



Let's be completely candid...There are some days when volunteering is an incredibly gratifying experience. You are able to connect a person in need with programs which can assist them in making better life choices, provide access to much needed funds, or introduce them to a caring body of believers who are eager to make them feel welcome. Days like that make it all worth.

But let's unpack that last statement. Days like that do come. Phone conversations occur in which you really feel like this person is someone you can help. But what about the phrase making "it all worthwhile". This is where we talk about the "it". "It" is the rest of the stuff you experience when you work with individuals who possibly want you to fix their problems while apparently not being independently proactive, who might have a sense of entitlement or are, in fact, lying to you.

Long before Love INC began serving the Anchorage community our churches experienced first hand some of both. Our church isn't large, but our name starts with the letter A. We received numerous calls from people working their way through the phone book. My husband, the pastor, frequently spent hours of his day checking out a story only to find the person who had attempted to pull at his heartstrings, was really pulling his leg. The person in question walked away spewing their anger that they did not get what they desired - leaving my husband late for dinner, verbally assaulted and with a huge chunk taken from a day filled with demanding pastoral duties. I grew up in a pastor's home, and the stories were very much the same.

What do you do on those days? What do you do with those who lie or the people who want the handout without being willing to take the hand? What do you do when the need is greater than the provision? When people are not willing to do what needs to be done to improve their lives? We know this does happen. You reach out and get your hand get smacked, you are criticized for not doing more, the person perceives your help as something you owe them and you are barely acknowledged for your effort and concern. There is very little comfort then, very little encouragement to keep going.

Fortunately, you do not volunteer for Love in the name of charity or Love in the name of feeling good about yourself. If that were the case, it just wouldn't happen for very long, would it? Yes, you are of a charitable disposition, but that desire to

give aide, in and of itself, would quickly dry up on those discouraging days. What keeps you coming back certainly isn't the warm fuzzies you get when the person you are taking a basket to isn't even home or barely glances at you as they take the basket and closes the door with only a mumbled thanks.

What keeps you coming back is the gentle words from Matthew 25:40 "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." (NIV) The organization you volunteer for is Love In the Name of Christ. No matter what the reception over the phone, at the door or even the voices in your own head when you are tired and discouraged, the response of the Father is one of approval and pleasure for your sacrifice of love in His name. Thank you for giving of yourself...on the good days and the bad.

Blessings,
Darlene Wiesinger

VBS Young Missionaries!

Thank you to the 5-6th grade Vacation Bible School Class of Rabbit Creek Community Church for delivering essential items to three neighbor families as a part of their class's community involvement.

New Gap Ministry - Furniture Warehouse!

Love INC is excited to announce the opening of the New Furniture Warehouse. This long-awaited Gap ministry is now a reality! This was made possible through an alliance with [RAIS](#) (Refugee Assistance and Immigration Services), an umbrella ministry under the Catholic Social Services (CSS) organization that helps refugees and immigrants resettle. We are excited to be partnering with RAIS. A special thanks to South Central Christian Community Church, a Love INC partner, for arranging warehouse space and the logistical assistance of our newest participating agency partner, as well as our dedicated volunteers.

The Furniture Warehouse Gap Ministry is officially ready to accept donations of quality used furniture (couches, tables/chairs, beds/bedding, dressers). The donated furniture is given to those who are ready to make the transition to independent living, but need a helping hand in getting the basic furnishings. To donate items, please contact the Love INC office. We are also looking for individuals and groups to volunteer once a month for furniture delivery and pickup.

Continuing Needs

Your chance to help...



When a neighbor contacts the Love INC call center, volunteers assess their situation, verify the need and connect them with local agencies, ministries, and volunteers from partnering churches. Volunteer response has been great; however, there are some needs we are still unable to meet.

Below is a list of some of those immediate needs:

- **Fill the Freezer:** Packaged home cooked or store-bought frozen meals for 4-6 people, volunteers to help deliver meals
- **Furniture pickup/delivery volunteers:** Love INC has use of a U-Haul truck and trailer. We would love to have men's groups/small bible study groups or individuals volunteer once a month to deliver furniture and share God's blessings with families in transition.
- **Minor Furniture Repair**
- **Two usable computers**
- **Bedding for twin, full, and queen size** (sheets/pillows/comforters/mattress pad covers/blankets)
- **Repair:** Individual able to repair a lawn mower

Love INC Office Volunteers

Intake workers Tuesdays or Thursdays - 9 am-noon or 12:30-3p.m.
Verification/follow-up - Anytime Monday-Thursday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Please call 274-5683 or email us at elaine@loveincanchorage.org if you would like more information regarding any of these opportunities.

Stephen Ministry Training

Beginning on September 11, St. John United Methodist Church will be conducting a 20-week [Stephen Ministry](#) training. The Stephen Ministry is a worldwide program that "trains and organizes lay people to provide one-to-one Christian care to hurting people". This is an excellent opportunity for anyone who is interested in counseling/mentoring ministry or simply wants to be better equipped to help people who are struggling. If you are interested in participating, or would like more information, please contact Pastor JoAnn at pastorjsp@gci.net. Please let her know if you wish to participate, but cannot meet on the 11th. There is a training material cost of \$60 (scholarships available if cost is prohibitive).

QUICK LINKS!

Click below...

- [Love INC in Anchorage](#)
- [Love INC National](#)
- [Donate to Love INC in Anchorage](#)
- [Thank you KLOVE for sharing how your listeners can serve the community through Love INC in Anchorage!!](#)

If a man's gift is...contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously..."
Romans 12:6-8



Join our mailing list!