



# Love Stories

## Winter 2024

### Called to Care

**Michelle Paulson, Executive Director**

When people think of Love INC, they often think of helping those in poverty or experiencing homelessness. But our mission goes beyond that. We're here for the countless neighbors who are just one paycheck away from financial crisis. It's not just about unemployment; it's about hardworking individuals who, despite their efforts, still struggle to make ends meet.

But there's hope. Love INC is here to offer more than just material assistance. We provide holistic, Christ-centered support. And we do this with the assistance of our trained volunteers from our Partner Churches, and the support of individuals wanting to be a part of building better families and communities.

In the Bible Jesus is "moved with compassion" when He sees the needy multitudes exhausted and wandering like sheep (Matthew 14). He is "moved with compassion" when He sees the hungry multitudes without food (Matthew 15:32). The two blind men (Matthew 20:34) and the leper (Mark 1:41) also stir His compassion, as does the sorrow of the widow (Luke 7:13). God sees us through the eyes of His son Jesus, filled with His compassion for others - despite our sins and brokenness. That's how we see our neighbors at Love INC. Through the eyes of our Lord Jesus Christ, filled with love and compassion for one another despite any brokenness that the rest of the world sees.

We are truly called by our Lord Jesus Christ to care for those in need in our midst. Won't you join us?

### "Kimberly" A Hometown Love Story

*Love INC shares Hometown Love Stories, with names and some details changed to protect the identity of those served.*



"Kimberly", a young mother with several children, reached out to a local Lennox pastor regarding needing some assistance. She had divorced her husband almost a year ago after finally getting the strength to leave. She had recently lost her car, and was walking several miles one-way to get to her job each day. She had little to no family or friend support after having to move away from her support system to get away from her ex and to have a fresh start. Sadly, she also lost the support from her church after filing for divorce, as the church where she had always attended believes divorce is never acceptable. The local pastor made the referral for "Kimberly" to Love INC, and we set out working with her. First, we worked with her to assist with a vehicle through a Sioux Falls ministry, and one of our partner churches assisted her with funds for a down-payment. We assisted her with a list of resources that can supplement her family needs. "Kimberly" has also found a job closer to her home. An important detail Love INC assisted her with is offering her the support of churches that would welcome she and her family into their faith community. She now has a new, supportive spiritual community to help lift her up. Love INC continues to walk with "Kimberly" as a loved child of God, offering her support and assisting her with the needs she and her family may have. Later this spring when we start holding classes she will be invited participate in those as well. "Kimberly" has found support and compassion within Love INC, and her journey of faith and fortitude is just beginning.

# What is Reciprocal Transformation?

Here at Love In the Name of Christ, we talk a lot about **Transformation**. It's at the root of what we do. It's what makes us different. Through the word of Jesus Christ we **Transform** lives and communities by fostering collaboration between churches, and connecting caring church volunteers with neighbors in need. We move beyond simply meeting short-term needs, and offer instead a holistic program encompassing the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual components of life. It's about meeting the person where they're at and helping them achieve their God-given potential.

**Love In the Name of Christ believes  
People are More Important than Problems.  
That's why we put People First.**

So what is **Reciprocal Transformation**? Reciprocal Transformation is the grace-filled experience of a volunteer and client/neighbor both having their lives transformed by getting to know Christ more fully through their relationship together at Love INC.

Every day, in our communities, people are struggling. We are so blessed to have churches, volunteers and local businesses who

have stepped up to say, "We are here, to walk alongside you, and Christ loves you." However, none of this would be possible without our volunteers. So much so that Love INC states "*mobilizing Christian volunteers from within the partner church network is the most important reason Love INC exists. Mobilizing church volunteers is the ministry and mission of Love INC.*" We will be offering exciting new programs this spring, and more volunteers will be needed. Please prayerfully consider becoming one today!



**Volunteer David Richter**

## Partner Ministry Compassion In Action



**Ex. Director Michelle Paulson and Compassion  
in Action Board of Directors**

Love In the Name of Christ would like to introduce you to a special partner ministry of ours doing wonderful work in the name of Christ as well - Compassion in Action. Compassion is located just one mile south of Chancellor and holds six rummage sales per year of donated items. The event center is teeming with clothing, houseware items, footwear - just about everything except furniture.

This wonderful ministry began in 2010 in honor of two family members who passed away from blood disorder cancers. Their mission now is to seek to put compassion in action by raising funds to help with needs that arise in the community, and 100% of the funds raised go to local charities.

Compassion in Action is a Partner Ministry to Love INC in several ways. They stepped up and offered to be a GAP ministry for neighbors referred by Love INC that are in need of clothing and household items. Their sales also offer our communities the opportunity to purchase clothing and household items at significantly reduced prices, 50 cents per item or \$5 per bag, which is a blessing during this time when a dollar doesn't go far. One mother said she wouldn't be able to buy school clothes for her kids if it wasn't for Compassion in Action. And lastly, Love INC has been the recipient of their charitable giving. Thank you Compassion in Action for your wonderful ministry!



## UPDATES

### Gifts Given in Memory Of:

**Love INC of Greater Lennox and Turner County Received 2 Gifts in Memory of Josephine Plucker**

**Given by: Roxie Harms  
Vern and Judy Harms**

### Love INC Goes to the Turner County Fair



Love In the Name of Christ spent a week at the Turner County Fair, and it was a wonderful 4 days reaching out to new people of all ages and introducing them to Love INC. Thank you to everyone who stopped by our table and got a sticker!

### Check Out Our Website [www.loveinclennox.org](http://www.loveinclennox.org)

Check out our website where you can learn more about our organization, our upcoming events, and how you or your church or organization can become a part of this Christ-centered mission. Love INC is here not only to provide assistance to individuals and families, but to strengthen communities as well.

## Contact Us

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## Giving to Love INC

Will you invest in hope and transformation for families and individuals in our communities? Love INC's holistic help is made possible through the generosity of area individuals, businesses, churches and organizations who understand that simply meeting material needs is not enough. It's collaborative, relational, Christian support that leads to transformed lives and communities. It's being with one another, and bringing about reciprocal transformation. Jesus has called us to care for those in need in our midst, just as he demonstrated to his apostles and said "many who are last will be first." Matthew 19.

Love INC of Greater Lennox and Turner County has many opportunities for giving and support through the ability to receive cash or check, or on-line giving through our website at [www.loveinclennox.org](http://www.loveinclennox.org). You may also choose to hold a fundraiser at your church or through your organization to benefit Love INC. We also accept gifts made "***In Remembrance***" of someone, and we will post those in our newsletters. There are also Legacy Gifts that you may choose to benefit Love INC such as a gift in a will, an endowment, charitable gift annuities or retirement assets. Love INC of Greater Lennox and Turner County is a 501c3 non-profit organization and does provide year-end receipts for tax purposes for all gifts received.

***1 Corinthians 16:14. "Let all that you do be done with love. Let all your things be done with charity."***

**“** Love INC was a blessing to me. I don't know what I would have done without them.  
- recent Love INC guest **”**