

LOVE INC

MONTHLY UPDATE

June 2025

Total Assets: \$41,647.50

Volunteer Hours: 124.25

Calls to Connection Center: 30

Executive Director's Report

During this month I chose to use the Love INC Weekly Update to speak on Anti-Semitism as this has been a growing problem in our county and around the world. The following week I testified about a financial blessing Love INC received as the Father responded with a large donation to a financial prayer I had made earlier that day. The next update, I spent some time talking against political violence as a result of the shootings up in the cities. I then interviewed Emily Ostekamp from Rebuilding Together Minnesota about the Nobles County Rebuilding Day to be held on Saturday September 6.

I was approached by an Aflac representative to see if we would offer their services to our employees. The Sheldon Affiliate offers these Aflac products as an addition and finds it valuable. We will be discussing it as part of future board meetings.

The Board meeting on June 9 included a photo op with bank leaders from First State Bank Southwest as they presented Love INC with a large donation from a 3 to 1 match with a regional banking entity, our regular meeting, a first installment of a book study of Win the Day by Mark Batterson and fundraising discussion by members of the Planning and Evaluation committee.

Southwest Mental Health is now called ElevaCare after some sort of merger with a couple different agencies. Brenda Friemuth, my main connection there is changing roles within the organization.

With furniture pick-ups & deliveries, I went out with the Journey Delivery Team because their team leader was not sure anyone committed to the deliveries. Four of us went out and made deliveries [see June 2025 Love Story]. A large group from American Reformed went out and also made deliveries. Oliver, Pastor Angel and Christian made with me two deliveries and two pick-ups in Rushmore and Worthington. Another day Pastor Angel and Christian went with me to pick-up at two locations and deliver to another one. Lourdes, Pastor Angel's wife, came into the office to do Spanish intakes.



I connected online with the Senior Advisory Work Group hosted by JoAnne Bartosh from Ace of Southwest Minnesota. In other news, Nobles County received part of the national settlement to address the opioid crisis. Monies were pooled from pharmaceutical companies that make medicines containing opiates. For about a year I sat on a work group to discuss what could be the best use of this funding for Nobles County.

This past month materials came out and entities working in this area can apply for grants. Board member Bryan and I met with the Pastor at the Methodist church and did a presentation to the United Way of Nobles County for their 2026 application for funding next year.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Wede".

Greg Wede | Executive Director

Love Story

It was 1996 and I was working with the Health Communities Healthy Youth grant through Community Education. I would tell people that my job was finding kids that had nothing good to do and get them doing something. I relish that time because I was engaged in many young people's lives, seeing many develop into adulthood. There have been times since then that I have come across them as adults.

Today's Love Story involves one of these now adults. Janet (not her real name) had requested a washer and drier a few years ago that Love INC had been able to provide. I really wasn't part of the interaction as the volunteers in the office and with the Furniture Delivery team were engaged with the case from start to finish. Recently Janet made a request for a mattress and an area rug, and once again the volunteers did their thing. But in my interactions with Bob, the Delivery Team

lead from Journey, he felt he was having difficulty putting a team together for their scheduled delivery. So I scheduled a smaller delivery for him. And a day or two before when I touched base with Bob, he was not sure he would have anyone else for the delivery. Now, Bob and I go way back, so I said I would go with him for the deliveries. On the morning of the delivery, I picked up a high school student, David, that Camila had found to help, and we made our way to the warehouse. Bob and another Journey member Ben met us there. Maybe too many people for the prepared deliveries, but off we went.

Now one of these deliveries was to Janet, and she was outside her apartment when we arrived. She saw me and said, "My teacher!" and came for a quick hug. I haven't seen her in probably 20 years, her being a 14 or 15-year-old at the time and now in her thirties. She said I hadn't changed, just gotten grey. We delivered her requested items: a queen mattress and a nice large area rug that had been sitting in the warehouse over a year that I was pleased to part with. Then asked if Janet wanted to pray with her and had any requests that we pray for. Her only response was for a coworker of hers that had cancer, and she quickly started to pray for him. We finished and then completed our deliveries. I am still processing my previous work experiences when they cross over into this labor Love INC has brought me to, but it is things like this that seems to be happening with an increasingly growing number of situations lately that draws my mind to dwell on.

