



**Greater
Hershey**

Our mission is to mobilize local churches to transform lives and communities in the name of Christ. Together with church and community partners, Love INC helps to facilitate solutions that lift up families in need.

Dear Love INC family:

2023 was a hard year for our neighbors. COVID era food subsidies ended in March 2023 which increased the food insecurity in our area. Inflation caused the prices of common needs such as food, utilities, fuel oil, gasoline, and many other items to increase. This was on top of the 7%-9% increases the year before. Prices remain high in the housing/rental market which is increasing housing insecurity. The demand for housing is much higher than the supply of homes and apartments which is causing prices to rise. Last year in Derry Township School District, there were 33 families/58 students affected by homelessness. The need for mental health services continues to grow, and mental health professionals are in short supply. Unfortunately, incomes are not matching pace with these increased costs. Our local neighbors are finding it more difficult to pay all their bills.

The Love INC family has seen these struggles and has helped to meet over 3,000 needs last year (up 90% over prior year). The Personal Care Closet ministry distributed over 16,000 personal care items (up 43% over prior year). The Parsonage ministry provided over 1,300 nights of lodging (up 41% over prior year). The Sneaker Distribution provided 297 students from Derry Township and Lower Dauphin school districts with brand new sneakers and socks. The Homes of Hope program celebrated a family successfully graduating and moving into their own apartment. The Faith and Finances class saw 3 families graduate from this 10-week course.

This is all possible because of YOU! Our volunteers provided over 6,900 hours of their time to help our neighbors. Because of your generous donations, Love INC ended the year in the black and had a strong start to 2024. I am so appreciative for your generosity and support. THANK YOU!

One example of the lives that you have touched is Marisa. Marisa is a single mom. Five years ago, she found herself in a hard place. She had no income and had a child in her care. She came to stay with a friend in Hummelstown. Marisa started going to the Hummelstown Food Bank and signed up to receive personal care items from Love INC. This support helped Marisa get back on her feet. At first, she was embarrassed about the situation but Love INC made her feel so welcome, comfortable, and not looked down upon. Marisa was so grateful for this support and is now giving back by volunteering for Love INC. Marisa's video interview can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=81AgBY9oafs> .

Marisa is one example of the ways that you are serving our neighbors in need. Thank you!

Dale Forshey
Executive Director

OVERALL MINISTRY

6,948 TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS

Thank you to all the volunteers, churches, donors, and sponsors that made these ministries possible! You are the hands and feet of Jesus.

Matthew 25:40

\$602K of services on a \$260K budget

“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me’.”

CONNECTION CENTER

Connects neighbors in need with churches, volunteers, and community agencies.

216 households served

391 adults served

246 children served

3,028 total needs met

1,580 church referrals

3,341 volunteer hours

PERSONAL CARE CLOSET

Supplies personal hygiene, baby, and household cleaning products to the participants of Hershey Free Church, Hummelstown, and Hershey Food Banks.

16,296 items distributed

\$48,888 value of items

1038 volunteer hours

“This support helped me get back on my feet. At first, I was embarrassed about the situation but Love INC made me feel so welcome, comfortable, and not looked down upon. I am so grateful for this support”

SNEAKER DISTRIBUTION

Provides sneakers to students in need in Lower Dauphin and Derry Township school districts.

297 students served

282 volunteer hours

197 sneakers donated to local clothing bank organizations

Surplus sneakers were shared with Trinity UMC’s Shepherd’s Closet, Hershey Free Church Clothing Bank, and Cocoa Packs.

PARSONAGE MINISTRY

Offers a temporary home away from home to families with adult loved ones being treated at the Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center.

In 2023:

76 families served

104 individual guests

1,368 nights of lodging

\$273,000 in lodging saved

1,385 volunteer hours

Since inception in 2008:

1,996 families served

3,768 individual guests

24,214 nights of lodging

\$4.84 million in lodging saved

"Thank you does not say enough. You have blessed my life and that of my wife. To be able to be here with her for 30 days was only possible because of this ministry. You are indeed the hands and feet of the Lord. God bless this house."

"I can't begin to pour out my heartfelt gratitude and thanks to this ministry and the blessed angels that run this place during such an extreme time of need! Thank you so much for allowing me to be here while my daughter fights for her life in ICU. God bless all of you!"

"I came to your home as most of us do, under stressful uncertain circumstances of what lies before us. From my initial contact at the Parsonage, I was filled with uplifting encouragement and prayers for strength. This home away from home was more than I ever expected it to be. It provided peace, tranquility, warmth, friendship and a Godly home to rest and reflect. I believe that your prayers provided for renewed hope and healing. You have seen me through a difficult journey. Thank you for your love and service."

