

Overisel Overview

January 2024

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“But God”

Ephesians 2:4&5 – But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses and sins, made us alive together with Christ – by grace you have been saved.

You may have heard me say this before, but I think two of my most favorite words in the Bible are “But God”. Oh what a difference those two words have made in my life and in the history of the whole world. The difference that those two words make is astronomical, even mind-blowing! I can’t even begin to imagine what my life would be like without those simple words. Simple, yet profound. “But God”.

We so often just breeze right over those words when we read the passage. We may understand that we are saved by grace and then just keep going. But if we stop to think about the passage we realize that our salvation comes only from God. He is the originator of the plan of salvation for the world. If not for His love for us we would be hopelessly lost. “But God”.

And He loved us while we were yet sinners. Before we ever even thought about or understood this salvation plan. And although we still sin after we accept Jesus as our Savior, our Heavenly Father sees us as forgiven through the blood of Jesus Christ His Son. The blood of our Savior that was shed on the cross covers our sin. Oh what a gift we have been given! “But God”.

So January marks the beginning of another year. How will we live in this year? Will we carry on as though we can do as we please because we have received this great gift? Or will we live as though our lives are a gift from God to use for His glory? Will we remember every day that our life is a gift from God and that we are to make Him known to the world around us through what we say and do. There are so many around us that need to hear that their lives can be different because of Jesus Christ and that the price has already been paid for their salvation! “But God”.

For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him, shall not perish, but have everlasting life. “But God”.

Have a great January and I’ll see you on the journey as we live in the good news that we are saved from the old life of sin and live out the new life that Jesus Christ has made possible for us! God Bless!

Pastor Ken



Name change!

The New Mommy Ministry has changed its name. It is now called Helping Hands for Moms.

What is Helping Hands for Moms? It is an opportunity for the Overisel Church family to bless a mom who just gave birth or adopted a new baby/child.

We ask that the mom contact the office and let us know of the birth/adoption, and give us 4 dates when the ORC family can provide them with meals. We then send out an email with a link to Sign Up Genius with the dates/times. We will include any food allergies in the description. The meal should get dropped off at the new moms home on the requested date/time and should be ready for them to eat.

We will also set out a basket on the information table where the ORC family can drop off a card and/or small gift to welcome the sweet new little one. The basket is typically set out for 3 weeks.

If you have any questions please contact Amy or Kristie in the office (office@orcministries.org or 269-751-8744).

January Birthdays

January 2: Dale Folkert

January 5: Krista Kleinheksel, John Wilson

January 6: Carter DeJonge, Clayton Kroeze

January 8: Lori VanKlompbergen

January 9: Mary Laarman

January 10: Bill Nykamp, Michael Verkaik

January 12: Lisa Brinks

January 14: Eldon Schans, Elijah zurBurg

January 15: Jan Homkes, Dara VandenBosch

January 16: Loren Brouwer, Kari Essink

January 18: Ginny Harrington, Jeff Laarman

January 19: Kyle Dalman, Mike VanAanhold

January 20: Mark Hoving, Lisa Will

January 21: Luke Koopman, Imogen Will

January 22: Owen Grew, Gideon Klaasen, Ken Kleinheksel,
Jonathan Verkaik

January 23: Noah Chambers, Elkin Helmus

January 24: Bryan Immink

January 25: Grady Kooiker, Daria Koopman

January 26: Kelli Genzink, Clayton Genzink, Riley Genzink

January 27: Rochelle Genzink

January 28: Jesse Klaasen, Dave Koopman

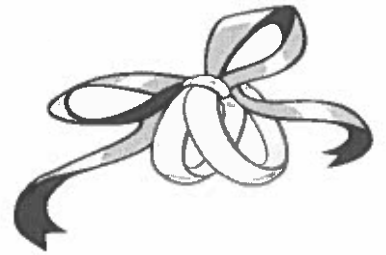
January 30: Ken Nagelkirk, Jonah Will

January 31: Tristen Lickley, Rachel Lubbers





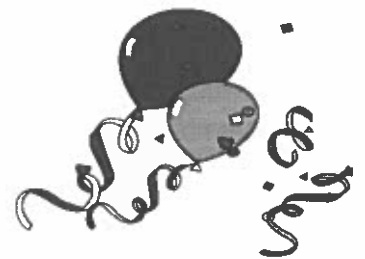
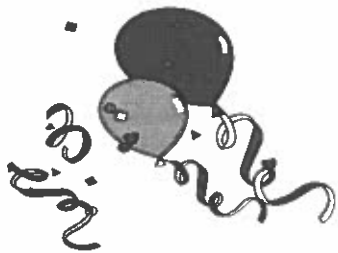
January Anniversaries



Dave & Lori VanDussen: January 4

Bruce & Jan Homkes: January 26

Lee & Mary Lubbers: January 27



An Extra Special Anniversary!!

