

# THE LOVE CONNECTION

Love INC of Pierce County 10213 139<sup>th</sup> St. Ct. E. # B1 Puyallup, WA 98374  
[www.loveincpiercecounty.org](http://www.loveincpiercecounty.org) [execdir@loveincpiercecounty.org](mailto:execdir@loveincpiercecounty.org) 253-468-6236



## Preparing for our October Auction!

We are looking for donated items for our Auction for October and one of the things we'd like to ask is will you or your church sponsor a basket to auction off?

We will have a silent auction and a live auction. Some Basket ideas include:

- Home Relaxation (snuggle, CD's,
- Magazines, Bubble Bath or Shower Gels.)
- Domestic Diva (Cupcake book, muffin pans, liners, measuring cups, dish towels, chef hat)
- Lift Body, Mind & Spirit (lotions, scrub, salts, mists, devotion book
- Young Teen Basket (scented spritzer, make up bag, lip gloss, candles)
- Zoom Zoom (Car items)
- Baby Essentials (Bath oil, bouncer, books, blankets, onesies, sleepers)
- Kitchen Essentials (knives, pyrex, measuring cups, cookbooks, cheeseboard, towel holder.)

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- Scrapbook Memories
- Winter Sports Gear (hoody, goggles, scarf, sweatshirts, headband, toe warmers, hand warmers, sports magazines.)
- BBQ Away (tools, books, plates, apron, mitt, spices, sauces.)
- Party Lite
- Games
- Crockpot delight (crockpot, cookbooks, spices.)
- Mariners Or Rainiers Baske

Help us to make this the best auction ever! For more information call Sarah Reyes at 253-531-2365 Baskets can be delivered to 9116 Gravelly Lake Dr. SW # B4 Lakewood, WA 98499. Email Sherry if you want to help!

[Execdir@loveincpiercecounty.com](mailto:Execdir@loveincpiercecounty.com)

## Love Story

It's easy to see how helping someone in need can benefit the recipient and give them hope and help them out of a current bind.

Love Stories you don't hear about so often are the ones we see of the Christian's whose lives are transformed as they walk the Christian walk, serving and putting other's needs as a focus in their lives. They see the hand of God in so many aspects of how He is our provider in so many ways.

It's breathtaking when you see someone who knows what their purpose is, and gives 100% of their being to fulfilling that purpose, whether other people get it or not.

There is peace, that, no one understands, there is contentment even when the storms are in full force all around and there is joy and much energy in the journey.

In this place your faith is strengthened and unwavering, because you know who it is you have faith in and He has proven Himself faithful over and over and over again.

That love story is being about the Father's business and walking ever so closely with Him, because His love is so compelling and He has chosen to love you through the process.

## Disaster Preparedness and Community Centeredness

With all the Disasters happening all over the U.S. and the World we are brought to an awareness of just how fragile life can be. With the Tornados, the Flooding, Tsunami's you see the devastation, but you also see what is left. People coming together to rebuild their community. Humanity seems to be at its best after a disaster and people are there for each other.

In society today we are growing farther and farther apart from our neighbors. Our busy lives and schedules keep us so active that many people don't even know who their neighbors are. Churches are no longer "Community Churches" being the center of the community, they are "Commuter Churches". People drive there from some other community to follow a denomination or a dynamic pastor. Very few people are from the community the church is in.

We would like to help bring the church back to the center and help churches find a way to "Love their neighbors" literally. We call it "Strengthening Community Ties. Some of it has to do with disaster preparedness, but much of it has to do with getting back into your community and getting to know those who live in a 1-2 block radius around your church.

We will partner with local emergency management teams and do research on how we can best use our strengths to strengthen our communities, but also will become better, more caring neighbor's disaster or not.

