



Helping Churches Help People

2017 ANNUAL REPORT



Love INC
Love In the Name of Christ

From the President

In this is Love...

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 loved 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. —I John 4: 10–12

At Love in the Name of Christ our mission is “to mobilize local churches to transform lives and communities in the Name of Christ.” The above verses from the beloved apostle, John, instruct us that loving one another as lived out by His people requires action. The “lived out love” for our neighbors can and should be within the context of local churches.

In 2017, your selfless service and financial partnership continued to provide the means to demonstrate Christ’s love.

Your financial support in concert with the many hours our volunteers offer has given us the ability to reach the people of Lancaster County who would otherwise have no idea they are loved by God. We are committed to wise stewardship of resources both human and financial toward this task. Last year we were able to meet 5,072 needs, but with 335 needs unmet because we could not find a volunteer.

Our new website will enable our partners to have better and faster access to Love INC activities, updates, and online donations. The website is just one example of how your gifts are helping us share the mission and work of Love INC.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Love in the Name of Christ, I offer a heartfelt “thank you” for your demonstration of God’s love in action. May God richly bless you as you commit to another year of supporting this wonderful ministry in the name of Christ.

Sincerely,

Karen Uhrich, MSN, RN,

President Board of Directors (2016–17)

Adjunct Faculty Pennsylvania College of Health Science

Faith Bible Fellowship Church



In 2017, the Church of Jesus Christ was able to minister to families and individuals in very practical ways:



- Budget Guidance
 - Christmas Gifts
 - Cleaning Assistance
 - Companionship
 - Financial Assistance
 - Encouragement
 - Grocery Shopping
 - Laundry Assistance
 - Lawn Care
 - Meals
 - Mentoring
 - Minor Repair Work
 - Moving Assistance
 - Respite Care
 - Transportation
- and More!**

Total needs met in 2017

5,072!

CLEARINGHOUSE

Calls received:
9,386

Where needs are assessed, prioritized and connected to existing resources or a local church congregation, organized to respond with love in action.

HOMES OF HOPE

Families served:
25

Adults: 37 • Children: 48
A transitional housing program offering families a 4-6 month stay in a church-sponsored, fully furnished home. Families living in 11 homes, in eight communities, are connected to church care teams and professional case management.

With homes in:
Cocalico • Columbia
Conestoga Valley • Elanco
Ephrata • Penn Manor
Manheim Township • Warwick

FLOWING OIL CAFÉ

Meals served:
1,250

A church-based community meal program offering bi-monthly meals in the Solanco area.



COMPASSION PROJECT

Family needs met:
304

In Manheim, Ephrata, and Warwick
A practical resource to the local church and Christian community to aide them in acts of compassion during a "missions trip to their own community."

OUR VISION:

To see every unmet need of the disadvantaged in our community met by Christ-honoring churches working in partnership.

Helping Churches Help People

The Rope In Our Path

One day in June, we received a first-time call from a gentleman who needed a ride to the dentist. When we connected him with the pastor of a partner congregation, we had no idea what God was about to do!

In late June, I got to know Julio. He was a seemingly happy-go-lucky, friend-with-everyone kind of guy. We met when I was asked by Love INC to drive him to the dentist's office. As we headed down the road, we introduced ourselves to each other. I explained what I was doing with planting a new church, and almost immediately Julio said, "I want to be baptized." I affirmed his intention, and learning he wasn't attending services anywhere, added, "Why don't you come to church a while? You'll get to know us, we'll get to know you, and we can go from there." And that's what happened.

On a balmy Sunday afternoon in September, the congregation heard three baptismal candidates, one of which was Julio, profess Christ in Lancaster County Central Park. With the assembled group singing, these three men, myself and another elder walked down to the creek and later came back up rejoicing.

Julio had his challenges, including some dark memories from long ago and some unhelpful habits of the present. We talked about these, shared Scripture with each other and went together to church on Sunday mornings when he was up and ready.

God has His ways of opening hearts, and opening inroads into people's lives that continue to amaze me. Six days before Christmas, Julio's roommate "John" called and told me that Julio had died (from a heart attack, I found out later). Knowing Julio to be a man of

limited means, I thought: There has to be a memorial service for this brother. "John" helped me get in touch with Julio's family, and not too long afterward I had a pleasant time of fellowship and planning with them. His sister spoke of the blessing it was to discover that Julio had gotten involved in a church and taken the step of water baptism.

Seven family members, along with his roommate, attended Julio's memorial service, as we looked afresh at this man's life, and at the life that only one Man can bring. Family members spoke more than once of how much it meant to have this time of remembrance and worship and fellowship and closure. The next Sunday, instead of picking up Julio for church in the morning, I was driving to the same apartment and picking up "John."

Julio's story is not the heroic account of a man who climbs to the peak of spiritual conquest, demolishing the kingdom of darkness and leaving a legacy of deep insights and throngs of followers in his wake. Rather, Julio's story is the tale of one who stumbled in the darkness and, finding a rope, grabbed on to be pulled upward by a hand from above.