Shelley & Elnora Burton: 61 years on January 12



Mary's Monthly Meal Recipe

Sour Cream Beef Noodle Casserole

12 oz uncooked wide egg noodles
1-1 1/2 pounds ground beef
1 onion, finely diced
2 med garlic cloves
15 oz tomato sauce
15 oz diced tomatoes, drained
1 T Worcestershire sauce
2 t smoked paprika
red pepper flakes, to taste
salt and pepper, to taste
8 oz sour cream
8 oz small curd cottage cheese
1/2 cup parmesan cheese
2 cups cheddar cheese
fresh parsley to garnish, optional



Cook egg noodles to el dente, rinse with cold water

Brown ground beef and drain

Add chopped onion and garlic to beef and simmer about 3 minutes

Add to beef mixture and simmer for about 5 minutes until it thickens:
tomato sauce, diced tomatoes, Worch sauce, paprika, red pepper flakes,
salt and pepper.

In a large bowl combine: sour cream, cottage cheese, parmesan cheese,
and the egg noodles.

Spoon 1/2 of cream/noodle mix in 9 x 13

Top with 1/2 of beef mixture and 1/2 of cheddar cheese

Repeat

Bake uncovered at 350 degrees for 25-30 minutes.

Top with optional parsley

"Dad Jokes"

- I had a hen who could count her own eggs.
She's a mathmachicken



- _ Where's the best place in teh house to hide from ghosts?
The living room

- What do you call a belt made of \$100 bills?
A waist of money



Keep our service members in your prayers

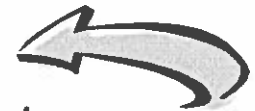
Cpl Drake Fogerty (Marine Corps)

SFC Sean Mather (Army)

Amn Kyle Theodore (Air Force)

SSgt Adam Voorhorst (Army)

Deadline on articles to be submitted for the
February issue is **January 21**.



Articles can be submitted by placing in box
outside of office.

fyi: I do not "hunt" for articles for print... if you would like something included in the monthly publication, please submit it. That also includes personal celebrations, accomplishments, births, etc.



Overisel Office <office@orcministries.org>

News + Updates from Love INC Allegan County

1 message

Love INC Allegan County <barry@loveincnwa.org>
Reply-To: Love INC Allegan County <barry@loveincnwa.org>
To: "Overisel Ref. Church" <office@orcministries.org>

Thu, Dec 21, 2023 at 11:22 AM

[View this email in your browser](#)



The holiday season is always such a busy time, but we've much to celebrate and much to be thankful for. Read below for this month's news and updates from Love INC Allegan County.

**Partner Churches, be sure to share this email with your teams and congregations!*

A LIFE Skills Christmas



Our 2023 Life Skills Christmas Celebration was a huge success due to all of our volunteers, our host (Corner Bible Church), our participants and the heartfelt testimonies from our LIFE Skills graduates, Nikki and Sharon. Together, we enjoyed sharing a meal, playing bingo, and listening to the testimonies and Barry's Christmas message. The evening felt very much like a family Christmas party—

everyone blended so well that it was impossible to know who were the volunteers, board members, or participants, because the only thing that mattered was the relationship between everyone. We so love to see the relationships that are formed within the LIFE Skills program and how everyone encourages and upholds each other, and it was so sweet to share this Christmas season together.

Sponsor A Family

a Christmas update

We know that the true gift of Christmas is Jesus and the peace, love, and joy he brings. With our Sponsor a Family Program this Christmas, we've shown that gift to others in our community and gave them the space to celebrate God's fulfillment of his promise of a Savior. Thank you to all who helped make this possible, and especially to Cultivate Community Church for hosting. **Together, we sponsored 52 families for Christmas with a total of 218 people; 82 adults and 136 children.**

May you, in this and every season, be filled with the gifts of peace, love, and joy through Christ our Lord. Merry Christmas!



