



Love INC
Love In the Name of Christ

THE LINK

LINKING CHRIST-CENTERED CHURCHES IN MINISTRY

SUMMER 2011

Itching to Volunteer?

From the Desk of Executive Director, Dawn Blusher



With the huge state budget cuts, more and more people that were/are borderline self-sufficient are in need and calling our Clearinghouse. We are approaching August and September, historically our highest volume months each year. In 2010, we received **749** calls in August and **711** in September from families requesting assistance! There is a growing need for additional funds to meet the expected service needs.

I would love to come and talk with your church, deacons, women's or men's groups, High School Youth groups, or Community Club about helping us help our neighbors in need. I am passionate about Love INC's touch on the community as we achieve our goal one person at a time, one family at a time.

Some of our current needs/opportunities are:

- Nonperishable foods for our pantry
- New and used homeschool materials
- Prayer team
- Getting the word out about our prom dress ministry that provides gowns for young ladies that can't afford new ones.
- Have a team-building day at the Thrift Store.
- Assist in the Clearinghouse office.
- Assist the furniture ministry by picking up or delivering donations.
- Consider becoming a Love INC board member.

Thanks in advance! We are blessed, to be a blessing.

Busy Spring!

Spring has been a busy time around Love INC! In April, we were able to give approximately 20 Easter baskets to clients with children. In May, the B.I.G. (Baby Item Giveaway) event provided clients with children aged 0-3 the opportunity to receive needed baby items. Cribs, strollers, high chairs, clothing, diapers, and other much-needed baby supplies were distributed to nearly



25 clients. A huge thank you to those who donated items for this event! The Thrift Store has been quite busy as well. Two warehouse sales this spring gave the storage facility some much-needed space...only until more donations were received! We are blessed by the many donations that are received daily from church partners, volunteers, and the community. Two additional warehouse sales are scheduled for this summer. Refer to the Upcoming Events section elsewhere in this newsletter for dates and times.

Inside

2
Upcoming Events
Volunteer Spotlight
Meet New Love INC Staff

3
What Can A Buck Do?

4
Thrift Store Happenings

Love INC Going Green

As we all know, the price of pretty much everything continues to rise. Unfortunately, that includes the costs associated with printing and mailing this newsletter.

In the Winter 2010 issue we asked for your email address so we could begin emailing this newsletter instead of using snail-mail. Because the response was lower than anticipated, we have decided to give you another chance!

It's very simple! Just send an email to info@loveinliberty.org and type the word "Newsletter" in the Subject line. That will be our cue to add that email address to our distribution list.

Also, check us out online. Our website is www.loveinliberty.org, and you can find us on Facebook and Twitter as well. On Facebook, look for us at **Love INC of Clay County**; on Twitter, follow us at **loveclayco**.

Upcoming Events

Summertime finds us as busy as ever! Check out what's happening...

- **July 11, 11 am - 1 pm: Volunteer Appreciation Picnic at Liberty City Park.** If you have volunteered at Love INC (in the office, Thrift Store, or Warehouse) over the last year, we invite you to join us for an appreciation lunch. Come enjoy a hot dog, our treat! RSVP to Stephanie at sschell@loveinliberty.org.
- **July 23 and August 13 from 9 am - 1 pm: Love INC Thrift Store Warehouse Sales.** Many large and small furniture items as well as clothing, games, toys, shoes, and more! Located across the parking lot from the thrift store. Great bargains are sure to be found!
- **August 8 - 11: Hy-Vee Fundraising Days.** Five percent of your purchases made on those days will be donated to Love INC. You must present a coupon to the cashier at the Liberty Hy-Vee in order for the funds to be applied. Use the one attached to this newsletter, and feel free to make copies if you know you will be shopping on multiple days that week!. Give copies to your friends and family as well!
- **August: Love INC Blood Drive.** If we have 25 volunteers willing to give blood, a date will be scheduled. Email Stephanie Schell if you would be interested in participating - info@loveinliberty.org.

Volunteer Spotlight

Recognizing those who work behind the scenes

Volunteers are the heart and soul of what we do at Love INC. Their commitment to working with clients, receiving and returning calls, performing data entry, sorting donations at the thrift store, or working on special projects, is the reason why we are successful!

Since January, over 270 volunteers have donated almost 2700 hours of their time to help reach the people of Clay County in the Name of Christ. What an awesome team of volunteers we have!

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Stephanie at 816.994.6926.



Volunteers Kathy Best, Pat Mountain, and Andrew Green sort through donated items at the Love INC Thrift Store warehouse.

Go Green! Don't forget to send an email to info@loveinliberty.org to continue receiving this newsletter!

Meet the New Love INC Staff



Dawn Blusher currently serves as the Executive Director for Love INC of Clay County. She is responsible for all programs, fund development, marketing, fiscal responsibilities, and human capital development, that all deliver quintessentially to the work of Love INC. Previously Dawn served more than 15 years in not-for-profit leadership. Her assignments have included Executive Director for Habitat for Humanity in St. Joseph, Director for MINK, and Catholic Charities. Dawn holds a Bachelor's degree from Missouri Western State University, and a Master's degree in Leadership and Organizational Management from Central Michigan University. She is a recent Doniphan Fellow. Dawn actively supports her community through various activities, including CERT.



Stephanie Schell has been with Love INC since April 2011 as the Office Manager. Prior to that, she served for two years in SE Asia as a missionary. Her background is in IT project management, but since returning from overseas in January, has felt called to work in the non-profit sector. Stephanie enjoys hiking, reading, and building dollhouses.



Valerie Jones is the new Clearinghouse Coordinator. She moved to Liberty from Arizona in September 2010. Valerie enjoys working with people, as well as enjoys spending time with family and friends. She is devoted to her daughter and stepson. Prior to employment with Love INC, Valerie volunteered in the Love INC Thrift Store.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Thrift Store Happenings...



Amber Coffey, Love INC Thrift Store Manager, celebrated her one-year anniversary at the helm of the store. June 3, 2011 was designated "Amber Appreciation Day", with board members, staff,

and volunteers stopping in with congratulatory wishes. Thank you Amber for your energy, professionalism, and wit!

July Special

All clothing \$1.00

Cleaning out your closets, having a garage sale, or just have stuff lying around you don't use any longer? If you have items you would like to donate to the thrift store, they can be dropped off Monday-Saturday between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Current needs are housewares such as pots and pans, small appliances, and silverware. If you are not able to deliver large items, call the donation line and Amber will work with the volunteer furniture team to arrange for pick-up.

Don't forget to send us your email address so your Love INC newsletters will keep coming!

info@loveinliberty.org

Love INC Thrift Store

Warehouse Sale!

Two sales...

Saturday, July 23

and

Saturday, August 13

9:00 am - 1 pm

The sale will be held at the warehouse located across the parking lot from the thrift store (east of Freedom House)

2050 Plumbers Way, Liberty, MO