Hertzler at [jmhertzler@comcast.net](mailto:jmhertzler@comcast.net), (720) 480-0476 or Nita Dunn at [dunnheim@msn.com](mailto:dunnheim@msn.com), (303) 886-0381.

**Thank you ... we're excited about this next Love INC ministry!**



## Meet Kari Mason-Volunteer Office Coordinator

Kari came to Love INC in January 2010 having heard about Love INC from a friend who is a volunteer. After reading about Love INC on the website, she contacted us and became one of our first receptionists two mornings a week. She quickly became familiar with all of the office procedures and equipment. As the ministry grew, she was asked to step up and serve as the volunteer office coordinator four days a week. Moving the Love INC office presented a number of challenges that required a lot of extra hours of work. Despite computers and phones not working and extra demands, Kari forged ahead. She is drawn to Love INC because it brings out the best in “the church.” With volunteers from 12 different denominations serving in the office on any given day, Christ’s love is what shines through. Kari and her husband Tim are “empty nesters” and live in Roxborough Park.



### Volunteers R Us

Here is the church! Here is the steeple! Open the door and see all the people. You can demonstrate this by using your two hands and it is a great illustration for Christ’s church. Love INC’s mission is to mobilize “the church” which in essence means linking willing volunteers with specific tasks and jobs that help us serve people in need. Find opportunities to serve on Love INC’s website and discover places where volunteers are needed at volunteer orientation meetings each month (the next is January 17.) As Love INC grows in service to others, the opportunities expand. Current volunteer needs are: Event planning, building operations and maintenance, leadership, thrift store and warehouse management, moving clients, volunteer placement, marketing and PR and much more! Contact Love INC to get involved!

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