Celebrating Our Team



After coming to Love INC to seek help with tangible goods, Eloise Gardner joined and eventually graduated from our LIFE Skills program. She began volunteering at LIFE Skills immediately after graduating to give back to what was done for her and her family. She was hired shortly thereafter as a caseworker and program leader, and she now also serves as the DHHS navigator. Here's what she shared of her time at Love INC so far:

I love working at Love INC, because my responsibilities here line up with my spiritual gifts. I love working in the trenches alongside people who desperately need to see the grace of God and his faithfulness in their lives and helping participants find their true identity in Christ.

I will never forget when one of my participants, who wasn't previously interested in becoming a Christian, gave her life to God. Though prayer and quiet moments, she realized God was calling out to her, and her life was forever transformed.

Pantry Spotlight

Our mission here at Love INC is to mobilize local churches to transform lives and communities In the Name of Christ. That's why our church partnerships are so important to us. We envision a world where Christian churches are united in purpose and fully engaged in actively living out their faith by lovingly serving people in need in their communities.

To keep in accordance with our mission, **as of March 1, we will be closing our Appliance and Furniture Pantries.** These pantries have not operated within our mission for some time, and our current situation is not sustainable. We have sought for volunteers from local churches to take these pantries on, but without success. We apologize for the inconvenience this will cause. However, while these pantries fill a gap in our community*, without a church (or group of volunteers) taking full ownership of them, we are not mobilizing local churches—we're not giving congregations the opportunity to actively live out their faith. We'd love to see a church take these over, and avoid closure.

We continuously evaluate what is best for each of our pantries, and we hope to one day have these gaps filled again. But until then, we feel we must not lose sight of our mission.

Would you join us in prayer for these pantries in these next couple of months of transition?

**On average, in 2023, the Appliance pantry was used 3.5 times per month and the Furniture Pantry was used 9.5 times per month.*

Join Our Team

Want to join the Love INC team? We're currently hiring for part-time positions in our office (LIFE Skills Caseworkers) and Heart to Heart Resale Store. Email barry@loveincnwa.org to further inquire on these positions and/or apply online at loveincnwa.org/employment-application.

10 Homes

In the end of November, we presented our community with the opportunity to warm the homes of the 10 families whose lives will be forever transformed through our 10 Homes for 10 Families Program. We're pleased to report that 6 of our 10 furnaces have been paid for in the past month! **If you'd like to pay for a remaining furnace, a \$1,600 donation can be made online or by check, noting "10 Homes Furnace" in the memo (Love INC Allegan County, PO Box 36, Hamilton, MI 49419).**

If you'd like to assist in the renovation stage, **we're currently looking for volunteers who**

can assist with the installation of flooring, drywall, try, etc., plumbing and electrical work, and more. Contact Cody at 219.216.3991 to get involved.



Thank You Volunteers



In addition to our weekly, outstanding volunteers, thank you so much to our recent volunteer group:

Holland Gospel Center who worked on various jobs around our campus and **Cultivate Community Church** who hosted Sponsor a Family for Christmas.

We couldn't do what we do without the help of great volunteers!

Volunteer Opportunity

join our LIFE Skills team

We currently have an urgent need for LIFE Skills mentors and children's ministry volunteers on Thursday evenings. Could you join our LIFE Skills team and walk in relationship with someone who's ready to be transformed? Read below to hear what one of our great volunteers has to say about her experience.

No one tells you how much you'll learn and grow when you sign up to help someone learn and grow.

I was paired up with Mallory at Love INC's Thursday night LIFE Skills classes. Yes, I was her mentor, but it was special for both of us. We shared together and encouraged each other, and it was very much a time of mutual learning.

Mallory had a life so unlike mine with much pain and hardship that it was hard for me to comprehend how she endured. Her faith in God and her desire to obey him was very apparent, and she boldly told others of her faith.

Mallory graduated from the LIFE Skills program in 2018, but to this day, she is an inspiration to me.

After everything she's been through—abuse, threats, brainwashing, single-parenting and more—she continues to endure. She continues to surrender her life to God. She continues to trust him to create beauty from the ashes.

-Glenda, LIFE Skills Mentor, Overisel Reformed Church

If you're interested in being a LIFE Skills mentor or children's ministry volunteer, **fill out our volunteer orientation form** and be sure to check the box that reads, "I'm interested in being a LIFE Skills mentor."