"This house was a tremendous blessing. Beyond words. My husband had a cardiac event while travelling along I-81 heading back home in Canada. While he was on life support, my kids and I travelled here to be by his side and were here when he took his last breath. The ministry of this house, this gift, has been a way for us to see God's hand looking out for us. It is a testimony of God's goodness. God bless you all."

HOMES OF HOPE TRANSFORMATIONAL MINISTRY

Provides temporary housing, advocacy, case management, and programming to equip families with life skills that lead to financial stability and self-sufficiency.

2 families served

73 weeks of housing

291 volunteer and mentoring hours

\$28,944 in housing provided

FAMILY ACHIEVEMENTS

- ◆ **Family #1:** Successfully graduated in November 2023.
- ◆ **Family #2:** Left the program before meeting the program goals.

"It wasn't just a house. It was a place to call home and make memories."

"The people were the most helpful. Without the people, the program would just be steps on paper. The team altogether (Cassie, Margaret, Sue, Erica) were like the Yankees; they were World Series Champs! They helped us do more than we could do individually."

"We always knew we had somewhere to turn. And, if someone didn't know the answer, they always found it out. They never let us down."

FAITH AND FINANCES

Based on biblical principles, Faith and Finances teaches people how to establish a budget, save for emergencies, pay off debts, and build wealth for retirement.

3 program graduates

5 volunteer advocates

126 volunteer hours

"I just wanted to say my husband and I completed the Faith and Finance classes in Hershey. We were on the verge of splitting with money issues. I wanted to say how helpful it was. We learned so, so much! And we cannot say enough how much we loved the classes and getting to know the classmates and the teachers! WOW! Incredible experience. Both Erica and Christina and the other folks supporting them were so friendly, helpful, and all so Christ-centered. It truly was an amazing experience. We not only gained knowledge, we gained several close friends through this whole encounter. I want to be sure they get a big pat on the back because they certainly deserve it. Thanks so much for this wonderful program."

FUTURE OUTLOOK AND NEEDS

CONNECTION CENTER INSIGHTS

The Connection Center is receiving a large increase in calls for rental assistance, utility assistance, and personal care items.

We will continue to work with partner agencies to support the rental assistance and utility assistance needs.

We will need your continued support to meet the increased need of personal care items.

2024 OUTLOOK

Even though inflation rates have decreased to 3%-4%, prices for essential items are remaining high and causing financial constraints for our neighbors. We are anticipating the need for our services to remain elevated in 2024. **We need additional volunteers to support the increased need.** If you like to work in an office with others, we can use your help. If you like to clean or meet with guests, our Parsonage ministry can use your help. If you have a car and would like to meet new people, our Transportation ministry can use your help. You can reach our office at 717-835-0101 or email office@loveincgreaterhershey.org for more information.

Trauma Informed Care training teaches the effects of trauma on the body and how to help others without saying things or putting people in situations that retrigger the memories of their past trauma. Trauma Informed Care training will be offered in 2024 if there is interest in the class. We offered this class in 2023 and it was well attended and very informational. This will be the same class. We are looking for a more advanced training but so far what we have found is cost prohibitive.

A **Car Repair** program is being rolled out in 2024. We are currently limiting this program to existing participants and may expand this reach later in the year. Love INC has partnered with two garages. Love INC will supplement the amount that a family can already pay toward the repair. More information will be provided later in 2024.

BOARD MEMBERS

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STAFF

Dale Forshey, Executive Director
Michelle Miduri, Director of Operations
Kent Bailey, Parsonage Manager
Anna Schatz, Fundraising and Marketing Manager

CHURCH PARTNERS

Provided financial support and use of facilities, programs, and ministries. Partner church volunteers served over 6,900 hours in 2023.

All Saint's Episcopal	Holy Trinity
Caring Community Church of God	LIFE Church
Church of the Redeemer UCC	New Life Church of Hershey
Derry Presbyterian	Spring Creek Church of the Brethren
First United Methodist of Hershey	St. Joan of Arc
Fishburn United Methodist	St. John Evangelical Lutheran
GracePointe Church of Christ	Stoverdale United Methodist
Grace United Methodist	Trinity United Methodist
Hanoverdale Church of the Brethren	Zion Lutheran of Union Deposit
Hershey Free Church	Zion Evangelical Lutheran
Hershey Seventh-Day Adventist	

LoveINCGreaterHershey.org

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