



Board Member Spotlight: Kelly Smith



Dr. Kelly Smith's introduction to Love INC of Metro Tampa was a Divine appointment—an unexpected encounter with our co-founder, Michael Doyle, in a hospital ER led to an 8-hour conversation that sparked a deep connection with the organization's mission. As an elder at Palma Ceia Presbyterian and co-owner of Q3 Healthcare Consulting, Kelly brings a unique blend of faith, compassion, and professional expertise in aging sciences and healthcare quality to the board.

What stands out most to her about Love INC is its focus on transformation over transactions. "Love INC offers a hand up, not just a handout," she shares. "The relational approach reflects Christ's call to walk alongside others in love and purpose."

Kelly is inspired by every moment spent volunteering—whether serving in the Help Center or speaking with donors—because she knows she is serving as the hands and feet of God. Her service is guided by Scriptures like Matthew 25:35-40 and Galatians 6:2, which call us to care for others with love and generosity. We are grateful to Kelly for sharing all of her God-given gifts and talents with our ministry.

Upcoming Events

Semi-Annual Breakfast Fundraiser

· 7:30am Tuesday, April 15

100 Shares Spring Awards Luncheon (We're finalists!)

· 11:30am Friday, April 25
St. Petersburg Marriott Clearwater

R.E.A.C.H. | Faith and Finances

· 6:30pm Every 3rd Monday

R.E.A.C.H. | Healthy Boundaries

· 6:30 pm Every 1st and 3rd Monday
FMI Contact Outreach@loveinctampa.org

"The relational approach reflects Christ's call to walk alongside others in love and purpose."

- Kelly Smith,
Board Member



Glorifying God by Helping Churches Help People!

Journeying Together: Love in Action This Season

"Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." John 15:13

Dear Love INC Family,

As we approach Holy Week, we reflect on Christ's **Journey of Love** — a path marked by compassion, sacrifice, and redemption. His love was never about mere transactions; it was about transformation. At Love INC, we are called to walk in that same love, journeying alongside our neighbors in need, offering not just assistance, but hope, dignity, and renewal.

So far this year, we have seen this love in action in so many ways. **Bert's Love Story is just one example.** At 82 years old, he found himself unexpectedly homeless. But thanks to our network of Church Partners, he received the support he needed at a critical moment. His journey is far from over, but because of friends like you, he is not walking it alone. You can read more about Bert's experience in this edition of our newsletter.

Transformation is happening across our ministry. Through **R.E.A.C.H. programs like Faith & Finances and Healthy Boundaries**, neighbors are gaining tools to break cycles of instability. Our Church Partners are making a lasting impact—**Sacred Heart Catholic's Bikes from the Heart ministry recently provided its 1,500th bicycle**, and **34th Street COG's God's Pedal Power** has kicked into high gear, providing love and life lessons to our East Tampa neighbors. And when a cold snap hit, **Heaven Destiny Church stepped up**, ensuring families had warmth and relief when they needed it most.

On **Tuesday, April 15**, we invite you to join us at our fundraising breakfast, Journey of Love. Together, we will celebrate stories of radical transformation, like **Mindi Vaughan's** and look ahead to the lives still waiting to be renewed. Just as Christ's journey led to resurrection and hope, so does the work we do together.

Thank you for being part of this mission, for carrying burdens (Galatians 6:2), and for walking in love—just as Christ did.

Rooted in Christ,

Chalette M. Davis,
Executive Director



JOURNEY OF Love

7:30 AM TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 2025
THE PORTICO | 1001 N. FLORIDA AVENUE

Join us April 15 for our semi-annual fundraising breakfast, "Journey of Love," and be part of something life-changing!

Your support fuels our mission to transform lives In the Name of Christ. Together, we provide real solutions—from financial coaching to spiritual development—for families in need.

Celebrate this special Holy Week journey with the Love INC movement!

RSVP, Host, or Sponsor



Bit.ly/JourneyofLove2025

Donate



Bit.ly/DonateLoveApr2025

For More Information
Chalette@LoveINCTampa.org

Church Partner Impact: *Bike from the Heart's 1,500th Bike Milestone*



In February, Sacred Heart Catholic's Bikes from the Heart ministry gave away its 1,500th refurbished bicycle to Danielle Ritchie, an unhoused resident of Tampa Hope. This donated bike will help her pursue job opportunities, attend medical appointments, and take steps toward long-term stability and self-sufficiency. Love INC was honored to support this moment celebrating one of our Church Partner's Gap Ministry: connecting churches and resources to meet real needs. A bike may seem small—but for neighbors in need, it's a life-changing gift of hope, mobility and dignity.

