



LOVE LINKS

The News of Southern Lakes Area Love, Inc.

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HELP WANTED VOLUNTEERS

Love, Inc. needs volunteers and donors to assist those in need during the holiday season!

Winter Wraps Drive: Last year 519 people received winter coats, hats and gloves. Please donate new and gently used coats and snow pants to help keep our community warm this winter season.

Thanksgiving Baskets: In 2013 Love, Inc. distributed 558 Thanksgiving baskets to needy families. It costs approximately \$29 to purchase a meal for a family. We are looking for monetary donations to cover the cost of purchasing the food for this year's program. Food donations gladly accepted as well.

Turkey Trot: Volunteers are needed to bake Thanksgiving pies for raffle prizes. Also, we need volunteers to work in various positions on race day.

Adopt-A-Family: Get into the giving spirit by adopting a family this holiday season. We are looking for individuals, businesses and groups to adopt families for Christmas. You can purchase gifts yourself or make a monetary donation instead. Last year 443 families were adopted, including 993 children. In addition to adopting a family, we are looking for people to volunteer in Santa's Workshop during the month of December.

Bell Ringers: Become a bell ringer or offer your business as a kettle location. Kettle donations support Love, Inc. programs.

Please contact Love, Inc. at (262) 763-6226 for more information on how you can join us this Holiday season.

**August
2014**

Mission Statement

A Community Network Helping Our Neighbors in Need

L-I-N-K-I-N-G with Love, Inc.

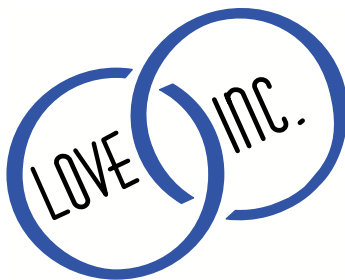
The scope of operations, programs and services at Love, Inc. provides a variety of ways to be connected. Whether one is seeking help or wanting to help others, our community benefits when people and opportunities connect. Here are a few examples of how to **link with Love, Inc.**—

Connect to information and resources by:

- Liking us on Facebook —Like Love Inc. on Facebook and get notifications of current news, sales and events. <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Love-Inc/214056351972560>
- Following us on Twitter—Visit us on Twitter for the latest from Love, Inc. <https://twitter.com/LoveIncBur>
- Visiting our Website —A great source and overview of programs, services and general information about our organization. <http://www.love-inc.net>
- Emailing, calling or visiting our office—Compassionate assistance with questions, requests and referrals
[Email: office@love-inc.net](mailto:office@love-inc.net)
Phone: (262) 763-6226
Address: 480 S. Pine St.
Burlington, WI 53105

Assist in our commitment to helping others by:

- Shopping at our Thrift Stores — Our stores sell quality, low cost previously owned merchandise. By shopping our stores, you are also supporting our mission through the proceeds which directly fund our programs.
- Making a financial contribution—To keep our vision and mission healthy and thriving, we greatly appreciate donations of cash, planned gifts, and other assets.
- Participating in food drives— Last year Love, Inc. fed over 15,000 people through our Food Pantry. We depend on food drives to help stock empty shelves.
- Donating resalable items—The sale of clothing, household items, furniture and books that you donate is the main source of revenue for our programs. Your generosity is the gift that keeps on giving.



Join our efforts in making a difference by:

- Volunteering your time and talents—Volunteers are always needed to help sort donations, to keep our store shelves neat and organized, to assist in the food pantry and to lend a hand with programs and events.
- Serving on a Committee— Committee members work together to fulfill the mission and accomplish the vision of Love, Inc. Individuals with event planning, writing, marketing, fundraising, and computer experience are especially needed.
- Mentoring others in life skills—Clients and providers have indicated the need for tutoring in the areas of financial management, household, cooking, hobby, computer, and other life skills. Share your talents and help others learn to help themselves.
- Helping with transportation— Occasional assistance is needed to help people without cars or who are physically unable to drive get to and from appointments.

Please call our office for more information on these and other opportunities of involvement.

Love, Inc. deeply appreciates

RICHTER'S
Marketplace

running a food drive this year. Their most generous donation of \$5,000 will go a long way to feeding the hungry. Another great example of a local company supporting local charity. Thanks Richter's!

Thank you to . . .



for your recent food drives

Love, Inc. would like to thank everyone for their continue support in donating their good used items. Our stores can only be stocked if we have the quality items that you give us.

