



a Partnership of Churches

MAY 2020

GALLATIN COUNTY

LOVE INC

LOVE IN THE NAME OF CHRIST



## NOTE from the *Executive Director*

Rob McCormack

It was fitting that within the pandemic we celebrated Maundy Thursday. It is the day that commemorates the Last Supper, when Christ initiated the Holy Eucharist, also known as the Lord's Supper or Holy Communion. "Do this in remembrance of me." It also was a stark reminder of the mandate Christ gave to all of us: "Love one another as I have loved you." During this time of uncertainty and crisis, many individuals and families are experiencing unforeseen difficulties. Many of them are courageously reaching out for help. With much of the world on hold, and many events either postponed or cancelled, one thing remains true, ever-present, and never cancelled: **The Hope and Love of Jesus Christ.** Although your Love INC ministry has had to modify the way wholistic care is accomplished, the ministry remains steadfast and ready to mobilize to meet the requests for help and deliver Christ's Hope with every need fulfilled. In a time where normalcy has been stripped away, and replaced by the unknown, it is truly a blessing to be able to be a tangible source of aid to those that are hurting. A blessing to be called by our neighbors in need and to let them know that they are worthy of all of the help that we can provide, to help them to thrive again, while Loving them all in the name of Christ.

## Measurable IMPACT

During the Pandemic, **1,181 individual needs** were able to be met by the caring ministry of Christ for those who reached out for help.

Among the help provided were:

**340** personal care baskets, food baskets, and clothing deliveries.

**5** cars offered to those that needed them to flourish.

**20** cars repaired.

**3** computers given to help families stay connected and allow students to do schoolwork.

**2** families provided HVAC services by Mountain Heating and Cooling.

**Hope and Joy** were delivered to **262 children** through gifts of Easter baskets.

## Keeping the Faith *Being on Track*

A client called to request Personal Care Closet supplies and was offered an Easter basket for her young child. She was so thankful! When asked how she was doing, she stated, "To be honest, it's been really hard, but it has brought me closer to God." She had opened her Bible that day, after years of not looking at it. Continuing with a teary voice, she said that while waiting in the car for her husband at work she had found a Bible study app and then went to YouTube to find Christian music and talks. She stated usually she would just play on her phone and watch "dumb videos" but was compelled to seek God instead. She requested prayer; prayer that she can keep the faith not only in crisis, but when things return to normal too. She was looking forward to being on track this year at Easter, focusing on the true meaning, and knowing that through this all He gives Peace. We encouraged her to keep us in the loop...that we are here for her if she needs anything or just wants to talk and pray. "Thank you!" she said. "I know you guys are here for me and that brings me so much peace and joy. Thank you for everything!"



"Becoming a new volunteer during a crisis has been both eye-opening and compassion-building. I have loved the opportunity Love INC has provided in a time when it feels like there is little that we can do to help our neighbors - to actually be the hands and feet of Jesus through service to them."

-Tatum Meyer of Emmaus Road Church

## LOVE INC's *25<sup>th</sup>* Anniversary **PLANT THE SEED** Fundraiser, Dinner and Auctions



*... Has been Rescheduled ...*

MONDAY,  
OCTOBER 5, 2020  
MSU SUB BALLROOMS  
5:30 - 8:30 PM

Reserve your Business Sponsorship, Table Host, or Individual Tickets  
AVAILABLE ONLINE NOW: [www.loveincgc.org](http://www.loveincgc.org)

MOBILIZING LOCAL CHURCHES to TRANSFORM LIVES and COMMUNITIES in the NAME of CHRIST

We are excited to welcome our newest Partner Church:

## EMMAUS ROAD CHURCH!

Emmaus Road, a member of the Sovereign Grace Churches denomination, exists "to make disciples who delight in, display, and declare the gospel of Jesus Christ." Emmaus Road Church meets at 3:30 pm on Sundays. To learn more, check out their Website: <https://www.ercbozeman.com>

