

THE LOVE CONNECTION

Love INC of Pierce County 10213 139th St. Ct. E. # B1 Puyallup, WA 98374
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Love INC
Love In the Name of Christ

The Needy become the Needed

By Sherry Phinisey

Today at the bookstore a gal came in who I had recognized, I said, "You look familiar... and she said I came in a couple months ago. She went on to tell me, I came in stressed because I was homeless, my step father didn't want my sons and I in their home anymore. We moved in with them when my husband left us. She also said that her husband left after she'd gone through cancer treatments. She had been very depressed for a period of time and it was difficult for her to move forward.

She was looking for a book to help her move forward in her life spiritually and physically. I had fun showing her all kinds of books.

She said she also needed to find a low income apartment to move into.

She said she had terrible credit, filed for bankruptcy back in '94 after all the cancer bills. As she was talking to me, one of our volunteers came in who was delivering some of the holding crosses he had made. She then said yeah, you gave me one of those crosses and prayed with me and made me cry.....

I gave her the location of a low income apartment complex, not too far away and in a good neighborhood, not far actually from where I lived.

I gave her our helpline number too for other possibilities. She said she procrastinated for a month or so, but one day was looking up apartments on Craig's List and saw the same complex I told her about.

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(She thought that was a sign from God to bring the same place to her attention.) It was an old listing and they actually had a special going on to move in for \$1.00 . She drove there to see if the special was still going on, they told her no.....but they had a new thing going, if you pop one of their balloons in this bouquet, inside was messages like \$1.00 move in, or half off deposit...depending on which message you get. She said she got the \$1.00 move in! She mentioned she had gotten some counseling from one of the pastors who is on our board with regard to her marriage, and she mentioned another church's men's group helped move all her big stuff into the apartment for her. She came back to the store to let me know how it all turned around for her after she left here, with our, (I say God's) help. She also asked if I needed any volunteers. She lived close and could help when the kids were in school! She wanted to volunteer at the Christian Bookstore. Praise God! It's another example of one in need, becoming one to turn around and give back to others through volunteering. The needy become the needed! That's Love in the Name of Christ.

The County's Changing Systems ~ Associated Ministries

By Sherry Phinisey

Many Churches have gotten a letter about how the County has decided to shift it's focus with regard to homelessness and is partnering with Associated Ministries with their new priority of Homeless Prevention. Over the next 6 months Associated Ministries will create a Centralized Intake System, very similar to what Love INC has had in place for 9 years. They will hire 5 intake people and are in a process of developing an intake process and are trying to centralize this service among the agencies that get government assistance to run their programs and keep all the client data in one government database.

We have gotten a few calls as to how this will affect Love INC and other Christian operated shelters. I and two of my staff attended one of the roll out meetings that the county and Associated Ministries held this past week to see what it was they were doing and how it may affect us. The way we see it, they are in a brainstorming stage as to how to put it all together and what their processes will be. They are hiring a Marketing firm to help them sell this and get the word out. Their goal is to centralize data so they can over a period of 5 years get the best set of statistics available to determine what should be done with regard to problems relating to homelessness and how it can be prevented. Pierce County, along with two other Counties are in a pilot program sponsored by the Gates Foundation and they have a pool of \$250,000 to help with eviction prevention for those who go through their intake system. I haven't seen their letter to the churches but believe they are trying to get the churches to donate funds to this pool to increase it, and the Gates foundation will match a percentage of funds they raise to increase the pool.

This is where we stand with this currently. We have a trusted and reliable system already in place that the churches have been using for 9 years. Christian organizations don't get government funding, HUD funding and very little city or

county funding because we will not compromise on our Christian mission. We will still be doing what we have been doing. It is encouraging that as they change their system to ours, it shows us we had it right from the beginning. If we prevent people from becoming homeless it is a lot more cost effective than trying to help them after the fact.

This new system change doesn't build more affordable housing or increase the shelters that are already overfilled, but it will help prevent more people needing those services and for that we are thankful!

Love INC provided in-depth intake services, and shares our Christian Faith, prays for people and tries to keep connected and supporting families for extended periods of time. We try to connect people in need with our partnering churches to meet both physical and spiritual needs, ministering to the whole person. Our client database is built so that churches that partner with us have access to it from their church computers if need be.

I had a chat with one of our Christian Domestic Violence Shelter Friends who will not be a part of this system because they don't disclose the victim's information or whereabouts to a government entity because some of the perpetrators may be able to get access to those government systems and find the victims.