Meat Needed

help us stock our pantries

Happy hunting season! Would you consider donating a deer or paying for the processing fee for a donated animal to help supply meat to our food pantries? We also accept pig, cattle, goat, sheep, or poultry!

Call 269-751-2533 or email cindy@loveincnwa.org to coordinate the donation of your own livestock (including venison), or visit loveincnwa.org/donate to contribute toward the processing fees of animals by designating your gift to our "Livestock Drive".

Connect With Us

find us online

Learn more about Love INC, how to get involved, and more at loveincnwa.org. You can find us on Facebook and Instagram, too!

Looking to see what else is going on in the community? Visit our **Community Events** page to see what our partner churches and organizations have going on.*

Partner churches, have an event to share? We're happy to post it to our Community Events calendar and share on our social media for you! **Click here to submit your event.*

Store Hours

shop at our Heart to Heart Resale Store

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 9:30am-5pm
Saturdays, December 2 and January 6, 9:30am-2pm
Friday-Monday, Closed



10 Homes

FOR 10 FAMILIES

Growing hope out of homelessness through relationships

We've much to be thankful for this holiday season at Love INC Allegan County. In March, we put our 10 Homes for 10 Families campaign in front of you for the first time. We told you we wanted to provide 10 mobile homes over 5 years to families who complete the transitional housing portion of our Homes of Hope Program and that, to do so, we would need to raise \$300,000. We knew this was no small feat. We knew it would take the help of fellow Christ-followers (our local churches), generous donors, and eager families who are ready to reach their God-given potential. But we also knew the importance of enabling home ownership and independence from state subsidies in a community with a lack of safe, affordable housing.

What we couldn't predict in March, is the outpouring of support from generous donors, excited community members, and partner organizations.

As of today, we are the owners of two mobile homes, one of which was gifted to us by Family Promise of West Michigan and the other, of which, is already in the process of being remodeled. And through the generous support of donors like you, we've raised \$110,420 of the necessary \$300,000 to bring this program to life.

We cannot thank you enough!

You've warmed our hearts with your support, and this November, we'd like to present you with an opportunity to warm the homes of the 10 families whose lives will be forever transformed through this program.



In this initial phase of purchasing, placing and refurbishing homes for the program, we've presented you with tangible opportunities to make a difference each month. We've asked you to collectively help provide the funding for roofs, siding, electrical and plumbing updates, sub-flooring, and more.

But this month, it only takes 10 generous people to provide the next step. Could you be one of them? Could you give \$1,600 to purchase one of 10 new furnaces, providing heat for one of 10 families?

Grateful to grow hope out of homelessness through relationships with you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barry Lucas'.

Rev. Barry Lucas
Executive Director
Love In the Name of Christ—Allegan County

GROWING HOPE

Mallory's Story

"He sent forth his Word and healed them; He rescued them from the grave."

- Psalm 107:20

Suffering from the after-effects of brainwashing and abuse from my kids' dad, I moved back home with my mom and stepdad at the age of 30 and, soon after, joined the LIFF Skills program with Love INC. It was here that I found resources I would have never found on my own and was surrounded by people who were hurting just like me.

At Love INC, my mentor went over my finances and assured me, in contrast to what I'd been told for close to 10 years, that I was actually making very wise decisions. We read a book that helped me see that I had been abused my entire life. I realized that I knew about God, but I didn't know I was keeping him at arms' length. In desperate need of peace and wanting my children to have a different life than I had growing up, I prayed that God would take over my life.

There wasn't one thing in my life that wasn't broken, and I had no idea how to fix it. I wanted God to create beauty from the ashes that I found myself in.

Love INC's 10 Homes Program is an answer to prayer. It's a bit surreal that this could be a reality for my kids and me. I still struggle to understand and except that it's possible.

But if God can make water where there is none, a way in the desert, and streams in the wasteland (Isaiah 43:18-21), then he can also create beauty from my ashes. With the 10 Homes Program, for the first time ever, my children and I could call a home our own.

**For the sake of privacy, the writer of this story's name has been changed.*



To make a contribution to our 10 Homes Program today, return the enclosed envelope, scan the QR code to the left, or visit loveincnwa.org and designate your gift to "10 Homes".