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# Delivering Hope

God's plan is often so much larger than we could ever imagine and when we step into it, He moves in incredible ways. Going into Easter it was business as usual at Love INC (besides the whole ministry being turned upside down by a pandemic and all the physical ministry sites being closed). Personal care items, food, and clothing baskets were delivered in addition to the many other requested needs by caring Partner Church volunteers to all that reached out for help. That is when World Market reached out and asked if we would be interested in taking ALL of their Easter goods. When the donation arrived, the Love INC breakroom was filled to the brim. Looking at the massive pile of donations the question swirling in everyone's head was, "how will we ever be able to distribute all of these Easter baskets?"



As He often does, God exceeded what anyone imagined. Within 24 hours all the Easter baskets were accounted for. Calls were made, more donations were gathered from other businesses, and again, all the baskets were accounted

for. In addition to the necessary items the families requested, they received Christ's Hope and Love in the unexpected form of an Easter basket. As Easter approached, there were 100 baskets less than what had been requested. While at a store to purchase additional Easter items (which had been quoted to Love INC at a discounted rate) a store manager walked up and said, "When I moved to Bozeman I would never have made it without Love INC. Take whatever you need, it's yours."

What began as an unforeseen donation turned into an incredible opportunity to bless our neighbors by providing hope! Christ does not just give us the bare minimum; rather, God's grace is lavished upon us (Eph 1:8-9) and through this one act we were able to go above and beyond in demonstrating Christ's amazing love for us.

## A Volunteer Blooms

While working in Livingston in Emergency Medical Services assisting those in crisis, Cheyenne felt limited in ways she could help them. She asked God how she could rally her community to help her neighbors before the crisis occurred, or beyond their initial crisis. Friends and family from eight churches began praying together. Again and again, Cheyenne read or saw Gallatin County Love INC's name and felt God directing her to contact us. She did, and now she volunteers weekly in our Clearinghouse. She continues to partner with churches in Park County, has helped start a free clothes ministry at First Baptist Church, Livingston, and is part of a group starting a new Love INC affiliate in Park Co.

## Life Change Goes Online

Faith & Finances (F&F) and Resolving Everyday Conflict (REC) classes were offered this Spring, started off strong, and were going along smoothly - then came the COVID virus. We took two weeks off as the Governor mandated, then moved the F&F classes from physical locations to Zoom meetings! Here is a screenshot from one of the Zoom meeting classes! It was a learning curve for some, for others it was nothing new. The response was quite amazing as most of the participants continued to attend. Even those who didn't have internet access could call in on the phone and still participate in the class! The REC class was not able to do Zoom meetings, but since the REC class is offered on DVD, the participants were able to watch the videos and then discuss the lessons with their allies (coaches). It was inspiring to see the willingness of all involved to be flexible and to work together to complete what they had started.



For the latest needs, stories, and ministry updates:



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Follow us on Instagram



and Check out our Website  
[www.loveincgc.org](http://www.loveincgc.org)

"Being able to ... deliver supplies ... to our Neighbors in Need made me feel like I was making a difference, by carrying out Christ's work. We all want to be able to do something to help as we go through these uncertain times." and "My need was met as well."  
Joan Moll, Resurrection Catholic Church

## Share the Light

How can we love one another when we are asked to stay at home and restrict our contact with others? During the recent crisis Love INC has continued to find a way to share Christ's love despite this. We can still reach out over the phone, listen to those that are struggling, pray with one another. A kind word and a listening ear bring joy to someone's day. We can still deliver personal care products, clothing, food, and other needed items to a person's door and give them a wave and a smile. We can still connect people with resources to help. We can still donate items, money, and time to help those in need. We can always share Christ's love and give hope to all those we contact.

One volunteer said, "It was such a blessing to be able to deliver items during this time, it brightened my day to serve others during this crisis." We are all able to continue to share The Light during challenging times.



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