

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

A valuable partner in ministry

By Melody Rath

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

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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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Being a Pro Active Good Samaritan

By Sherry Phinisey

May 23rd at Noon, and May 26 the at 6:00 pm Love INC will be hosting meetings for church outreach teams, or local missions teams to help connect churches with those in our local community of a 1-2 block radius.

Love INC is partnering in an effort that involves Community Disaster Preparedness. It is part of an outreach of the Puget Sound Federal Coordinating Center in partnership with Faith based non profits, and churches in local neighborhoods.

It is our goal to identify in an outreach project not only a way to get to know the neighbors in a 1-2 block radius of your church, but to also be able to identify who our vulnerable populations are, around the church. To be proactive good Samaritans.

In the event of a natural disaster we could have these people listed on a report so they can be checked on and cared for if they are unable to seek help on their own.

Most first responders will be bombarded with calls from people and the ones most likely to be able to assist first are those neighbors in a one or two block radius of each other.

If you are interested in attending please call us at 253-256-4087 or email me at execdir@loveincpiercecounty.com

Future Position Opening

Executive Assistant

Sherry is accepting applications for the part time position of Assistant to the Executive Director of Love INC.

The preferred candidate will be a mature Christian and have excellent writing skills in Word, Excel and have experience with databases and website development. The person will be updated on current technology, social media, and networking. Someone who can get up to speed quickly on using our amazon account to sell our bookstore stock.

Some of the duties that you'd be involved in would include but are not limited to:

- Keeping existing databases updated
- Help write and distribute the newsletter and updating email addresses on an ongoing basis.
- Help planning and organizing our fundraiser events and recruiting table hosts and event sponsors.
- Put together a display piece to use at Church mission fairs.
- Put together Training Manuals for a transitional housing program and for our Database user training.
- In charge of our Amazon Sales process and delivery of books. Assist with Christian Bookstore as needed.
- Help Coordinate Volunteers and help plan volunteer appreciation events

I am looking also for a people person, with a can do attitude. Someone who thrives working on multiple projects at one time. Someone who can work with technical details and be creative at the same time. This position will start out at 20 hours per week. Hours can be a little flexible depending on candidates needs. Salary Range to be determined depending on experience and fit of candidates. We are a small non profit, no medical or dental benefits. Interested candidates please email resume and cover letter to Sherry Phinisey at Execdir@loveincpiercecounty.com

Love's Treasury

Home School Curriculum.

"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

*Bring your used Home School Curriculum into the store
for a donation and receive
20% off your next purchase!!*

We look forward to sharing all
our treasures with you!
Come in and visit us at
10213 139th St. Ct. E. # B1 in Puyallup
We are off Meridian, across the street from
Firgrove Elementary School
in the 2nd row of buildings in the business park

Help us spread the word about THE PROM DRESS MINISTRY!

We have over 200 beautiful dresses that we are renting for \$25.00 each. That basically helps with the cleaning costs after they've been worn. Help us to get the word out so that girls who's parent's can't afford the hundred dollar dresses can still attend the formal dances!

May's Special: 20% off on all gift items with this printed page.

Continued from page 1A valuable partner in ministry

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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

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

Thank you!!!!

Love INC's 2011 Board of Directors

Serving on our Board of Directors this year is:

Jeff Ott, President from Centerpoint Christian Fellowship, 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

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Helping Churches Help People

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.lovingpiercecounty.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 _____

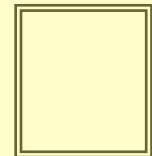
Email address: _____

Billing Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone number _____

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Customer Name
Street Address
City, ST ZIP Code