Contact Us

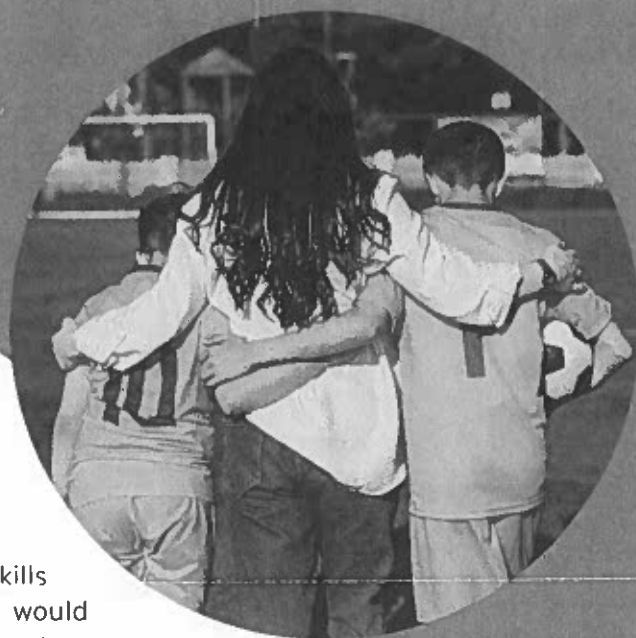
Love In the Name of Christ—Allegan County

📍 PO Box 36, Hamilton, MI 49419

📞 269.751.2533

✉️ office@loveincnwa.org

🌐 loveincnwa.org





A Note on Relationships & Transformation

Two words we hear often around Love INC are “relationships” and “transformation”. And while we receive many requests for things like food, personal needs, help with Christmas presents, and more, we know that if we don’t step past these requests and walk in relationship with the people making them, we won’t see transformation, either.

That’s why everything we do revolves around relationships. Love INC isn’t just about meeting needs, it’s about meeting people where they’re at, and helping them achieve their God-given potential. Through our LIFE Skills Program, we’re able to connect fellow Christ-followers from our local churches, like Glenda, with people, like Mallory, who are ready to be transformed.

Glenda walked in relationship with Mallory for 32 months and witnessed, firsthand, her transformation—God’s restorative work. You can read her story on the back of this page.

This holiday season, will you consider what part you could play in the transformation of lives in the name of Christ?

Could you join our LIFE Skills mentor team and walk in relationship with someone who’s ready to be transformed?

Could you make a financial contribution to the work we’re doing in our community?

Thanks, in advance, for partnering with us and making space for relationships that foster transformation.



Rev. Barry Lucas
Executive Director
Love In the Name of Christ—Allegan County



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To learn more about joining our LIFE Skills mentor team, visit loveincnwa.org/get-involved.



A Message From Glenda

A LIFE SKILLS MENTOR

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A Message from Eleshia

A 2023 LIFE SKILLS GRADUATE

As I reflect on my journey this past year and a half in the LIFE Skills program, I am overwhelmed by the kindness and integrity of the staff and volunteers. I have forged friendships that will last a lifetime. I found a church home that I call my family.

I have been introduced to so many others associated with Love INC who have opened wonderful doors of opportunity for me. I have a great job, and I just completed my CNA course at Lake Michigan College. I have learned the necessary life skills to live on my own.

Thank you all for giving me the blessing of being a part of the LIFE Skills program. I am extremely grateful!

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**Allegan
County**



A Note on Relationships & Transformation

Through our LIFE Skills Program, participants enjoy fellowship around a meal provided by local churches each week, learn core skills, discover their God-given gifts and talents, form new and healthy relationships, and connect with local churches. Because of the relational nature of our LIFE Skills Program, our Thursday night meetings often feel like a family gathering.

This year, we celebrated 4 LIFE Skills graduates. (You can read one of their stories on the back of this page.) While we're sad to see our graduates go, we're happy to have walked with them in relationship and witnessed the way God transformed their lives at LIFE Skills.

Our LIFE Skills Ministry currently serves 78 people from 25 different families here in Allegan County. We currently have only 4 mentors, and 11 individuals/families who are ready for a mentor. The numbers just don't add up, but that's where you can step in.

This holiday season, will you consider what part you could play in the transformation of lives in the name of Christ?

Could you join our LIFE Skills mentor team and walk in relationship with someone who's ready to be transformed?

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Rev. Barry Lucas
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