



Love INC  
Love In the Name of Christ

# Love INC of Greater Sheldon

Summer 2011

Love In the Name of Christ  
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## Annual Banquet Celebrates Love Bears Fruit



On Saturday, March 5, Love INC supporters gathered for our Annual Banquet, which celebrated the theme "Love Bears Fruit". When you think of an organization such as Love In the Name of Christ and then make the connection with bearing fruit, you might conclude that we're all about love for humanity. But we're not. We're all about love for Christ.

1 John 4:7-21

*Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so love us, we also ought to love one another. NO one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us...If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.*

This passage makes it very clear that Love comes from God; ALL love comes ultimately from God. Genuine love is never self-generated by us, His creations. I truly believe that the success of this ministry is because all of us – staff, volunteers, board of directors, and anyone associated with the ministry believe that what we are doing is being done in the name of Christ.

The theme for our annual banquet this year was "Love Bears Fruit." John 15:8 says, quoting Jesus, "This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples" and verse 16, "You did not choose me but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last."

If you look up fruit on the Internet you'll find that "the principal botanical purpose of fruit is to protect and spread the seed." After reading the parable of the sower in John 13, we know that seed = "the Word." So, if you bear fruit you spread the seed, meaning if you bear fruit you spread the Word.

*Continued on page 2*

"I will declare your name to my people; in the assembly I will praise you."  
- Psalm 22:22

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*Our mission is to mobilize the Church to transform lives and communities In the Name of Christ.*

Love INC of Greater Sheldon

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## Board of Directors

Jerry Postma — President  
Immanuel Christian Reformed, Sheldon  
Jill Rausch — Vice-President  
First Presbyterian, Paullina  
Sheryl Visser — Secretary  
Cornerstone United Reformed, Sanborn  
Sue Behrens — Treasurer  
St. Paul Lutheran, Sheldon  
Pastor Dave Brower  
First Reformed, Sheldon  
Howard Johnson  
Bethel Reformed, Sheldon  
Lorna Kraayenbrink  
Immanuel Christian Reformed, Sheldon  
Starla Reitsma  
Sanborn Christian Reformed, Sanborn  
Patty Vollink  
Archer Reformed Church

## Partner Churches

Archer Reformed—Archer  
Bethel Reformed—Sheldon  
Christian Reformed—Sanborn  
Cornerstone United Reformed—Sanborn  
Crossroads Community—Sheldon  
First Christian Reformed—Sheldon  
First Presbyterian—Paullina  
First Presbyterian—Sanborn  
First Reformed—Sanborn  
First Reformed—Sheldon  
Immanuel Christian Reformed—Sheldon  
Our Savior Lutheran—Sheldon  
Parkview Assembly—Sheldon  
St. Anthony's Catholic—Primghar  
St. Cecilia's Catholic—Sanborn  
St. John's Lutheran—Sanborn  
St. Joseph's Catholic—Hartley  
St. Patrick's Catholic—Sheldon  
St. Paul Lutheran—Sheldon  
United Methodist—Archer  
United Methodist—Sheldon

## Love Bears Fruit, Con't

In the beginning of John's gospel, we are told that the Word = Christ. So, if you bear fruit you are spreading seed, which is the Word, which is Christ. Therefore, if you bear fruit, you are spreading Christ and sharing his love for humanity.

When bearing fruit, or spreading seeds, which we already know really means spreading Christ, it's not up to us to make the seeds grow. As we read before out of John 15, Jesus said, "This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit." Our Father is the one to make the seeds grow.

So, how does the ministry of Love In the Name of Christ, bear fruit? Or spread seeds?

In 2010, over 2600 seeds were spread! Look where seeds have been spread, in Sheldon and Hartley, in Sibley, Ashton, Primghar and Sanborn, in Archer, Paullina, Sioux City, Sioux Falls, Worthington and here in Hospers. The partner churches of Love INC and all those who have volunteered through Love INC have spread seeds over 100 miles – all seeds spread in the Name of Christ.

What kinds of seeds were there? Over 500 pieces of furniture and appliances, 258 Friday backpacks, 80 sets of bedding and blankets, over 70 articles of winter clothing, meals, not to mention household items, Christmas gifts, and school clothing. All seeds spread in the Name of Christ.

More seeds were spread as volunteers provided almost 500 rides, over 260 deliveries, and over 50

chores. Through our Loving Help Budget Program, seeds were planted as volunteers gave time, knowledge, compassion, and resources – gas vouchers, haircut certificates, oil changes, food, baby items, paper towels, toilet paper, toothpaste, deodorant, and meat. And consider how many times volunteers have prayed: thousands of times! Seeds are spread everywhere, seeds of Love In the Name of Christ.