From the Director

I heard the other day from someone that they don't shop at the stores because they don't want to take from the poor. There can be nothing farther from the truth. When you shop our stores you are helping support many of our programs. It allows us to buy food for the pantry. It allows us to help with rent and utilities. It helps on the back to school program with shoes and supplies. It helps us guide a young women to continue her education. It helps many people with their health issues such as dentist, eye appointments and prescriptions. All of this and more is what our store sales can help with when you shop our stores.

Sixty five percent of our budget is funded by the stores. That is why shopping and donating to our stores is so important for our community. We do the best we can to supply the stores with the best quality items. Summer can be a difficult time for us to raise the money needed to run Love. Thanks to you the stores really help in continuing our programs.

I wish you and safe and healthy summer and hope to see you in our stores.

Bill Schoessling

Director

Love, Inc.

Featured Volunteer: Sharon Sieker

Sharon Sieker is Love, Inc's featured volunteer! Sharon has volunteered with Love, Inc. since September of 2003. Her friends, Maryann and Ruth, told her 11 years ago that she needed to "get her behind down to Love and volunteer!" Love, Inc. has been lucky enough to have Sharon volunteer ever since. Sharon volunteers five days a week in our thrift store organizing linens, crafts and hardware.

Sharon was born and raised in Burlington. She has three brothers and two sisters, all of whom are located in various parts of

Wisconsin and the US. Before volunteering at Love, Inc., Sharon worked at a nursing home for five years doing housekeeping, as well as working at Burlington Hospital for 14 years in food service and housekeeping. When not at Love, Inc. she enjoys listening to music and making gum drop trees and ornaments. Sharon's two favorite things are the Milwaukee Bucks and the Milwaukee Brewers!

Sharon enjoys volunteering her time at Love, Inc. because it makes her feel good to give back. Sharon says "I have made lots of friends, and I like what I do." On behalf



of Love, Inc. we want to say a big thank you to Sharon for all her hard work and dedication over the past 11 years. Thanks Sharon!

2014 Love, Inc. Community Needs Assessment Results

The results are in! We recently polled a number of Love, Inc. store patrons, program participants, volunteers, staff, and service providers about community needs for families in need. Their top five answers from each question follow.

The most critical issues facing Burlington area families are . . .

1. Lack of jobs/unemployment
2. Low income
3. High cost of living
4. Housing related expenses
5. Lack of transportation

The programs or services that Love, Inc. provides which are

the most helpful to families in need are . . .

1. Food Pantry
2. Having Thrift stores
3. Client Assistance
4. All programs are helpful
5. Services helping the homeless

Additional programs or services families in need would like to see further developed . . .

1. No new programs are needed
2. Transportation
3. Life skills training for adults
4. Homeless shelter for men and women
5. Help with finding good jobs

Featured Mealsite: Church of Jesus Christ LDS

Every fourth Friday of the month, volunteers from the Church of Jesus Christ of Later-Day Saints, located in Burlington, serve the evening meal at Love, Inc. Every other month, the church alternates between breakfast foods for dinner, and the next being typical dinner foods. Our mealsite guests get especially excited for the months they serve breakfast!

When asked about the importance of volunteering for their church, Nikki, a volunteer, responded with,

“The Bible tells us to put charity above all else and that is the driving force for our church. ‘But who so hath this world’s goods and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up the compassion of his heart from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?’ 1 John 3:17.”

Many thanks to all the volunteers from the Church of Jesus Christ LDS who cook and provide our meals each month!

Wish List

Nice items for the stores

Gas Cards to help people get to Medical and Court appointments

Volunteers to help in all areas of Love, now and especially during the Holidays

Food Cards and Gift Certificates for emergency needs that are not in our food pantry

Drivers

Racks for the annex to store seasonal items

Milk coupons to give to families with young children

Patience?

Office supplies such as copy paper

Help with Mentoring kids and adults with many different issues

Good bikes to give folks transportation

Security system for the donation center and Main Building Love has become a non-smoking campus. *Please help us by honoring this request.*

Help with donations to our food pantry that are healthy, gluten free and Diabetic friendly

To help our warehouse staff and volunteers lift items. *This could be a pallet jack or newer fork lift.*

Meet Ben Mitchell

Love Inc.'s new Program Supervisor

Ben joined Love, Inc on June 16th and will be responsible for advancing our many programs. You can find him at his office in the food pantry.

Ben lives in North Cape and was raised in Western Racine County. He attended Union Grove High School, and Parkside. His hobbies are movies, books, and

antique clocks.