Church Partner Impact: *From Warmth to Walks - Meeting Needs with Purpose*

During the cold snap, our incredible Church Partner, Heaven Destiny, stepped up, collecting and distributing emergency water, cold-weather blankets, and CROCS for toddlers and youth. Their compassionate response provided immediate relief for families facing harsh conditions.

We are deeply grateful for partners like Heaven Destiny, who serve vulnerable families with respect and tangible support. Their efforts reflect the heart of the Gospel—meeting real needs while affirming the worth of every person they serve.



Education, Application, Transformation: *What's New with R.E.A.C.H.!*

This quarter marked an exciting season of growth as we began a new series of Faith & Finances and introduced Healthy Boundaries—two transformational programs under our R.E.A.C.H. initiative.

Faith & Finances equips individuals with Biblical principles of money management to break cycles of poverty, build confidence, and steward resources wisely. Participants are learning to budget, save, reduce debt, and view finances through the lens of faith. Faith & Finances meets every third Monday through May 2025.

Healthy Boundaries helps individuals set limits, protect their emotional and spiritual well-being, and build healthy, Christ-centered relationships.

Both classes have sparked real-life transformation as attendees apply what they learn—one step, one decision, one breakthrough at a time. And we're just getting started—more R.E.A.C.H. programs are on the way, expanding our commitment to equip neighbors for lasting growth and full-life transformation.

All we need is you! Contact Susan Robertson, Special Projects Coordinator, at Outreach@LoveINCTampa.org to learn how you and your church can get involved.



Church Partner Impact: *God's Pedal Power, A Ministry of 34th Street Church of God*

Over the past few months, we've witnessed incredible moments of transformation through our partnerships with local churches. One such moment took place at God's Pedal Power, a dedicated Gap Ministry in partnership with 34th Street Church of God. This ministry provides refurbished bicycles to individuals in need, offering them not just a means of transportation, but a renewed sense of freedom and opportunity.

During our visit, we met with an incredible volunteer staff and several men from Abe Brown Ministries, a re-entry program for citizens returning to their communities. Their testimonies were a powerful reminder that change is happening all around us.

Love INC is grateful for the opportunity to serve alongside such impactful ministries. Together, we are making a difference—one life, one story, one act of love at a time.



Love Story: *A Lifeline for "Bert"*

"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2

At 82 years old, "Bert" never imagined he'd be homeless. A former teacher and consultant, he lost his home when rent increases outpaced his fixed income. For months, this published author quietly struggled to survive on the streets—dignified, well-spoken, yet forgotten.

During a recent cold snap, our Executive Director, Chalette, found him standing alone in the cold, wearing only a few layers and a housecoat. With just a leather briefcase, a cane, and an almost-empty suitcase, Bert was holding on—but barely. Chalette offered him a blanket, a hygiene kit, and a ride to the Hyde Park UMC cold-weather shelter. When they arrived at 5 PM, it was already full—but God had made a way. A shuttle to another shelter was waiting. Bertrand, deeply moved, told her, "You may have saved my life tonight."

With the help of Portico Housing Solutions, Bert found temporary shelter, and Resource Navigators like Kelly Smith have partnered with Cassy from Portico Housing to explore resources the county and city have to offer. We've been able to take Bert grocery shopping thanks to Publix Gift cards donated by our Church Partners at St. John's Greek. Kelly, a member at Church Partner Palma Ceia Presbyterian who's also an aging sciences expert, has delighted in the conversations had during shopping trips with such a distinguished gentleman.

Bert still needs more than just a roof over his head—he needs stability, community, and hope. Your support helps people like Bert experience these Christ moments when they are in great need. It's in these sacred times of connection and compassion that we live out God's greatest commandment.

Thank you for joining this movement that loves our neighbors and brings restoration, one life at a time.



"Bert" warming up after we found him outside in freezing temperatures.



Kelly takes "Bert" shopping



"Bert" looking sharp at The Portico Cafe as he takes the next step toward stable housing



Learn more about how you can serve in ways that transform, become a Love INC volunteer!

LoveINCTampa.org/Volunteer



Your support helps us fund more mission moments and "Love Stories".

LoveINCTampa.org/Giving