As Christians, it is our mission to spread seeds everywhere, whether it's in service with Love INC or not;

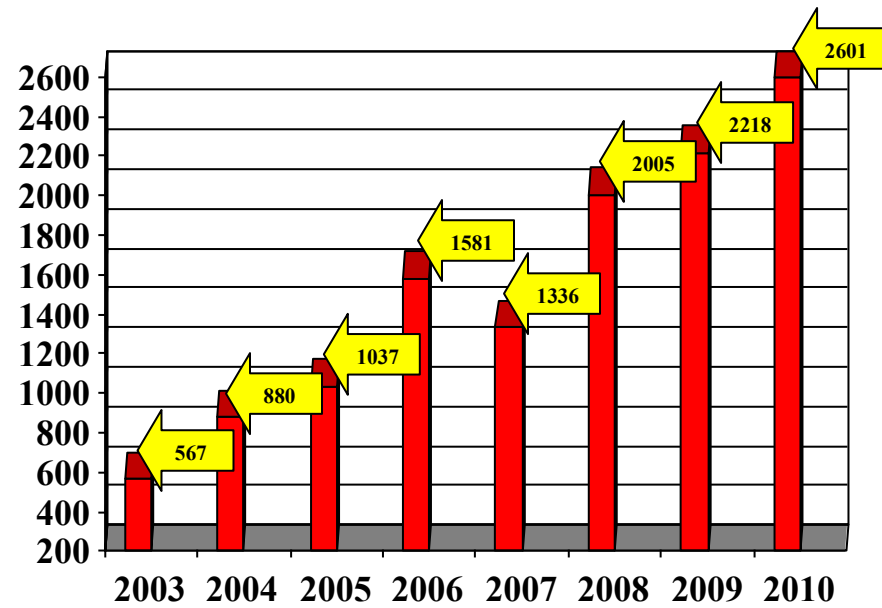
we all have the privilege of leaving seeds, seeds of love everywhere we go. I'm excited about where these seeds have been left, but I'm even more excited to anticipate where we might leave them. Of course, that depends on you and me.

So, let's dream big. Let's be thorough and intentional remembering that the issue is never what we do but who we are. How far can our seeds in the Name of Christ reach? Let's dream small. Which child or infant needs to be touched by Love In the Name of Christ. Let's dream personal. Which family or individual needs to be touched by Love In the Name of Christ? Let's dream local. How can we cover our community with seeds in the Name of Christ?

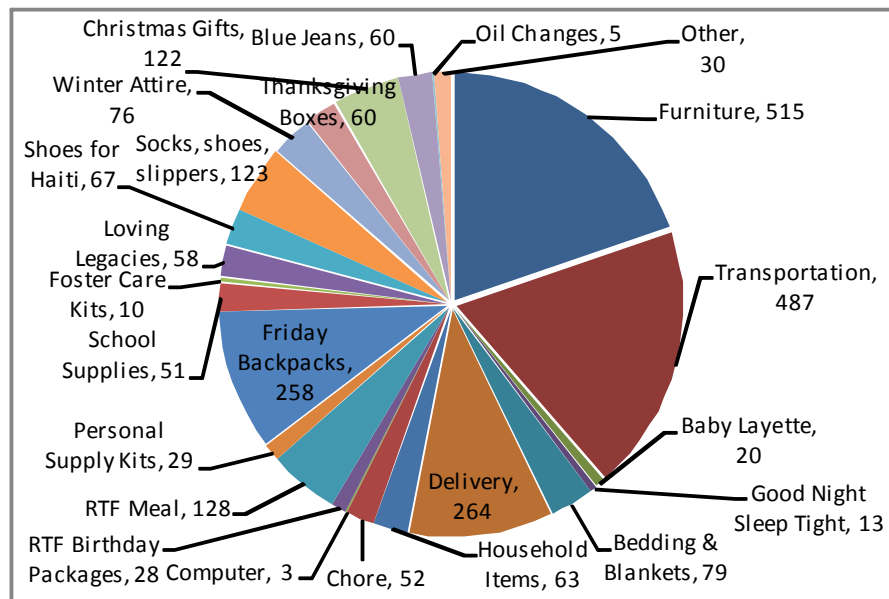
Spreading seeds starts with you and can start right with your own children, grandchildren or neighbors. Bearing fruit doesn't have to be through an organization like Love INC. Bearing fruit starts with you and what you can do today, starting with those close to you.