Julio's story is in fact the story of every believer. Because every believer, at the end of the day, is stumbling in the darkness and finding a rope (see Acts 17:27). Every believer is saved not because of individual skill, or insight, or courage or resourcefulness. Every believer is saved because the almighty God of the universe, the One who set the planets in motion and the galaxies in place, decided to reach down to this corrupt and twisted world and put a rope in our path.





Going An Extra Mile

When we first heard from “Joan,” she was just beginning to realize some of the limitations she would be facing in life after having to give up driving at aged 86. Although members of her congregation picked her up for church, she was unable to do many of the things she had done in the past — errands and even enjoyable social outings. Her daughter and son-in-law lived nearby, but both worked full time, so were unavailable during the day. We quickly connected her with folks in two other nearby churches who soon were able to take her to the bank, to get groceries, and to medical appointments. When she shared with one of her volunteers how much she missed going to the theater, another volunteer stepped up to accompany her to a performance!

In a note to our office, “Joan” thanked us for connecting her to “five wonderful drivers” who have entered her life and made this time of transition so much easier for her. We are so thankful to Love INC’s partner churches for the way they show the love of Jesus to their neighbors. Even what may seem like the smallest errand can make a huge impact on the life of another person!



Closing The Gap

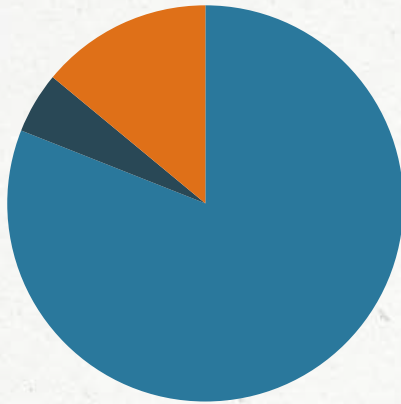
Many of the folks that are served by our partner congregations are referred to Love In the Name of Christ directly from the medical community. When a caseworker from the LGH - Penn Medicine Ambulatory Collaborative Care Team called us about “Sara,” we knew we could count on one of our church partners to be a part of the response to her difficult situation. “Sara” lived alone and had many medical needs. Her income was minimal and she struggled to keep up with the bills for her necessities.

“Sara’s” oil tank was very low, and there were still a lot of winter months ahead. She had already received assistance from the LIHEAP program (Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program) that provides grants to low-income households once a year, as well as assistance from a social service in her community. She actually had a credit with her oil company of over \$100, but the company could not deliver the small amount of oil the credit would cover. We contacted a partner congregation in “Sara’s” community and they provided \$150 to close this gap and help her to utilize her remaining credit.

“Sara” will be warm this winter and the witness of God’s people was extended to her, to her caseworker, and to the larger medical community, all because the Church was ready to share the love of Christ!

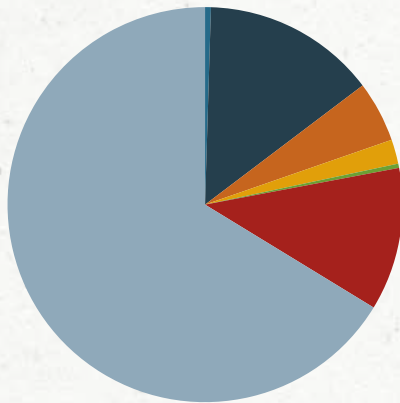


How Love INC Gifts are Allocated



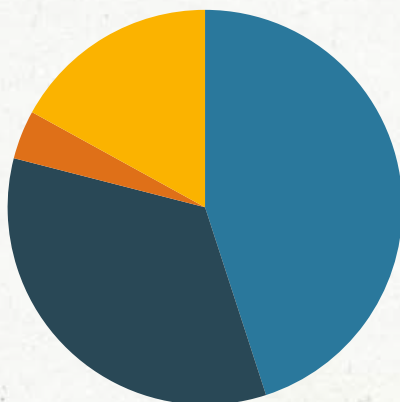
- Program Costs – 81%
- Fundraising – 5%
- Administrative Costs – 14%

Clearinghouse Needs Met in 2017



- Christmas Assistance – .5%
- Household Help – 14%
- Financial and Budgeting – 5%
- Friendly Visitor – 2%
- Moving – .3%
- Repairs and Yard Work – 12%
- Transportation – 66.2%

Where Love INC Funding Comes From



- Individuals and Businesses – 45%
- Churches – 34%
- Miscellaneous – 4%
- Program Reimbursements – 17%



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Without the commitment of the faithful volunteers who serve in our office weekly, Love INC would be unable to carry out this ministry. Whether assisting in the Clearinghouse, or providing administrative services, these folks are critical to the ministry of Love INC.



