



DeKalb County

NEWS + UPDATES

JUNE / JULY 2025



Why I Serve - A Volunteer's Perspective

One of Love INC's most visible ministries involves supplying furniture to people in need. Over the many years that Love INC has been serving DeKalb County, **Mike Wadle** has been a key volunteer for the furniture ministry. Local residents may remember Mike from his long career at DeKalb High School, teaching math and coaching athletes. Now retired, Mike often spends hours each week tracking down furniture, managing the inventory, and preparing for deliveries. Explaining why he volunteers, Mike pointed to a recent Saturday morning. He said, "We delivered to a **mother** who had **four children and no beds** in their apartment. We were able to come up with beds for **all of them**. When we were done, you **couldn't ask for a better feeling** than being part of that."

It all starts with **generous people** who have good furniture that they do not need anymore. They reach out to Love INC, and offer to donate it. They either drop it off, or we can pick it up, and take it to our storage space. Some items need repairs, so volunteers like Mike will fix things up, making minor repairs. Mike also helps keep track of all the inventory. When a call comes in for a specific need, he is able to identify the items from inventory that meet the need. Reflecting on this ministry's impact, Mike explains, "**We think of ourselves as being conduits**. We are the tube through which people experience God's grace. At our church, we say it is '**God's work, our hands**.' And that's what is happening at Love INC."

Mike eagerly points out that there's more work to be done than Love INC currently has the capacity to do. There is a **critical need for younger, stronger people to volunteer**. Many of Love INC's volunteers are retired, and there are limits to the amount of strenuous work they can handle. This is where young people really shine with their seemingly unlimited energy.

Much of the moving work is done on Saturday mornings. Volunteers can choose which Saturdays they are available, and even volunteering **once a month** can be a rewarding experience. If furniture moving is not for you, Mike notes that there are other opportunities to serve at Love INC. There's a lamp ministry that helps find and sort lamps. This work is important because in many apartments we visit, there is a lack of ceiling lighting and lamps. Other ministries involve linens, pots, pans, and other dishware. There's also a great **need for finances** to support these ministries. If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering or donating to any of these ministries, reach out to Love INC, and we can help you **get started on your own journey** of sharing God's grace with others.



Mike Wadle going over the day's plan with Love INC furniture volunteers.

Year to Date Stats

Families Helped: 279
Individuals Reached: 1159
Volunteer Hours Served: 1696

Specific Needs

Two clients are in need of cars.
One senior client needs electric oven.
Love INC is in need of a pickup truck.

Give to Love INC

Donations can be mailed to:
Love INC DeKalb County
PO BOX 172, Sycamore, IL 60178



Give online by scanning the QR code, or by visiting loveofdekalbcounty.org

2025 Love INC Board Members

Nathan Scott, Executive Director
Amy Alsup, Bethany Road Bible Church
Robert Stewart, Bethany Road Bible Church
Laurie Hillman, New Hope Missionary Baptist
Scott Sisler, Hillcrest Covenant Church
Tom Scott, Bethany Road Bible Church

Gap Ministry Focus

If you've been around Love INC volunteers, you've likely heard them use the term **Gap Ministries**. What exactly is a Gap Ministry? It is an outreach that fills an **unmet need** or "gap" in community service. These needs are often brought to the attention of **local churches** who may be overwhelmed or not equipped to provide the service, but who recognize the need to help. That's where Love INC's Gap Ministries come to life. By coordinating with local churches, we can develop resources that fill the gap. Love INC has 21 different Gap Ministries. This month we are highlighting the needs of three of these ministries. The **Peace & Rest** Ministry helps ensure clients are able to **sleep well**. This ministry involves supplying good conditioned beds (twin, full, and queen). Our stock of beds is **currently low**, and a good supply is needed to be able to meet the constant requests we receive. Another ministry is the **Fill 'em Up Ministry**, which consists of items like **dressers** that help people organize their homes and keep them neat. Dressers are also in low supply this year, and we are asking for donations to replenish our supply. **Heaven's Diner Ministry** is focused on providing dining needs such as tables and chairs. We once encountered a home where a family shared their meals around a cardboard box. These three ministries are directed by the Love INC office, but volunteers are vital to getting these items to people in need.

Gap Ministry Client Connection Process

1. Phone call with client to gather intake information.
2. Verify information and evaluate the need.
3. Determine if Love INC should help.
4. Notify client of decision.
5. Connect client with resources.
6. Perform follow up.

Getting to Know... Amy Alsup, Love INC Board Member

Amy Alsup is a new addition this year to Love INC's board of directors. Amy has a **lifetime connection** to DeKalb County, having been born in DeKalb and living most of her life in the area. Amy and her husband Greg serve at Bethany Road Bible Church. Ministry work is nothing new to Amy, having grown up as a pastor's kid in the late 1970's and also serving in a few different churches over the years, including Christ Community Church. Amy describes Love INC's mission as "a calling to meet the needs of the community and to **display Christ's love** to the people." She admires the passion of those currently serving at Love INC, and is eager to join the work. Amy explains, "I like the fact that Love INC **connects the area churches through the gap ministries**. People really do need that kind of help. And it is great that not only are we helping meet their needs, we are showing Christ's love, and spreading the word of God." One area that Amy would like to see Love INC grow is in **attracting young people** to volunteer at Love INC. It is a great opportunity for high school and college kids to experience ministry work that immediately impacts people in their community. "God can do so many things through you, and it is so awesome when you see it in action like we do at Love INC," says Amy.

A Love INC Story

Help Through the Storm

A young client wrote to us with a touching story that illustrates the life changing impacts of our ministries and volunteers. "Your gifts, people, and assistance encouraged me and allowed me to stay in school last year. Since that time I have graduated. I am now employed. At the time, my two kids did not understand what was happening. But if they had understood, I'm sure they would be thanking you too. I'll tell them the story someday, and they will know what people did for us, helping us achieve and keep on going. Thank you for helping me survive during my stormy time. You are appreciated! Keep on helping!"

A Love INC Story

It's Like Christmas

A mom with two children had been recovering from a challenging domestic situation. She had left her place behind and moved on. A friend referred her to Love INC. We performed our intake evaluation and verified the situation. We were able to start helping her immediately. A group from Love INC met her at her new place, talked to her, and brought her furniture. They could see the mom's face fill up with great relief and joy. Watching as the furniture was delivered, she simply said, "Makes it seem like Christmas." God has provided Jesus Christ and more!

Thank YOU!

We are grateful for **FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH** for allowing us to be part of their Steak Dinner fundraiser. Your support and recognition make it a joy in partnering with you in local ministry!

Thank you to all who supported us during the **Give DeKalb County** fundraiser on May 1st. We had a total of 52 donors, and every one of them was important in helping us raise approximately \$8,000. These funds are crucial to helping us continue to share God's love to those in DeKalb County who need it most! THANK YOU!!

Contact Us

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DeKalb County

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