



Love INC  
Love In the Name of Christ

# Love Letter

Love INC of Benton County

In Cooperation with CitiChurch of Corvallis

## Our Mission ...

*To mobilize Christians to show the love of Christ by reaching out to people with needs in the communities of Benton County.*

### Look What You Have Done...

**Poverty, USA**

**Population: 34.6 million**

Does it matter that you delivered a food box to one person in need?

**Yes.**

*Love INC Executive Director*  
Wilma Van Schelven

*Clearinghouse Coordinator*  
Karen Combs

#### Board of Directors

Jim Reynolds	Nancy Kelley
Jack Glubrecht	Beth Lambright
Pastor John Stone	Wilma Van Schelven
Mercy Chipman	

## Imagine Our Community

Facing real life challenges with limited resources

IMAGINE ... that your household income is \$1600 per month, and you have two children. Your vehicle breaks down on I-5 and cannot be repaired. Because your income is low, you cannot get a loan. How do you and your spouse get to work? How do you get to church? How do you pick up your groceries? Friends help, but they can't give you rides to work every day.

You happen to speak to someone who knows about Love INC. They suggest you give the Love INC office a call. You do, and you find out that just the day before someone donated a vehicle for Love INC to sell. The donor didn't want it to be given to anyone because there were a couple of things wrong with it. However, it's only ten years old, and the engine and transmission are in good shape. You have friends at church who can fix it. Love INC gives you the car. God has provided through the generosity of an unknown person.

IMAGINE ... that you are a single mother of three children without a car. You pick up your groceries on a bicycle and carry them in your backpack. However, one day you lose your balance and fall on the road and are injured. That makes you pretty nervous about riding on your bike again. How will you get the food you need for your children?

A man's bicycle is donated to Love INC with two large wire baskets on it—one on each side of the rear fender. A volunteer takes the baskets off and installs them on your bicycle. Now you can shop and balance your groceries so you don't have to worry about falling.

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*Love INC volunteers often pick up food boxes from church pantries and local food banks and deliver them to people who need food but have no transportation. Al Cornwell (l) and Pastor Ken VanSchelven are among the hundreds of Love INC volunteers in Benton County.*



# From The Director

## Who Wins?

I recently read an article by Eric Swanson, Associate Director of Leadership Network, and I was stirred by what he had to say.

He took a survey at his church and asked the question, "How has your ministry or service to others affected your spiritual growth?" The results:

- 92% answered "positive"
- 8% answered "neutral"
- 0% reported a negative impact on their spiritual growth by serving others.

He asked whether their service to others has been an equally significant factor in their spiritual growth compared to other disciplines (Bible study, prayer, etc.).

- 63% said "yes"
- 24% said that service to others was actually a more significant factor.
- 13% said serving others was a less significant factor than other disciplines.

Of those who were actively involved in serving others, only 12% were "not satisfied" or "only somewhat satisfied" with their level of spiritual growth. This was in stark contrast to 58% of those not involved in ministry to others, who felt "not satisfied" or "only somewhat satisfied" with their spiritual growth.

According to Mr. Swanson, "Ministry to others is not just benefiting the recipients, ... but also those doing the ministry."

When we serve people, everyone wins!

Wilma Van Schelven  
Executive Director

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## Love Letter Production Team

Wilma Van Schelven, Publisher  
Nancy Kelley, Editor

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IMAGINE ... that you are a retired teacher and you need to move to a smaller home. It costs a lot of money to hire movers, and on a fixed income it's hard to set that money aside.

Two young men in their early twenties are sent by Love INC to give several hours of their time to help you. They not only move your furniture and belongings, but they are cheerful and efficient. You call the Love INC office and say they deserve an A+ for their help.

IMAGINE ... that you are a disabled single mom with one daughter. You are an atheist, but believe that your young daughter should be exposed to various faiths so she can make up her own mind. You are physically unable to take her to church yourself.

Love INC volunteers come to help with some of your needs. They ask if you would like for them to pick up your daughter for Sunday School and church. For almost two years, people from their little church have been faithfully coming to pick her up each Sunday morning. She loves her teacher and especially loves the church potlucks!!!

These are the kinds of real encounters that occur every day in our community. Love INC receives anywhere from 5 -15 calls for assistance per day. As a result, at any given time, during the day or evening, six days a week, there are local church volunteers all over Benton County helping others "In the Name of Christ". Imagine that!

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## Love In the Name of Christ presents...

### The Lending Library of Durable Medical Equipment

*(in cooperation with The Elks  
Club of Corvallis, Corvallis  
Mennonite Fellowship and  
The Book Bin)*



Equipment includes wheelchairs, walkers, canes, commodes, shower stools, transfer benches, quad canes and crutches. If you have items to donate or know of someone who needs these items, contact Love INC, 757-8111.

Special need at this time: Canes and walkers in GOOD condition.

Since founding Frontline Ministries in 1983, I've been privileged to travel to numerous cities, cultures and continents. I facilitate extended, denominationally diverse gatherings of leaders, and also serve as a consultant for cities committed to a sustainable process of spiritual transformation. Thus, I'm prone to think in broad categories of God's activity in cities, regions and nations.



Tom and Terri White minister in many countries, on many continents. Here they are in Riga, Latvia in March 2004.

*But what frankly astounds and blesses me the most, what regularly stretches my mortal mind, is the reality of our triune Lord caring for, hearing the prayers of, and tending to the detailed, down-to-earth needs of specific individuals.* The Source and Center of our universe is a Person who cares about other persons, particularly those who have somehow become disenfranchised by, or disconnected from a local social support system.

