

# 2024 IMPACT REPORT

Helping You Help People



## Thank you!

I want to start by saying “Thank you,” “Gracias,” “Merci,” and “Danke.” Thank you for your eagerness and desire to help your fellow neighbors. Thank you for your collaboration and support for those in need, as well as your generous financial contributions. Love INC does not exist without volunteers and donors who believe in our mission to help our neighbors in need. In 2024, we were fortunate to have 165 volunteers dedicate over 6,300 hours of service. Additional volunteers came through by purchasing sneakers, creating auction items, and acquiring personal care products. Every contribution, no matter the size, helps us aid our neighbors and glorify God. Thank you!

Mary is a single mother of two, managing without family support. She juggles jobs to cover bills, but when her children fall ill, she faces reduced pay and struggles to make ends meet. Mary drives an older, unreliable car and is just one unexpected event away from eviction.

Tim lives with his wife, Sally, and their three young children in an apartment. Tim works at a fast-food restaurant while Sally stays home due to the high cost of childcare. Although they can pay their bills, they cannot save money. Recently, they learned their rent is increasing by \$200 a month, which Tim cannot afford. Finding affordable housing is a significant challenge, leaving them uncertain about where his family will live.

While Mary and Tim's stories are fictional, they parallel the reality faced by neighboring families daily. Many lack support and live paycheck to paycheck. Although the inflation rate has slowed, prices remain 15-20% higher than in 2021, while wages have not kept pace. This disparity has forced low-income families to deplete their savings, leading to over 120 requests for housing and utility support in 2024, alongside a significant increase in demand for personal care items.

The need for assistance within our local community will continue to rise in 2025. Your ongoing support through prayer, giving, serving, and sharing our mission will help us meet those growing needs.

Love INC is not a building or a few staff members. Love INC is a community working together in our mission of helping churches help people. Thank you for being an integral part of the Love INC family.

Blessings,

*Dale Hershey*

# Overall Ministry

**6358**

total volunteer hours

Love INC of Greater Hershey is dedicated to changing lives and enhancing our community. The statistics presented in this report illustrate the significant difference that has been made for our neighbors in need, all made possible by the amazing support from our volunteers, churches, and donors.

**\$566K**

of services on a  
**\$279K** budget

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself.”

-Luke 10:27



**2924** total needs met

**224** households served

**439** adults served

**240** children served

**2361** volunteer hours

*I appreciate you from the bottom of my heart. You delivered a Christmas Miracle.*

## Connection Center

connects neighbors in need with churches, volunteers, community agencies and other resources.

## Personal Care Closet

supplies essential personal hygiene, baby, and household cleaning products to participants of Hummelstown, Hershey, and Hershey Free food banks.



“*Having soap at the sink when the kids get home from school washes the germs away. That way we don't get sick and have to stay home from school or work and fall farther behind. Simple things like that make such a difference in the quality of our lives!*”

**18,154** items distributed

**\$54,462** value of items

**1289** volunteer hours





# Homes of Hope

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



**2** families served

**96** weeks of housing

**473** volunteer & mentoring hours

**\$32,154** in housing provided

The WM family successfully graduated in Dec 2024 and secured employment and permanent housing closer to family in Bethlehem, PA.

“ I don’t know where I would have been without you guys and everything you were there for. I never expected this: to be where I am now less than a year later ”

The JH Family is approaching the program end and is searching for affordable housing locally.

# Car Repair Ministry

launched in April of 2024. This cost sharing ministry works with select garages to make repairs specifically related to a vehicle’s safety and reliability.

*I took my car to the dealership for inspection, and while it passed, I was told I would need x, y, z in the near future. Knowing there was no way I could afford that, I contacted Love INC. Their garage took a look at my vehicle and said I needed none of those things! This ministry saved me hundreds of dollars and a lot of stress!*

**12** families served

**9** months



# Parsonage Ministry

offers a temporary home away from home to families with adult loved ones being treated at the Hershey Medical Center.

## 2024:



**96** individual guests

**1127** nights of lodging

**1541** volunteer hours

**\$225,400** in lodging saved

## 65 families served

*Thank you for the blessing of staying here. We prayed that God would provide for us during this time & He did through this ministry. -J&J*



*Your community outreach to continue offering support to out of town visitors in their time of need is a lovely affirmation of your commitment to Christ's call to love and serve our fellow brothers & sisters. -MB*

## Since 2008:

**2061** families served

**3864** individual guests

**25,341** nights of lodging

**\$5.07 M** in lodging saved



## Sneaker Drive & Distribution

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

## 278 students served

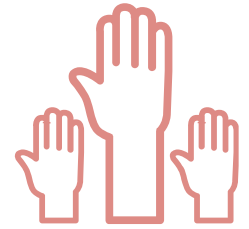
**492** sneakers donated

**351** volunteer hours

**200+** sneakers shared with local clothing banks (Trinity UMC's Shepherd's Closet, Hershey Free's Clothing Bank, & Cocoa Packs)



# 2025 Outlook + Needs



## Need for Volunteers



Even though inflation rates have decreased to 2-4%, the cost of essential items remains high, straining our neighbors' finances. We anticipate a sustained high demand for services throughout 2025 and need your help to meet this need.

Whether you prefer working in an office setting (Connection Center), have a knack for cleaning and hospitality (Parsonage ministry), or enjoy driving and meeting new people (Transportation ministry), we have a volunteer opportunity for you. Contact our office and join us in making a difference!

## Upcoming Events in 2025: Save the Dates!

<b>VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION GATHERING</b> <b>Saturday, April 12</b> <b>10 AM - 12 PM</b> 	<b>LACE UP WITH LOVE INC</b>  <b>SNEAKER DRIVE:</b> <b>June 1 - Aug 6</b> <b>DISTRIBUTION:</b> <b>Aug 7-9</b>	<b>RUN YOUR RACE 5K + 1M FUN RUN</b> <b>Saturday, June 21</b> <b>8 AM</b> 	 <b>October 23 - October 27</b> <b>ONLINE COMMUNITY AUCTION</b>
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## Prayer, Research + Discernment

Two significant challenges our local neighbors face are the demand for affordable housing and/or rental assistance, along with individuals struggling to earn a living wage. Unfortunately, there are no simple solutions to these problems. In November, the Love INC Board approved goals for the upcoming year, specifically targeting these two critical issues.

We will research existing resources that are available in a 20-mile radius and identify how we can partner with these organizations. If resources are not available, we will identify possible opportunities or actions needed to cultivate resources in the local area to support these needs.

Please pray for wisdom and direction, and that doors may be opened as we journey to find answers for these issues.

If you have knowledge, insights, or ideas in these areas, please reach out to Dale at [dforshey@loveincgreaterhershey.org](mailto:dforshey@loveincgreaterhershey.org).





## Board Members

oversee the organization's overall health and strategic direction, guided by Christ-like principles, prioritizing the best interests of all stakeholders, including churches, neighbors in need, and the community.

**David Craft, Chair**

**Tina Watkins, Vice Chair**

**Kathy Smith, Secretary**

**Sara Brenneman, Treasurer**

**Ryan Onufer** (term ended Dec 2024)

**Teresa Hutcheson**

**Todd Ray**

**Kara Ryabyy**

**Tim Smith**

**Beth Valentine** (term started Jan 2025)

## Our Church Partners

provide financial support and use of facilities for programs and ministries. Volunteers from our partner churches served over 6,300 hours in 2024.

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

## Staff

**Dale Forshey, Executive Director**

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**Julie Wetzel, Fundraising and Marketing Manager**

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## Contact Us

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