



Love INC Newsletter | January 2018 | Edition 5 Volume 5

VISION

Message from our B.O.D. Chair / Ann M. Doyle:

Love INC Guiding Principle: Work in ways that allows people to achieve their God-given potential.

“A critical component of helping people move out of their need is to help them see their worth and value to God.” (Redemptive Compassion). The Love INC model helps people understand their value and empowers them to be part of the solution to their needs, so they fully understand the difference they can make in their life and the lives of others. However, our intent to do this must also be coupled with access to community resources that can be directed towards those solutions. One such resource that is lacking in the Tampa community is affordable housing. Housing or lack of housing has a profound impact on a person’s ability to be stable and achieve their God-given-potential. Portico Workforce Housing Solutions is a first step in helping motivated, employed men get back into permanent housing. Discussions are underway for a similar model for single women. More is needed.



Ann M. Doyle

Love INC advocates for affordable housing. Our prevention model works with individuals to prevent evictions by addressing issues that can cause them to lose housing or that negatively impact their stability, gives hope and allows people to see their value as children of God. Love INC creates love stories and we share more in this edition of our newsletter and on our website.

PUTTING GOD ON DISPLAY IN TAMPA



*Love INC's Jennifer Agana -
Help Center Coordinator*

Message from our Help Center Coordinator Jennifer Agana

In my role with many hats, I don't know the meaning of a normal day. Whether it is retrieving phone messages, answering phones, scheduling monthly volunteer trainings and lunch-n-learns, coordinating donations, resource referrals, loading software, acknowledging donations, conducting office and phone assessments, organizing a newsletter assembling team or running errands, no two days look alike!

Here is a recap of our December, 2017 activity:

- 103 calls for help from member churches - 15%, agencies – 30%, and individuals – 55%
- 18 cases accepted; 10 church and 6 agency referrals
- 35 individuals and families helped, including 17 minor children with 28 unmet needs served by 31 volunteers logging in excess of 320 hours

***“This is what the Church looks like.”
- Jennifer Agana***



C3 Media's Chris Koch & Andie Britain

MESSAGE FROM OUR 2017 SUMMER INTERN ANDIE BRITAIN

While interning for Love INC of Metro Tampa in the summer of 2017, I spoke directly to our guests and became increasingly interested in discovering factors impacting homelessness. The most notable government effort appeared to be Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

As an economics major, my senior research project at Furman University studied the effects of this disability spending on the level of homelessness in Florida. After weeks collecting data on all 67 Florida counties and creating a unique empirical model, I concluded that an increase of \$10 spending per thousand people in each county would reduce the rate of homelessness in that county by approximately 5 people. I was gratified with research outcomes suggesting SSI spending has the potential to reduce homelessness in Florida. Although my research has its limitations, is by no means perfect, it was inspired by my transformational internship at Love INC and I thank everyone who impacted my time working there this past summer.

LOVE STORIES

Thomas was an October, 2017 Metropolitan Ministries housing referral to Love INC. During that month, he graduated from Abe Brown Ministries, Metropolitan Ministries Culinary Arts program, promoted to assistant manager and moved into our Portico Workforce Housing Solutions Housing. Our ambitious six-month ministry for qualified, employed homeless men bridges them from the street to permanent housing. Residents must agree to enroll in a banking relationship for budgeting classes and save \$250/ month required for future rent, utility and security deposits. Residents also agree to give back to our community and meet with their resource navigator monthly to monitor case compliance. After exceeding all goals, he is exploring permanent housing with a roommate.

Love INC – love with accountability!



Tenant 'Thomas' updating his budget with BB&T's Sarah Petrie



“Ann” Reunited with her six children-

It was at my first November, 2017 Love INC Lunch & Learn where I learned of a struggling mom with six children in foster care that was referred to Love INC. As a LCSW having worked with families and children in foster care for many years, it seemed that this would be a fit for me. After getting to know the Mom, “Ann”, and her support team we got to work looking at her goals.

She wanted reunification and, except for stable housing, was case plan compliant. It appears that these children came into foster care largely due to poverty, “Ann’s” lack of knowledge of resources and her fear of asking. Empowered by her support team, “Ann” took the lead by taking suggestions and running with them. She obtained affordable housing and coordinated donated furniture delivered to her home. It was amazing to witness God’s hand at work to find every piece of furniture that was needed. Over time, “Ann” became more self-confident, asking questions and advocating in a way she hadn’t done in the past. She was reunited with three of her children Christmas week and the other three after Christmas break. I have enjoyed being a part of this and ‘loving on’ a neighbor and her beautiful children. – **Amy Morantes LCSW**

UPCOMING EVENTS

See www.LoveIncTampa.org/events

Love INC Lunch-n-Learn

Third Wednesday each month

The Portico Conversation Room – invite a friend

Save The Date - Love INC Prayer Breakfast

Fundraiser 8-9 AM Tuesday, April 10th 2018 at The Portico.

Love INC Volunteer & Resource Coordinator Trainings

Third Saturday monthly 10-Noon Portico Community Room

Give online: LoveIncTampa.org/donation

The Love INC team would love to speak to you about how we are helping to transform lives. We have opportunities and needs for mentors/coaches, volunteer resource navigators, prayers and donations. There is a place for everyone to be involved in our Love INC of Metro Tampa.

Questions?

Michael Doyle, Vision Carrier

Glorifying God by helping churches help people

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