## Love In the Name of Christ of Greater Sheldon has experienced much growth since opening in 2003!

The graph below shows how many needs were met by church volunteers each year, not including those served through the Loving Help Budget Program.



### 2601 Needs Met in 2010

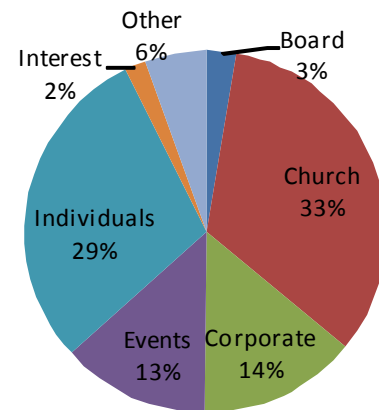


### Financial Update

Our budget for 2011 is \$78,000, this too has grown since 2003 when our budget was just \$12,000. The Financial Development Committee of Love INC of Greater Sheldon is responsible for developing and evaluating all fund-raising plans and programs. In addition, this committee continually analyzes our financial reporting methods to ensure the best possible use of our resources.

Further financial questions can be directed to Jill Rausch, chairman of the Financial Development Committee.

### Sources of Giving



## Furniture, Furniture, Furniture!

So far in 2011, 335 pieces of furniture and household items have been distributed to families throughout O'Brien and Osceola counties. This ministry brings about a lot of questions in our communities. I hope we can answer some commonly asked questions:

**Q. I called Love INC and tried to donate some furniture, but was told it wasn't needed. I don't understand why?**

A. The type of furniture most commonly requested is beds. Love INC can rarely keep up with the demand of beds needed by families in our communities. Having said that, the type of furniture that most people want to donate are living room chairs. If Love INC accepted every living room chair that someone wanted to donate, there wouldn't be any room left in the warehouse for the other items that people request (beds, dressers, kitchen tables and chairs, etc.). Thank you for understanding that depending on our inventory, there may be times that we may not be able to accept your furniture.

**Q. I want to donate some furniture. Some of it is a little beat up, will Love INC accept my furniture?**

A. Love INC strives to treat all people with dignity and respect. Therefore, we want all furniture to be in working condition and in decent shape. We have been so blessed that enough people in north-west Iowa are willing to donate items in good shape that we haven't needed to take items that are in need of repair or that are beat up.

**Q. Can I donate some wall hangings and knick knacks to Love INC?**

A. The type of requests Love INC receives are for basic necessities. Therefore, the type of items we accept are very basic: beds, couches, living room chairs, kitchen tables and chairs, dressers, dishes, silverware, etc. People in need do not call Love INC to request home decorations, therefore, those are items that we suggest people donate elsewhere.

**Q. Can Love INC pick up the furniture that I want to donate?**

A. Love INC's mission is to "mobilize the church" so we rely on volunteers to meet all kinds of needs. If someone calls wanting to donate furniture, we always first ask if he has a way to bring the items to Love INC, either himself, or a family member, or friend. If the donor does not have a way to bring the items to Love INC, our next step would be to reach out to the donor's church to find volunteers who can assist in bringing in the furniture.

For example, let's say that Kurt, who attends Church A in Sanborn, requests a bed from Love INC. Our first desire would be for volunteers from Church A to deliver the bed to Kurt, giving Church A the opportunity to serve a fellow church member.

We use this same type of thought for people who want to donate furniture but have no means of getting the items to Love INC, we will reach out to people from within their church who can assist them in this simple task.

It is a common misperception that Love INC has "people" who are sitting around at the Love INC building waiting to do something. Most people who volunteer through Love INC are people who work and who are involved with many other good projects. Therefore, they are not just sitting around at Love INC immediately available to assist with moving furniture. As mentioned before, the mission of Love INC is to "mobilize the church" so a very practical way that this can be done is to have fellow church members assist each other in this basic way.

It is our hope that this has helped you to understand the reasoning behind some of the answers that you may have received. We are blessed by the continued support of the Love INC Furniture Ministry and enjoy working together to 'transform lives and communities in the Name of Christ'.



## LOVE INC MINISTERS TO THE MEN AT THE RTF

### DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT



#### Blessings through Love In the Name of Christ of Greater Sheldon

I am a resident of the RTF and today is my birthday. The gift I have received from Love INC is the only acknowledgement of my birthday, and to receive a gift is especially nice. To have a new thick bath towel is such a blessing.



I am a resident of the RTF and I came with only my prison issued jump suit. The blue jeans drive especially helped me be able to have jeans to wear to work. To have donated clothes to be able to choose from and the benefit of a blanket ministry is such a blessing.