Having been in on the earliest conversations and prayers about finding ways of releasing God's compassion in greater measure in Benton County, I spill over with gratitude for the emergence and expansion of Love INC. I thank our loving Father for answering our heart cries, and I thank the dedicated staff and volunteers for being available to be God's heart and hands to those around us all too easily overlooked or forgotten.

May this ministry of touching the lives of the lonely and needy in our midst be blessed and continue to prosper!

Tom White, Frontline Ministries  
Chair, Church of the Valley Servant Leader Team

## You Can Help...

### Welcome to the Fair!

Do you want a free one-day pass to the Benton County Fair . . . and free parking? Do you want to help Love INC earn \$450 in one day?

We are looking for volunteers who are willing to greet people and take tickets at the Benton County Fair the first week of August. If you would like to volunteer for a two-hour shift, then everything mentioned above will apply to you. Just call Karen at the Love INC office, 757-8111, or email [loveinc@peak.org](mailto:loveinc@peak.org). Thank you for supporting Love INC so that we can continue to help churches help people.

### Spread Bark = Serve Schools

Would a group from your church be interested in spreading bark mulch at one of the local schools one day in August? This has been a wonderful service project organized by Corvallis CitiChurch for the past several years. For more information contact Wilma at Love INC, 757-2707.

### 4-H Livestock Donations

Love INC welcomes donations of livestock purchased at the 4-H auction after the fair. Through Love INC's F.A.R.M. Program (Feeding and Reaching Many), the meat is processed by a local butcher and given to local food banks and people in need. A Love INC representative will be available at the auction, or for more information, call Love INC, 757-8111.

### School Supplies Needed

Last summer 17 churches and several businesses collected school supplies for teachers in their classrooms. Teachers often spend hundreds of dollars out of their own pockets each year for supplies. Because budgets continue to be cut, this year will be even more difficult for the classroom.

During the summer months, churches will again have the opportunity to collect items for a School Supply Give-Away for local elementary and middle schools. The Give-Away will take place during the last week of August. If you or your church would like to donate school supplies or a cash gift for this project, contact Wilma at Love INC, 757-2707.

## Participating Love INC Churches and Ministries as of May 2004

- Antioch House
- Calvin Presbyterian Church
- Campus Ambassadors
- Corvallis Chinese Church
- Corvallis Evangelical Church
- Corvallis Mennonite Fellowship
- Crescent Valley Evangelical Free\***
- Crossroads Christian Fellowship

- Emanuel Iglesia Cuadrangular
- First Baptist Church of Corvallis
- First Baptist Church of Philomath
- Grace Christian Fellowship
- Grant Avenue Baptist Church
- Kings Circle Assembly of God
- Knollbrook Christian Reformed
- Korean Presbyterian Church

- Lifespring Foursquare
- New Life Fellowship
- New Wine Open Fellowship
- NW Hills Community Church
- Peace Lutheran Church
- Philomath Church of the Nazarene
- Philomath Community Church
- Prince of Peace Community\***

\* new participants

- Seventh Day Adventist Church
- Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran
- Suburban Christian Church
- Varsity House
- Victory Christian Center
- Westside Community Church
- Westwood Community Church

**Love INC of Benton County**  
**P.O. Box 270**  
**Corvallis, OR 97339**

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday

10:00 am - noon; 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Administration: (541) 757-1311

Fax: (541) 757-2707

Help Line: (541) 757-8111

email: loveinc@peak.org

www.yourloveinc.org

### **Bicycle Ministry is Going Places**

“I really appreciate the bike! ... Thank you very much!”

This was the reply of a man who received a bicycle through Love INC’s new Bicycle Ministry.

A twelve-year-old boy received a bike and exclaimed, “It’s perfect!”

Do you have a bicycle that is collecting dust in the garage? Your donated bike can be a tremendous blessing to someone in need. Or you may have bicycle parts or tools. These can be put to good use.

Eight volunteers from several local churches are lending their time and expertise to repair donated bikes in a large room donated by Cornerstone Associates. The volunteers also have the joy of delivering these bikes to people who need them.

If you have a bike to donate or would like to help in this Bicycle Ministry, call Love INC, 757-1311. A Love INC volunteer is available to pick up your bike or bike parts.



### **I Would Like to:**

- Give a special gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_
- Give \$\_\_\_\_\_ monthly to Love INC
- Receive prayer requests by email
- Volunteer in the Love INC office
- Become a Love INC Volunteer

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_

*All donations are tax deductible.*

Please mail to Love INC

P.O. Box 270, Corvallis, OR 97339

or go to [www.yourloveinc.org](http://www.yourloveinc.org)

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### **Health and Safety Hint**

*by Wilma Van Schelven*

#### **How Flexible are You?**

Did you know that flexibility training is an important part of a balanced exercise plan? According to Fitness Coach Kelly Shelton, stretching helps to reduce muscle soreness and for many it decreases stress, increases energy levels and aids relaxation.

Flexibility can be developed at any age. Even older adults can have greater freedom of movement and improved posture just by doing a few minutes of stretching exercises every day.

In reality, the more flexible you are, the easier small, everyday things are going to be. Better health is within your reach ... just s-t-r-e-t-c-h.

*(Watch for tips on Balance Training in the next Love INC Love Letter.)*