

Influence of Faith

CREATING A BETTER LIFE FOR FAMILIES IN CLAY COUNTY



Love INC
Love In the Name of Christ



Love INC of Clay County Building. Photo courtesy of LoveINCofclaycounty.org

Love In the Name of Christ (Love INC) helps families evolve from the cycle of poverty to get people to a better place, all in the name of Christ.

As parishioners at Holy Family, no doubt each one of us has heard or read the calls to bring in items for Love INC over the past seven years. Since 2010, when Holy Family became partners with this organization, our parish has done its best to bring awareness and help, from the Service Outreach committee drives to calls for items in the bulletin and articles in past issues of Holy Family Matters. But the depth with which Love INC helps Clay County's destitute actually reaches much further than what our infant care needs or hygiene charities provide.

Baiju John, a parishioner at Holy Family for a little over a year, has dedicated much of his time working with charity organizations, joining Love INC's Board of Directors in 2016. Moving to the Kansas City area from Houston, Texas, he felt compelled to help within his new community. Family being a high priority to John, it is imperative that wherever his time is invested, he is able to bring his kids, Jaden, a kindergartner, and Rayan, almost a year, to any meetings or appointments. Love INC proved to be just that ministry. Allowing John to put his family first attested to just how welcoming this organization is for all families involved.

With much gratitude, John understands just how comfortable of a lifestyle he has been afforded through God. Working with Love INC, he is able to venture

out of this comfort zone to directly help those in need, most notably those invisible to the community.

"I can see the struggle of families and how [Love INC] is helping to prepare them for a better life, helping evolve the cycle and get [them] to a better place," said John.

Connecting with over 25 churches of varying Christian denomination allows Love INC to fully provide assistance for any individual or family who comes to them in need of help. With each church's focus on a specific area of need, all needs are able to be met more often.

"The great thing about this ministry is it is not just a 'once and done' type of charity"

"So many people were contacting [Holy Family] wanting help with rent and utilities, gas vouchers, groceries, etc. We had no way to vet these people and check out their stories. Love INC did," explained Patty Rose, director of stewardship at Holy Family.

Any time throughout the year, parishioners are able to purchase items from the infant-needs list and place in the closet at the back of the church.

Holy Family was able to provide around 17 thousand boxes of infant needs last year, according to John.

One thing John likes so much about this ministry is it is not just a 'once and done' type of charity. Love INC has programs designed to help people depart from grim financial situations or dangerous environments. As a part of their drive to lift up those in our community, Love INC always completes

follow-up calls with individuals who sought help, contacting them about once per month to ensure his or her needs are met. If a new or unexpected situation were to arise and the individual or family is again in need of help, Love INC handles each tragedy or crisis as a separate case. This allows for the organization to assist them through each tough situation, always promoting values in-line with Christian beliefs.

So what is the best way to assist Love INC? Bringing the infant care needs items to Holy Family is a great start. Love INC also provides opportunities for volunteers to help in the community, as long as you are a member of a church partner, such as Holy Family. If you know someone who needs assistance, whether it is daily necessities, or help with utility bills or rent, refer them to Love INC.

"Be a supporter and be passionate about helping those in need," said John.

If you are interested in volunteering, contact Missy Bull at 816-781-7121 or go to their website at loveincfoclaycounty.org



Baiju John with his family, Rayan, Lovya George, Jaden