I am a resident of the RTF and every day I walk to work, to appointments and to take care of errands. To have a warm coat, stocking cap, and gloves is such a blessing. When I need a ride out of town for an appointment, I thank the volunteers who help me by providing transportation as sometimes I don't know where to turn for help. This is such a blessing.



I am a resident of the RTF and eat the meal provided. To have people come to the facility and provide a meal where we can eat our fill and enjoy conversation with community members is such a blessing.



I am a resident of the RTF who is successfully transitioning out of the RTF program. I have nothing as I am starting over. To be assisted with furniture in my new home, a bed to sleep on is such a blessing.



I am a resident of the RTF and have not been an active parent as I have been in and out of jail, unemployed for periods of time and I have not had to be self reliable. Loving Help Parenting, Budget and Life Skills classes have helped me learn skills to improve my relationships and responsibility. A blessing to myself, my family and my community.



I am a resident of the RTF and I have no money for presents for my children and they have to means for a gift to me. The Embrace A Child program allowed me to give presents to my children this Christmas and the gift certificate received through Love INC were very meaningful blessings.



I am a resident of the RTF and am learning to "give back" to the community through community service work opportunities. Acceptance is a priceless blessing.



*Written by RTF Manager Maureen Hansen as I have witnessed and am grateful for the blessings bestowed through the staff, volunteers and member churches of Love INC.*



## 21 CHURCHES WORKING TOGETHER, ACROSS DENOMINATIONAL LINES!!

In 2010, 2601 needs were met by volunteers from 26 area churches!

#### What does this look like?

*Bedding and Blankets Ministry*

hosted by St. Paul Lutheran in Sheldon

*Baby Layette Ministry & Good Night Sleep Tight*

hosted by First Reformed in Sheldon

*Computer Ministry*

hosted by Parkview Assembly in Sheldon

*Corner Grocery*

hosted by St. John's Lutheran in Sheldon

*Friday Backpacks*

hosted by Immanuel Christian Reformed in Sheldon

*Gift Closet*

hosted by United Methodist of Sheldon

*Grief Share*

hosted by Our Savior Lutheran of Sheldon

*Personal Supplies Closet*

hosted by Immanuel Christian Reformed in Sheldon

Not to mention our Transportation Ministry, Delivery Ministry, RTF Meal Ministry, Loving Legacies Ministry, etc.

#### What else does this look like?

##### The Loving Help Program

Let's look at a client, we'll call her Sue. She called the Love INC office after struggling financially over a period of time. A separation from her husband, limited income, and little children at home left her feeling lost and alone. Over the course of a year, Sue attended Budget Class, Parenting Class, Life Skills, and a Bible Study hosted by Bethel Reformed Church. The teachers of these classes came from: St. Paul Lutheran, Cornerstone URC, First Reformed, and St. John's Lutheran. Her budget mentor was from yet another church.

She also received furniture, delivered by volunteers from First Christian Reformed. While attending the Loving Help classes for a year, she received vouchers. The vouchers that she earned for attending class and completing assignments meant that she receive food from Corner Grocery, diapers and other baby items from the Baby Layette Ministry, personal supplies from the Personal Supplies Closet, and could 'purchase' gifts for her loved ones from the Gift Closet. Having relief from the expense of purchasing the items she received with these vouchers, she was able to put money towards her outstanding debt and get back on her feet. This is what a transformed life can look like when Christians work together, across denominational lines!

#### What else does this look like?

Listed on the left are the different ministries, hosted by different partner churches. But, throughout the year, these churches listed below collect items that get brought to the various ministries previously listed.

Archer Reformed Church in Archer  
Christian Reformed Church in Sanborn  
Cornerstone United Reformed Church in Sanborn  
First Presbyterian Church in Paullina  
First Reformed Church in Sanborn  
Our Savior Lutheran Church in Sheldon  
Parkview Assembly Church in Sheldon  
St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Primghar  
St. Cecilia's Catholic Church in Sanborn  
St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Hartley  
St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Sheldon  
United Methodist Church in Archer

Have you wondered what happens to the items you drop off in the Love INC box at your church? Those items get distributed to the appropriate ministry listed above.

How exciting that through all these churches working together, so many needs can be met!



# The Loving Help Program

I'm closing in on my first year as the Relational Ministries Case Worker. I've been able to serve our greater Sheldon area for four 10-week Sessions now and it has been wonderful. In this last year, we have offered five different types of classes: Budgeting, Parenting, Successful Living, Cooking & Bible Study.

