

LOVE INC MONTHLY UPDATE

August 2025

Total Assets: \$30,639.05

Volunteer Hours: 48.75

Calls to Connection Center: 14

Executive Director's Report

I conducted Tuesday Services at the Shores of Worthington. I enjoy this time interacting with residents and staff. Camila had a Spiritual Day during the month and I am planning for one at the end of September. I will meet with Mary Stewart to start the day. Mary has studied spiritual practices and supports individuals at Lakeside desiring this additional resource. I am hoping to incorporate Mary into my Spiritual Day to help coordinate potential use in the future to support both staff and volunteers in their roles. The work of Love INC does involve potential trigger points and issues that can impact us.

Love INC Weekly Update, July Monthly Update, the summer newsletter are all things that have been happening lately. We have been without a trailer for a few weeks as the broken welds on the rear door/ramp are being repaired.

Betty asked me to go with her to deliver from the Linens Gap to the Okabena Towers. Betty had said she already delivered before to this neighbor requesting linens, but once there she noted that it was a different person who let her in and took the linens the first time. We dropped off the linens, visited a bit and prayed together.



I think we, as Love INC Leadership, will need to consider the Family Medical Leave that starts January 1, 2026 to make sure everything is in place. There is concern throughout the state about the requirements and expectations of this forthcoming law.

Joanne Bartosh and I met with Krystal Stover, the new Area Manager for Salvation Army Southern Minnesota. I was able to communicate some ways she could overcome the mistrust caused by the issues the way her immediate predecessor handled the position. Between us, we planned for the upcoming Red Kettle Campaign. I also attended the Southwest Initiative Foundation local open-house and listened to their update.

During the previous month, I participated in the Clearinghouse On Demand online course with a handful of other individuals with Love INC. I was reminded of Redemptive Compassion and policies to interact better with the neighbors in need. I also watched a Thrivent webinar called "Key Milestones on your Journey to Empowered Retirement." I have no retirement plans, but I want to understand the finances and issues related to them.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Wede". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping "G" at the beginning.

Greg Wede | Executive Director

Love Story

"[Hagar] gave this name to the Lord who spoke to her: "You are the God who sees me." We seek to imitate God's character of truly seeing people, people who often get overlooked, and providing them with needs that are often unmet, filling in the gaps of what is already offered in our community—hence our "Gap Ministries."

This is not always an easy task. People fall through the cracks for a number of reasons. Agencies may lack resources, finances, or opportunities. There may be a problem with communications due to mental illness, being behind on phone bills, or working the same hours that agencies are open. There are many factors that cause people to feel unseen.

This was the case for Hannah. Hannah was a mother of two girls located in a neighboring county, tucked away in a small town right on the edge of many agencies' service areas. She first called us in 2019 looking for clothes. We referred her to services in her county.

5 years later, she reached out again this time over email. Hannah found herself unemployed and unable to provide for her family. We found some options in her county that could help with bills and food. She was able to get on SNAPs but wasn't eligible for help with her bills.

We tried another solution—if she was able to come into town we could help provide cleaning and personal care items. We could also arrange an appointment at our Coat Closet. It worked, and we were able to help alleviate some financially burdensome necessities.

We couldn't get a hold of her for a follow up, but she reached out a month later to let us know she was having surgery and could use some more care items. It was radio silence for 8 months. Then 2 months of a fruitless game of phone tag, due to her busy work schedule. We tried switching back to email, 7 months later we got a reply.

She gave us an update about her situation. She was now working 2 part time jobs, her husband was on disability, they no longer qualified for SNAPs, the agencies around them had given them all the resources they were able to provide and Hannah and her family were still struggling to make ends meet. They had found themselves falling through the cracks.

"Seeing people" how God wants us to see them, is seeing the messy, broken parts. Hagar experienced God in her isolation after experiencing much cruelty and pain. She had fallen hard into the cracks and that is where God spoke to her, and let her know that she was seen.

We gathered up care items, cleaning supplies, towels, and 2 clothing vouchers for Hannah's daughters to use to get new clothing for school. Before she left we had a chance to pray with her. Though it took time and patience to connect with Hannah, it allowed us to establish a long-term relationship with her and gave us an opportunity to shine the light of Christ into the crack Hannah had fallen into.