Love INC
Love In the Name of Christ

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*Deceased

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2017 Love INC Partnering Churches

ACTS Covenant Fellowship
Akron Church of the Brethren
Akron Mennonite Church
Alive Church
Alliance Church of Elizabethtown
Andrews Bridge Mennonite Church
Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church
Bainbridge Church of God
Berean Bible Church
Bethany United Church of Christ
Blainesport Mennonite Church
Boehm's United Methodist Church
Bossler Mennonite Church
Bowmansville Mennonite Church
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Cocalico Community Chapel
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Columbia United Methodist Church
Community Bible Church
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Conoy Brethren in Christ
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Covenant United Methodist Church
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Crossroads Community Fellowship
DOVE Westgate Fellowship Ephrata
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East Petersburg Mennonite Church
Elizabethtown Mennonite Church
Elizabethtown United Zion Church
Encounter Church
Ephrata Church of the Nazarene
Ephrata Grace Church
Ephrata Church of the Brethren
Ephrata Community Church
Ephrata United Zion Church
Erb's Mennonite Church
Erisman Mennonite Church
Faith Bible Fellowship



Faith United Lutheran Church
Faith Reformed Presbyterian Church
First United Methodist Church of Ephrata
Florin Church of the Brethren
Forest Hills Mennonite Church
Good's Mennonite Church
Goodville Mennonite Church
Grace Community Church
Groffdale Mennonite Church
Hempfield United Methodist Church
Hinkletown Mennonite Church
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church of Ephrata
Hope Born in Christ
Hope United Methodist Church
Hosanna Christian Fellowship
James Street Mennonite Church
Jerusalem Church
Jerusalem Lutheran Church - Rothsville
Keystone Evangelical Free Church
LCBC
Lancaster Alliance Church
Lancaster Brethren in Christ Church
Lancaster Evangelical Free Church
Landis Valley Christian Fellowship
Landisville Mennonite Church
Leola United Methodist Church
Lifegate
Lititz Church of the Brethren
Lititz Christian Church
Lititz Grace Church
Lititz Mennonite Church
Lititz Moravian Church
Lititz United Methodist Church
Little Britain Presbyterian Church
Live With Purpose Church
Living Light Mennonite Church
Manheim Brethren in Christ
Manheim Mennonite Church
Manor Church
Marietta Community Chapel
Marietta Mennonite Church
Martindale Mennonite Church
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Millport Mennonite Church
Mohler Church of the Brethren
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Mountville Mennonite Church
Mt. Pleasant Brethren in Christ Church
Mt. Vernon Mennonite Church
Neffsville Mennonite Church
New Beginnings Brethren in Christ Church
New Covenant Mennonite Fellowship
New Hope Christian Fellowship
New Joy Brethren in Christ Church
New Life Fellowship

New Providence Church of God
New Providence Mennonite Church
Paradise Bible Fellowship
Parkview Mennonite Church
Peace United Church of Christ
Petra Christian Fellowship
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Reformation Lutheran Church
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Silver Spring Baptist Church
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St. James Roman Catholic Church
St. John's United Church of Christ Denver
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From the Director

Because He First Loved Us

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! —1 John 3:1a

Nearly everyone has had the experience of anticipating the birth of a new child, grandchild, or other family member. Do you remember how you loved that precious new life even before he or she was born? This baby didn't know you yet, and certainly didn't love you, but it made no difference in your love for him or her.

The love you felt was but a microscopic example of the great and lavish love that God the Father has for you as His child! As that baby in your family grows, you don't lose the love you had but, indeed, it becomes even stronger as you take delight in the new person God has created. Just as, when you become a new person in Christ, God's takes immeasurable delight in you. Because of the gift of His son Jesus Christ, Christians know that God loves them and cannot help but desire that all people should know and experience that love.

The greatest calling you will ever have is to show so much of the love of Jesus to another person, that they want to know Him, too! In 2017, our partner churches touched the lives of their neighbors with Christ's love over 5000 times. They served meals at the Flowing Oil Café, they mentored families in our Homes of Hope, they took neighbors to doctors' appointments, they helped to repair homes, and they showed the love of Christ in a myriad of other ways. Why? That's easy. "We love because he first loved us." (1 John 4:19)

We pray that each of you will have the opportunity to reach out and reflect Love In the Name of Christ this year by meeting the needs of your neighbors when God brings them to your doorstep. There is no greater privilege!

Yours in Christ's Service,

Kim Y. Wittel

Executive Director

Our Mission:

To mobilize local churches to transform lives and communities in the name of Christ.



LOVE INC *core values*

1. We are Christian. Everything we think, say and do is in the name of Christ.
2. Prayer is an integral part of who we are.
3. We follow Christ's example of valuing the poor and needy.
4. We value unity of the Body of Christ.
5. We value transformation in the lives of people and communities.
6. We value churches living out the two great commandments to love God and love their neighbors.
7. We value building Christ-like relationships.
8. We value connectedness of the Love INC movement.
9. We model excellence.
10. We value continually maturing in our capacity to meet people's needs.



Love INC

Love In the Name of Christ

LOVE INC OF LANCASTER COUNTY

1925 Wheatland Avenue, Lancaster, PA 17603

717.735-7540

www.loveinclancaster.org

The official registration and financial information of Westlanc Love INC may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.