I am in the process of scheduling a meeting with the county leads on this and will be willing to share statistics if that helps them, but we will continue to do ministry as usual in our intake process and will use our own database that benefits our partnering churches on hours we aren't available. If you have any questions about this or our processes please give me, Sherry a call at 253-468-6236 cell or at our bookstore 253-256-4087.

What's at Love's Treasury?

Group Leaders

"Books are the quietest and most constant of friends; they are the most accessible and wisest of counselors, and the most patient of teachers. ~Charles W. Eliot

We have hundreds of Bible Studies and many sets have multiple books. They include authors such as, Charles Swindoll, Max Lucado, SFL Study Guides by Jack Hayford, Intensive Day by Day series book of Luke. We have Navpress, Growing in Discipleship, Kay Arthur's Lord series. Here is a sampling of some of our titles:

- The Stages of Spiritual Growth by Wilkerson 23 copies
- The Kingdom Agenda 17 copies
- Study series by the following companies, Cook, Kingdom Dynamics, Discover your bible, and Navpress.
- Thirty Discipleship Exercises 25 copies
- Serendipity New Testaments for Groups 7 copies
- The New International Readers Version of New Testament 13 copies
- The Shock of your life by Holloway 12 copies
- The Prayer of Jabez by Wilkerson 23 copies
- Revolution in World Missions 15 copies
- Gentle Persuasion by Aldrich 8 copies
- Evangelical Explosion 13 copies
- How to manage your money by Burkett 13 copies
- 7 Promises of a Promise Keeper 16 copies
- The Purpose Drive Life 30 copies

Most paperbacks sell for \$3.00 per copy and hardcover's for \$5.00!

Valentines Special Coupon

20% off

Rock Hearts and Laser Etched Glass cubes & lighted bases

through February 15th with this coupon.

At Love's Treasury Christian Bookstore

10213 139th St. Ct. E. Puyallup

(Off Meridian and across the street from Firgrove Elementary School in the business park 2nd row back from the Meridian)

The New Personal Care Pantry

With the State budget cuts taking affect, people in poverty will be hit hard. Those currently getting TANF financial assistance of \$453.00 will be reduced to \$368.00 a month and those that got GAU of about \$339 will not get any financial support. In an effort to be of some help we are creating a new "GAP" ministry in the development of a Personal Care pantry that will have items people can't purchase with food stamps such as:

Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Laundry Soap, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Female Hygiene Products, Diapers, Baby Wipes, Body Soap. We'd like to ask donors and churches to consider "Adopting a Product" pick an item and donate that item monthly to help us stock the pantry for those clients who are calling on the churches for assistance. To get these items people will still call our helpline and then will be given a voucher to pick up the items at our Christian Bookstore. People will not be able to "Come in and just shop" for items. Bags will be put together with the items they asked for and brought over to the bookstore for the people to pick up.

I have put together a half sheet insert that can be sent out to put in the churches bulletins to help promote the gap ministry. Just email Sherry at execdir@loveincpiercecounty.com for the bulletin! Thanks

Leave His imprint on someone's life! Love INC is you, the Church, reaching out to people in need with the transforming love of Jesus. 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

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



Love INC's 2011 Board of Directors

Serving on our Board of Directors this year are:
Jeff Ott, President from CenterPoint Christian Fellowship
Paul Dawson, Secretary from Rainier View Church
Mark Anderson, Treasurer from Puyallup Nazarene Church
Leslie Giba from Real Life Family Center
Timothy Acker from Chapel Hill Presbyterian Church
Karen Asbjornsen from Lighthouse Christian Center

What is a Gap Ministry?

A Gap Ministry is an outreach that fills an unmet need or “gap” in community services for people in need. Gap Ministries meet needs that are not currently or sufficiently being met by agencies, government, entities, or churches. Each Gap Ministry is focused on a particular need and these needs are met by providing:

Services such as transportation, budget counseling, haircuts, home repair, etc.

Products such as food, personal care items, clothes, furniture, medical equipment, baby supplies, etc.

Needed services or products in a community are identified through calls received at the Love INC Clearinghouse and Love INC's relationship with area agencies and nonprofit organizations. Love INC partners with churches to organize Gap Ministries around a specific need and works with the entire network of churches to glean the necessary resources. The Love INC Clearinghouse then refers people with verified needs to the Gap Ministry.

We are excited about gearing up for the Personal Care Pantry, a “Gap Ministry”, and look forward to other opportunities to meet needs as the year progresses. If your church would like to house a gap ministry, contact Sherry Phinisey at execdir@loveincpiercecounty.com for more information on including it in the network!

Love's Treasury

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Helping Churches Help People

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.lovincpiercecounty.org

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 4th 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
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Customer Name
Street Address
City, ST ZIP Code