It's always an interesting experience to work with people from all different walks of life; seeing how creative our Creator is when He made people. I admit, I have learned much, been challenged much & have grown much. I am excited to see where God calls us to continue ministry. What will He have us do next? How can we improve what He's already called us to? How can we show more grace and love? How can we challenge people through accountability, encouragement & empowerment in the Loving Help Program to grow and experience God more deeply? How can we show our neighbors a need for a Savior that wants to lead their lives?

I consider it a great privilege to be able to work with the folks who seek help through the Thursday night classes & the numerous volunteers who make the Loving Help Program possible. It's a humbling experience every week to be a part of what God has called us to do here. I pray that we would rise to the challenge of helping more people, of meeting real needs, of showing Christ in everything, of always having an answer for the joy we as believers possess.

For those of you who like statistics: we see around 25 clients every Thursday night as well as over a dozen volunteers who make the evening such a success. Volunteers serve by greeting people as they come in, teaching the Bible-based curriculum, providing childcare, giving financial advice & coaching as well as snacks & hospitality. Clients meeting with a personal Budget Mentor as well as attending classes earn around 75 vouchers per quarter, equaling over \$1,370. Vouchers are earned to free-up money for clients to pay off debt, build up savings and give further incentive for completing the year-long Loving Help Program.

Anyone is welcome to enroll in a single Loving Help class- each lasting one hour a week for a 10-week Session. Others choose to enroll in Love INC's year-long Loving Help Program, attending 4 Sessions consecutively and also meeting with a personal Budget Mentor who walks alongside clients as they work together on healthy financial habits. All material examines how God calls us to live by His standard in the Bible & is available for anyone. We could all use a little loving help, right?



~Erin Brown, Relational Ministry Case Worker

### Love In the Name of Christ Staff

Lora Petitt

Executive Director

*Collaborating with the Board of Directors, the Executive Director fulfills the Love INC mission by cultivating relationships with area pastors, churches, community agency directors/staff and the business community and mobilizes churches to respond to person-to-person needs.*

Cherish Granstra

Clearinghouse Coordinator

*Coordinates Love INC Clearinghouse activities (receives and assesses assistance requests, makes referrals, works with churches/volunteers). Establishes and maintains relationships with area agencies, making referrals as necessary and trains and equips church coordinators and volunteers in meeting client needs.*

Shantel Oostr

Office Assistant

*Provides administrative support to the Executive Director: manages donations, maintains contact with area churches and implements special projects.*

Erin Brown

Relational Ministry Case Worker

*Coordinates activities for clients participating in Relational Ministry; primary contact for clients enrolled in Loving Help Budget Program, Friday Backpack Ministry, and Homes of Hope; trains/supports budget mentors.*

# Homes of Hope

## What is Homes of Hope?

Homes of Hope is a Relational Ministry Program of Love INC—Love In the Name of Christ. Its mission is to “mobilize the church to transform lives and communities in the Name of Christ through transitional housing and supportive services”. The Homes of Hope program offers individuals/families a 6-12 month stay in transitional housing. Once in the home, residents are connected to 1) Church Care Teams offering mentoring and hands on assistance, and 2) Love INC's Loving Help Budget Program, and 3) other community resources.

The Love INC Clearinghouse serves as the point of entry for all program referrals. Additionally, the Relational Ministry Case Worker provides training and ongoing support to partner churches and volunteers by providing oversight and implementation of goals/plans.

The homes are fully furnished so residents bring only what they will need for their stay. The residents are responsible to pay a monthly program fee that is set aside in a savings account to be returned to them if they leave the house in acceptable condition. This savings can then be used for deposit on their “new” home/living situation.

Check out our website, [www.sheldon-loveinc.org](http://www.sheldon-loveinc.org) for updates on the renovations being completed on our first home!

## History of the Development of Homes of Hope

Homes of Hope began as a discussion among the Love INC Board of Directors in 2009 as we continually saw the need for adequate and affordable housing in northwest Iowa. Homelessness in northwest Iowa may have a different look than what people typically think of as homelessness. In northwest Iowa, homelessness is families moving from “friend” to “friend” until the welcome has worn off. Homelessness also looks like 10+ people from different households living together in one apartment or home. The discussion continued after a home became available to Love INC to be used in offering stable housing and hope to those in desperate situations.



A FAMILY WITH A NEED...  
...A WAY TO CONNECT THEM.



You can help make a difference in the lives of people in need.

- I want to help with a monthly pledge of \_\_\_\$25 \_\_\_\$50 \_\_\_\$75 \_\_\_\$100 \_\_\_ Other
- One time gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_
- Memorial gift in memory of:\_\_\_\_\_

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Church Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_