



Longtime Volunteer Helps Clients Renew Their Lives

A Ministry of Encouragement



Lauri working the phones at Love INC in 2012

When clients call Love INC's office, they often hear the familiar voice of Love INC's board member & volunteer, Lauri Hillman. Lauri has been working the the phones since 2009 , answering

countless calls, listening to story after story, some of which are difficult to hear. Lauri explains, "We get calls from everyone: young people, older people, people that are struggling, and people that lack basic needs like shoes. Some of them have never been down on their luck before, and they just don't know what to do."

Lauri is motivated to volunteer in part because of her own story. She knows from experience how challenging it can be when life takes a bad turn, and you have nowhere to go. As a teenager, Lauri had two children of her own, and little hope for providing for them. She struggled with alcohol addiction, was married and divorced, and in need of a job. But she didn't give up.

When a job opportunity arrived, she was able to find a way to get her kids to daycare, and then take a bus to work. Sometimes when Lauri answers a call at Love INC, she hears a story that is very much like her own. "I understand what they are going through," says Lauri. "I encourage them. I tell them, 'I had two kids before I was 18. It can be done. You can do this, and we'll help you.' Before we hang up, I'll ask if I can pray with them."

Encouragement is an important component of our ministry at Love INC. A few words of encouragement can go a long way, giving clients a glimpse of hope in an otherwise hopeless situation. Ultimately, it is up to the client to take control of their situation. Lauri says that some of the more difficult calls involve people who have never worked, and are not used to helping themselves. Love INC exists to help bring about transformation for those clients, and it begins with encouragement. Lauri explains, "We start by providing words of encouragement, and we will pray with them if they allow us to."

Lauri began serving as a volunteer at Love INC after she was unable to

return to her career due to a back injury. She hopes to see many more people serve as volunteers at Love INC because there is such a great need for Love INC's services in DeKalb County. Lauri pointed out that many of the original volunteers who helped start Love INC are no longer physically able to do the heavy lifting and moving of furniture and supplies. There is also an ongoing need for funding. Another important need is for a good, used pickup truck that would be helpful in making smaller furniture pickups and deliveries. "It is very important that when people offer to donate items, that we be able to pick it up promptly because we do need those items," says Lauri. "Unfortunately, there are times when we just don't have the volunteers to get out there in time."

Volunteering at Love INC can be a rewarding experience with a real impact on the lives of people in DeKalb County. Like Lauri, you might find that encouraging others helps you appreciate what God has done in your own life.

"Therefore encourage one another and build one another up." (1 Thes. 5:11)



Year to Date Stats

Families Helped: **373**
Volunteer Hours Served: **3,518**
Approved Requests for Services: **1,176**
Churches That Referred Clients: **27**
Agencies That Referred Clients: **9**

Items in Need

- Beds
- Dining Tables
- Dressers
- Love seats

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 Alsop, Bethany Road Bible Church
Robert Stewart, Bethany Road Bible Church
Lauri Hillman, New Hope Missionary Baptist
Scott Sisler, Hillcrest Covenant Church
Tom Scott, Bethany Road Bible Church

Marlin & I - A Long Term Connection

By Nathan Scott, Executive Director of Love INC DeKalb County

Fifteen years ago, a man named **Marlin** called into the office, looking for some boots for his new job. This wasn't something that we normally have available. One of the volunteers heard the request and was moved to help Marlin find some boots. The need was met, but the story didn't end there. Our relationship with Marlin began to grow. Along the way, we were able to supply Marlin with a few household needs. Marlin was thankful. Over time, Marlin and I connected in a positive way. Our relationship continued to build. One day, Marlin expressed his desire to be part of Love INC's work. As part of the evaluation, Marlin obtained a pastoral reference while he was attending North Avenue Missionary Baptist Church. We accepted him as a volunteer, and Marlin began to help. Over the years, Marlin has served Love INC in many ways: at the office, coordinating inventory, leading the bike ministry, and organizing pick up crews. His wife even joined him and helped with our intake office for a while. A long-term relationship like we have with Marlin is not an accident. It's what we desire to see! I recently was blessed with the opportunity to share at Marlin's current church, **Rock Covenant Church**. We are thankful for these positive relationships that begin when someone calls for assistance, and then develops into something much more than we expected. Love INC doesn't just see the need; we see the person in need. There is not a week that goes by where Marlin and I don't communicate. Over the years, we have enjoyed cookouts together, watched Cubs games, had long discussions, and shared meals together. Reflecting on our 15-year relationship, I recently told Marlin that 15 years sounds "old." Marlin replied, "It's not old; its longevity. It's proof of God-placement with real friends!" That's what we desire to see here at Love INC: God-placements of people, positive relationships, mentoring our clients, and watching them grow.



Marlin hard at work in his many roles at Love INC

A Love INC Story Loved by Seven Churches

We learned of a mother with two sons who had recently moved to the area trying to escape an abusive relationship. She obtained a local job, and stayed in temporary housing while she lined up permanent housing. But before she could move, she was assaulted. The assault sent her to the hospital, and required additional recovery time. Her lost wages from work prevented her from moving her family over to permanent housing. Love INC stepped in to help, bringing together our Gap Ministry resources from seven churches and 16 volunteers. Love INC helped provide basic needs, furnish her house, show her love, encourage her, and introduce her to a food pantry in her neighborhood. Things are coming together for her family now, and we are thankful that she called us for help!

A Message From a Client

Dearest Love In The Name Of Christ Family,
I am so very grateful for the lovely furniture and lamps and the Beautiful Linen and towels and just everything that you guys Blessed me with today!!! I am so happy with everything!!! Thank you so much!

Did you know...

- Average income of those we help is \$950 a month
- 97% of those who call have children in the home
- In the second quarter, we helped 13 people that were transitioning out of homelessness.

Thank you to the family of the late Mildred C. Scott, a longtime friend of Love INC, for selecting us as her memorial charity.



Thank you to Christine Johnson and the DeKalb Rotary Club for inviting Love INC to share our mission at their recent meeting!



Contact Us

Love In the Name of Christ
DeKalb County

- 📍 PO Box 172, Sycamore, IL 60178
- 📞 815.517.1928
- ✉ loveincdk@gmail.com
- 🌐 loveofdekalbcounty.org