A Story of Life-Changing Compassion

By Pat Miller

My journey with Love In The Name Of Christ began many years ago when I needed transportation for physical therapy after a stroke. Little did I know that Love INC would become such an important part of my life. But God had a plan to bring us together again.

In May of 2017, I received a flyer from Love INC about a new program called IMPACT. I had been praying and asking God to show me what to do because my retirement money was almost gone. I only had enough money in the bank for three more months. And HE did -- He provided IMPACT!

IMPACT was a game changer for me. I was reminded that I was worthy and a child of God. IMPACT was a blessing with all the life skill classes, my coach, and the support and encouragement of all the volunteers and staff. It felt like a big family that met every Thursday evening. I looked forward to the fellowship each week.

After completing the IMPACT program, I wanted to volunteer with Love INC, because I believed in all they do in the community. I now volunteer in the Clearinghouse and speak at the IMPACT Orientation meetings.

Here are some comments shared by guests:

- “The venue is perfect. I loved the mystery bowls — so much fun!”
- “We enjoyed the friends, the food, the ‘auction games’, and the awesome videos from the IMPACT participants.”
- “We loved hearing the personal stories of lives transformed.”

The Lord has blessed Love INC not only with finances that exceeded our goals, but with the staff and many volunteers who gave hundreds of hours to make this event possible. We are so thankful to God for His great provision!
On Saturday, November 17th, a single-unit fire occurred in the Windermere-Tower apartments, causing one death and forcing over 160 seniors from their homes. We are grateful to the Red Cross and Arapahoe County for their efficient and careful attention to immediate needs. We are even more blessed to see the Church in action! Immediate relief efforts and sheltering were provided by Littleton United Methodist Church, The Mission Hills Life Center and Littleton Christian Church. Church neighbors sprang into action to provide assistance to the Red Cross and those displaced.

A large portion of those needing ongoing sheltering wound up at the same hotel, and were welcomed at a variety of thanksgiving tables, including our partner churches; Skyview Presbyterian, First Presbyterian of Littleton and The Life Center. The hotel offered use of their banquet room every afternoon of the holiday weekend for churches to serve food to these displaced neighbors. Volunteers from Cherry Hills Community, Our Father Lutheran, Faith Community, Centennial Covenant, Columbine United, Waterstone Community and St. James Presbyterian all showed up to provide support, prayer and fellowship for the evacuees.

One couple shared that being prayed for by volunteers “reminded us that we are loved and there is a way out of this.” They said “The churches’ visit changed our day and gave us hope. We hit bottom the day before and the visit and prayer changed our outlook!”

Anne Heathman, our Love INC Prayer Team lead volunteer, was also a victim of the fire and shared, “You showed up in spades and loved and cared for all of us affected by the fire. I would say you walked your talk. It was Love In the Name of Christ in action... Thank you so much for the lovely lunch served by lovely volunteers who went above and beyond to serve us. It was so nice to have a place to connect with our neighbors and friends.” Anne helped us to do client intakes at the hotel to reach more victims – her own neighbors – who were displaced.

In addition to the meals; Love INC drivers and Renewed Treasures volunteers combined efforts to provide rides and clothes as well as builds. Of the December 3rd news that the building is uninhabitable and all residents must find new homes, Love INC is beginning a long journey with dozens of new clients. Love INC is collaborating with other community groups in the Long-term Recovery Team. Volunteers are invited to become “Navigators” to walk alongside individual evacuees for the next weeks or months. We pray that God will draw more people into his Redemptive Compassion as he creates beauty from these ashes.

All of humanity struggles with some form of poverty. Since the fall, humans have been inundated with physical, emotional, relational and spiritual issues that causes all sorts of chaos. But the Good News is that Jesus came to set the captives free and to help us experience the shalom of His Kingdom. At IMPACT we seek to provide courses, coaching and resources that can create the space needed for people to renew their minds in ways that is life changing.

We recently had 16 people take the Affirming Potential (AP) course that is a group class evaluating the physical, emotional, relational, and spiritual areas of life. It builds on the foundation that God has created us with intrinsic worth and unique potential. Participants learn how to use the AP Dream Tool, which helps individuals set and achieve goals and steps to live out their God-given potential.

Here is what a few of the volunteers are saying about Affirming Potential:

• “It allows you time to see change that needs to be made in your life”
• “I am thankful to the Holy Spirit for providing an opportunity for the body of Christ to reach out to those desiring to move their life into a better place”
• “I am learning a ton about my own dreams and defining a life purpose for myself... more importantly I can’t wait to share the dream tool with others!”
• “I think the thing I am most grateful for is the Dream Tool, even though I struggle with dreaming and using it to its full potential, it is a new concept for me. I was never one to be a dreamer. I grew up as a very practical and realistic person. Dreaming was never encouraged. I feel that has held me back in life as far as setting goals, stepping out of my comfort zone, and developing a Life Purpose. I am hoping that I can ignite my imagination and live it out.”

The next semester kicks off on January 3rd

The next Affirming Potential course (also Money & Me and Boundaries) is set to start January 3, 2019. If you want to conquer your New Year’s resolution we’d love to encourage and empower you to reach your God-given potential.

Call 303-794-5685 to register

Get Involved—Volunteer
Call the office to register!
303-798-0037

LOVE INC Orientation (1 hour sessions)
2nd Wednesday at 5pm (1/9, 2/13, 3/13)
4th Monday at 6:30pm (1/28, 2/25, 3/25)

Redemptive Compassion Training (2 hour sessions)
1st Saturday at 9am (1/26, 2/23, 3/23)
5th Wednesday at Noon (1/16, 2/20, 3/20)

Please visit our new website www.lovencinc.org

Clearinghouse Love Story

In October, we received a call from a gentleman needing assistance for his family. “Bob” had been laid off from his IT job in June and had been struggling to find work ever since. Like many in our community, “Bob” and his family were living paycheck to paycheck, so when he found himself out of work, he started pounding the pavement and submitting resumes. By October, “Bob” called Love INC. Bob and his three children, have seen the love of Jesus through Love INC and our partner churches.

First Presbyterian of Englewood, Columbine United, Valley View Christian, St. James Presbyterian, St. Mark Catholic and Skyview Presbyterian have shared so many blessings with this family. From tires to propane to keep their camper heated, to groceries and a wonderful Thanksgiving meal, this family saw the love of Jesus shining brightly as not just a single church acted, but as together the Church came alongside them as their world was turned upside down.

Our support doesn’t stop with physical needs. We, as The Church, are called to feed the hungry, but we are also called to share the Good News. Bob and his family were invited to church and did attend! Love INC will continue to call and check in with the family to offer encouragement and prayer, and an invitation to life-changing compassion.

This is just the first step in true transformational ministry.

There are many great ways to volunteer with Love INC ministries, serving monthly, weekly, and even just a handful of times a year!

Did you know that our resale store, Renewed Treasures, served over 200 client needs in the last year? Not only is the store providing love “in the name of Christ,” but it is also giving the local church a presence in community retail. Open six days a week and largely volunteer-run, we are seeking motivated, organized and relational volunteers to join the team!

Please consider helping in the following ways:

• Join a 2-4-hour morning or afternoon team on a weekly basis
• Take one Saturday shift a month
• Be “on-call” to help when the donation volume is high
• Get a team from your church together to do a Saturday service project
• Gathering your strong and hearty friends to help deliver Furniture

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Love INC’s ~ Core Value # 8 We value connectedness of the Love INC movement

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Share Your Time & Talent at Renewed Treasures!

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