If you are interested in knowing more about Strengthening Community ties email Sherry at [Execdir@loveinpciercecounty.com](mailto:Execdir@loveinpciercecounty.com)

## Partnering with local Churches

By Melody Rath Pilgrim Lutheran Church

Pilgrim Lutheran Church has been “Serving Christ on South Hill” since 1973, and outreach has always been a strong focus for us. We have always been a generous congregation, reaching out to “the least of these” since the beginning. Not that we are seeking recognition or a pat on the back, but Pilgrim has fulfilled our mission and motto in many ways over the years. For example, we began a “holiday basket” program in 1979; we have supported local food banks, the Tacoma Seaman’s Center, and various organizations. And, as all churches experience, we receive phone calls and walk-ins from individuals requesting assistance for rent, utility bills, food, gasoline, etc. We gave to these individuals as well, as we were able. Our “Love Fund” was established in 1980 to provide a means for the pastor to assist with these types of needs.

But what to do, we wondered, about those individuals who never seem to quite get back on their feet, whose “luck” continues to elude them? Are the monies requested really being used for the intended purpose? Are we stewarding our gifts well? Some of our members quoted scripture, saying *give to the one that asks you...* (Matt. 5:42) without question; others wanted to insure that “our” money wasn’t buying drugs (or alcohol, or cigarettes). Then, there is the issue of safety.

Working in the office at Pilgrim, I have had my salvation and my parentage questioned, have received threats against the facility, the pastor, my family, and the membership. One person who received assistance from us on several occasions spat on one of our staff members because she was referred back to my office for assistance.

Then one day, we heard about this great ministry, Love in the Name of Christ—Love INC. I don’t recall how or when, but it sure sounded like a great option for us. The ability to help those in need while making sure that the need was legitimate. We were also impressed that the intake process is so holistic—looking out not only for the physical/financial but also the emotional and spiritual. We soon became a “partnering church,” and eventually a “supporting church.”

In 2004, we partnered for the first time with Love INC to provide the referrals for our Holiday Basket Program, receiving 25-30 family referrals for both Thanksgiving and Christmas. When we receive the names, the volunteers at Love INC have already asked them for their wish lists, saving time for our staff and volunteers. What a blessing that is!

That is the story of our relationship with Love INC—the how and why of it all. However, Sherry asked me to write this article about the “what”—the benefits to Pilgrim for working with them. What follows are my responses to questions our Benevolence Management Committee posed when considering additional support of this ministry. First, the basics (regular supporters of Love INC probably know most of this information, but this is my take on what they do).

Love INC is a Clearinghouse of information, and a conduit between the poor & needy and those who have resources (financial or otherwise). They screen requests for financial help—rent; utilities; gas, food, or motel vouchers—or other services, assuring the need is legitimate. They then refer the client to community service agencies who may be able to help, finally contacting area churches for benevolence funds on behalf of the client. Phone screeners also assist the client in looking ahead to make certain that they will not be in the same situation next month.

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Another facet of Love INC is their “Gap Ministries,” providing links between client & community in various forms—the Pierce County affiliate offers furniture, bedding, clothing, and cordwood ministries, to name a few. They also have offered training classes for clients on money management.

Love INC’s director, Sherry Phinisey, is a dynamic woman of God, whose passion for helping those less-fortunate is electric and contagious. She came to Pilgrim several years ago and made a presentation on a Global Mission Sunday. In addition, several of our members have volunteered for Love INC in some capacity over the years.

Now to the questions:

1. Is Love INC a valuable partner in the ministry of Pilgrim or simply a worthy beneficiary?
  - Love INC is extremely valuable to the staff of Pilgrim, and, by extension, to our ministry. We are able to refer calls & drop-ins to them. Their screening process assures us that a) the need is legit; b) the entire need will be met (i.e. there will be enough funds pledged to keep the utilities on or avoid an eviction notice); and c) our funds are being stewarded wisely. We are relieved of the task of saying “No.” Those who are in true need hear that someone may be able to help, while those who are “users” of the system don’t (usually) berate us.
2. Do we refer people to Love INC on a regular basis?
  - All calls for benevolence are referred to Love INC for their screening process. Pilgrim members who ask for assistance are also referred there, though our assistance for their need does not rely solely on that process. Love INC then requests funds for individuals that live within certain zip codes which, for us, is basically all the 983s (Puyallup, Graham, Spanaway, Sumner, etc.).
  - Love INC is also instrumental in the success of our Holiday Basket program. They screen and refer ~75% of our clients for Thanksgiving, Christmas, or both (the other ~25% are referrals through Pilgrim).
3. Is there communication between Love INC and Pilgrim to increase effectiveness in collaboration?
  - Love INC maintains a database of client information to track individuals as well as trends in the community. Love INC sends out a monthly newsletter as well as periodic updates via email. In addition, when they receive information from other agencies and churches about abusers of the system or dangerous individuals, they send out a “BOLO” alert—Be On The Lookout. When Love INC has a specific need, or is investigating a new “Gap Ministry,” director Sherry Phinisey sends out requests for input and assistance. There are frequent requests for volunteers as well, which we publish as space allows.

Thank you, Sherry, for the opportunity to share and for all of the blessings this partnership brings—to the community, to Pilgrim Lutheran Church, and to me personally. And, thanks be to God for your faithful direction of a ministry that “loves on poverty” in such a basic yet profound way.

In Christ’s service,  
Melody Rath  
Office Manager  
Pilgrim Lutheran Church

## Adopt a Product for our Personal Care Pantry

YES, I'd like to share my treasure and "Adopt a Product" for a person in need. Just buy that one product each time you take a trip to the grocery store and deliver to us at the bookstore.

- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels
- Laundry Soap
- Diapers (variety of sizes)
- Baby wipes or other baby cleaning items
- Household cleaning supplies
- Shampoo
- Female Hygiene products
- Body Soap
- Toothpaste or toothbrushes

**WE COULD SURE USE LAUNDRY SOAP OR HOUSEHOLD CLEANING ITEMS THIS MONTH!**

Items can be delivered to our Christian Bookstore  
Tuesday-Saturday from 10:00 a.m. till 5:00 p.m.  
10213 139<sup>th</sup> St. Ct. E. # B1 Puyallup, WA 98374

# Thank you!!!!

## Love INC's 2011 Board of Directors

Serving on our Board of Directors this year is:

Vacant this month President, Paul Dawson, Vice President from Rainier View Church, Mark Anderson, Treasurer from Puyallup Nazarene Church, Karen Asbjornsen, Secretary from Lighthouse Christian Center, Leslie Giba from Real Life Family Center, Timothy Acker from Chapel Hill Presbyterian Church, Stan Johnson from Olympic View Baptist Church, Terry Maves, Living Word Lutheran Church

**Love's Treasury**

10213 139<sup>th</sup> St. Ct. E. # B1  
Puyallup, WA 98374

**Phone:**

253-468-6236

**Fax:**

253-531-2336

**E-Mail:**

execdir@lovincpiercecounty.com

**Helping Churches Help People**

*We're on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

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

[www.lovestreasury.com](http://www.lovestreasury.com)

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

*\*Yes, I will help meet the financial needs of Love In The Name of Christ as indicated below:*

*Special Gift of \$25\_\_ \$50\_\_ \$100\_\_ \$250\_\_ \$500\_\_ Other \$\_\_\_\_\_*

*I'd like to be a Table host for the February 4<sup>th</sup> Fundraiser \_\_\_\_\_*

*I'd like to help with Love's Treasury Ministry*

*\_\_\_\_ I'd like to sponsor a child for a prom dress (\$25.00 will cover the dress and the cleaning)*

*Charge my credit card for easier processing:*

*Card # \_\_\_\_\_*

*Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_*

*Your Name \_\_\_\_\_*

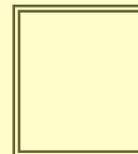
*Email address: \_\_\_\_\_*

*Billing Address \_\_\_\_\_*

*City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_*

*Phone number \_\_\_\_\_*

Love INC of Pierce County  
P.M.B. # 286  
10611 Canyon Rd. E.  
Puyallup, WA 98373



**Customer Name**  
**Street Address**  
**City, ST ZIP Code**