He has a background in public service and counseling.

Ben is engaged to his longtime girlfriend Stacey and plans to marry in the Dells this October.

Currently he is learning our programs and working on a new Healthy Lifestyle Initiative.



Make a Difference to a Starfish Kid



Starfish is a kids mentoring program organized by Love, Inc. in collaboration with Big Brother Big Sisters of Racine and Kenosha Counties, Inc.

Being a MENTOR is easy. Teenagers, adults and husband and wife teams can do it. Just be yourself. Talk to a kid. Walk with a kid. Take a kid for a ride in a car or a bike. Play catch. See a movie. Take in a ballgame. Teach her to sew. Teach him to saw a board. Take them shopping or fishing. Spend an hour a month. It may be the most rewarding thing you will ever do!

We currently have boys & girls ages 8 to 11 right here in Burlington waiting to be matched to a mentor. You can make a difference to one of our boys or girls.

Brian is an 8 year old who enjoys video games, playing with construction vehicle, riding bikes,



fishing, and bowling. He needs help with getting his homework done on time.

Jaden is 8 year old who enjoys fishing, sports, bike riding, playing games, video games, and movies. He needs a positive male role model and someone to help with homework.



Troy is 11 years old. He enjoys video games, movies, legos, and sports. He needs a positive role model and would benefit from some help with his homework.



Lillian is only 6. She likes jumping on the trampoline, playing with baby dolls, going to the park, and butterflies. She is a "girly girl." She needs



help with multiple subjects and needs a positive role model.

Ayesha is 10. She enjoys swimming, using her imagination, play the piano, science, reading, playing with her Xbox, and playing with her iPad. She needs help with math and would like to experience new things.



Isabella is 11. She is a "girly girl" who likes anything "girly." She also enjoys animals, roller skating, bowling, hiking, and riding her bike.



For more information about this program call Board Member, Tom Tess at (262) 534-5786 or Mandy Johnson @ Big Brothers Big Sisters 262-637-7625.

There's something new within the aisles of the Love Inc. Food Pantry!

As part of the Safe and Healthy Food Pantries Project, Love Inc. is now going to emphasize healthier options and offer more choices and easier selection for our clients with special dietary needs, and for those who just want to make a positive change in their eating habits. A new section of the pantry will be dedicated to diabetic friendly choices, whole grains, low-sodium, low fat, and other healthful options.

We are taking a survey of our clients to get a better idea of how many of them have special dietary needs, and of their over-all interest in healthy eating. Once the survey is complete, we'll have an accurate picture of how healthy our clients feel generally, of the special attention their diets require, as well as a list of clients with severe food allergies. We also have a special selection of gluten-free food set aside.

But having good choices on the shelves isn't all of it. Literature is



being provided to help guide the clients into healthier living. Healthy and easy recipes and cookbooks are now available for free to those seriously interested in improving their diet. And even as this article was being written, six young tomato plants were donated and promptly put on the shelves along with a page of helpful growing advice. They were on their way to new homes in just as many minutes!

If anyone we serve needs to, or wants to live a healthier life and enjoy a healthier diet, Love Inc. is here to help. But as always, we can't do it without all the help we get from this wonderful community. So please remember to keep our new approach in mind when dropping by a food drive. We give all the help we can, and need all the help we can get.

Funny Roy Rogers Story

By William Barnes

Roy Rogers and Dale Evans were generous to their charities and interesting people.

After Trigger the horse died, Roy had him stuffed and placed in his museum. Roy had said, "When I'm dead just put me up on Trigger!"

Dale Evans was asked what she thought about Roy stuffing things. She said, she did not object to what

Roy was doing, only that she hoped that he would die before her!!

After many years the museum failed. In 2010 Trigger was sold at auction for \$266,000, with part of the proceeds going to charity.

Please be a good cowboy, and consider placing your local charity, Love, Inc. in your estate plans.



Kid Friendly Happenings: Fall 2014 Early Learning Family Programs

While September means back to school for children—families with babies, toddlers and preschoolers can enjoy fun and educational experiences too. Here are a few free program opportunities that Love, Inc. along with the Family Smart Kid Friendly Partnership offer area families.

Building Blocks *(For Parents, Grandparents, or Caregivers and their children ages birth to 4)*

Music & movement, children's books, and social playtime are introduced to provide families opportunities to engage in the "Building Blocks" of early learning.

Monday Mornings at the Waterford Public Library. 9:30 AM–10:15 AM Sept. 22nd–Nov. 3rd

Wednesday Mornings at the Burlington Public Library. 9:30 AM–10:15 AM Oct. 22nd–Nov. 19th

Early Learning Make & Take *(For Parents, Grandparents, or Caregivers and their Children ages 3–5)*

Join us for a weekly hands-on early learning project designed to stimulate creativity and spark the joy of learning. This drop by program is held in the Burlington Love, Inc. Kids Store.

Tuesday Mornings 9:30 AM–10:30 AM, Sept. 23rd–Dec. 9th

ABC Music & Me *(For Parents, Grandparents, or Caregivers and their children ages 2–4)*

Music from Kindermusik International provides a fun way to sing, listen, move, play, learn, and build early literacy & language skills.

Wednesday Mornings at the Burlington Public Library. 9:30 AM –10 AM, Sept. 17th–Oct. 8th

Monday Mornings at the Waterford Public Library. 9:30 AM–10 AM, Nov. 17th–Dec. 8th

Like Love, Inc. on



to see program updates and additions.

Programs are provided at no cost to participants in Western Racine County thanks to funding through the Racine County Human Services Department and United Way of Racine County.

To register or for more information contact, Linda Breuer, Children's Resources at Love, Inc.

Phone: (262) 763-6226 x107 Email: families@love-inc.net



***Saturday, June 14th was
Community Appreciation
Celebration. Families
gathered to enjoy the
day's activities.***

Support for Sexual Assault Victims and their Families

Services for sexual assault victims are often the services that we as a community are not aware of until we have a need for them. An individual who has been sexually assaulted may not know who to turn to first, or what his or her options are. Fortunately, there are a number of services available to victims and many of these services are offered right here at LOVE, Inc.

For those of you unfamiliar with our services, Sexual Assault Services of Lutheran Social Services (SAS), is the rape crisis and treatment center for Racine County. We provide the full range of services that a victim may need following an assault. These services include a 24-hour Crisis Line at (262) 637-7233, 24-hour hospital response, personal, legal and medical advocacy, counseling and support groups, family advocacy

at the Child Advocacy Center, as well as community awareness and prevention education. These services are provided by a team of dedicated staff members as well as Volunteer Advocates. Volunteer Advocates answer calls on the Crisis Line [(262) 637-SAFE] and support survivors face-to-face as part of the Hospital Response Team. The Crisis Line is a 24-hour service available to anyone in Racine County who would like information or support regarding sexual assault and/or abuse issues. Hospital Response involves either Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare in Racine or Aurora Memorial Hospital of Burlington when a sexual assault or abuse survivor comes in for medical services. Volunteer Advocates are an important resource for survivors at that time. They provide emotional support and information about the sexual assault evidence collection

exam, reporting process and SAS services.

SAS provides these services at two different locations. The main office is located at 1220 Mound Ave. Suite 304 in Racine. SAS has another office located at LOVE, Inc. at 480 S. Pine Street in Burlington.

If you would like more information about Sexual Assault Services or about becoming a Volunteer Advocate, contact Vicki Biehn at (262)763-6226, ext 109 or vbiehn@lsswis.org or Carla Pratt at (262) 619-1634 or carla.pratt@lsswis.org

Sexual Assault Services is funded by United Way of Racine County, The SC Johnson Fund, the Victims of Crime Act grant, the Sexual Assault Victim Services grant, the Violence Against Women Act grant and the Racine Dominican Fund.

Turkey Trot Back for Fourth Year

Registration for the fourth annual Town Bank Turkey Trot will open on August 1. The race will be held on Thanksgiving Day. A portion of the proceeds from the race will be donated to the Food Pantry at Love, Inc. There will also be a raffle to benefit the Food Pantry.

There will be a 5k run and walk starting at 8:30 a.m. The pre- and post-race activities will be held at Veterans Terrace. The race will start across the street near

Riverside Park (behind Adrian's Frozen Custard).

Town Bank, which purchased Talmer Bank and Trust, is the title sponsor of the event this year. Other sponsors include Thrivent Financial, the Burlington Community Fund, Runzheimer International, Running in the USA and Performance Running Outfitters.

Participants are asked to bring non-perishable food items, which

will be donated to our Food Pantry. For each item they donate (up to 10), they receive a raffle ticket. The drawing will be held after the race and prizes include home-made pies, gift certificates for turkeys and other fun items.

For more information go to www.runthanksgiving.com. Registration can be done online or in person at Town Bank branch in Burlington, 400 Milwaukee Avenue.