

Milford Ministers Monitor

Published by Ruth Houston-Behrens

Why Our Community Would Benefit From LOVE, INC ?

Love INC was founded in 1977 as a way to encourage churches to become more engaged with people with needs in their community. It was designed to inspire a greater number of Christians to put their faith into action.

Currently 157

Love INC

affiliates in 30

states represent

a network of more

than 8,600 churches, 9,200

community-based organizations and

100,000 volunteers meeting more

than 1,680,000 needs last year.

It takes churches working

together, across denominational

lines, to meet these multifaceted

needs.

Love INC can do what the others

can't. Love and bring

transformation like Love In the Name of Christ can.

Our Vision is guided by the belief that Love In the Name of Christ is

1)Christ-centered

2)An instrument of transformation

3)Part of a global community.

Our vision is to see Christian churches in every community in this country and

around the world united in the purpose of ministering the love of Christ to anyone in need in their area through the partnering strategy and model we call Love In the Name of Christ.

Love INC is:

1)A Strategy to help churches come together to help their neighbors in need. -continue page 3



December 2014
Issue 2

Inside

Why You Need A GED? 2
How To Get A GED 2
Non Commerical Christmas Events 2
Need for a Code Purple Shelter 2

LOVE INC Continued 3
Warm Coats for Kids 3

Community Meals for Thanksgiving 4
Christmas Meals & New Year's Events 4

Remembering Lighting the Advent Candles 5
Should Chrsitians Do New Year Resolutions 5

Christmas Projects So You Can Help Others 6

Milford Community Downtown Holiday Stroll

DMI has many volunteer opportunities at Holiday Stroll on Friday, Dec. 5th from 5-8 p.m.

Volunteers can help with the road barricades and the street crossings, assist with the carriage rides and horses, or lend a hand as needed. Please e-mail patsparks@comcast.net to volunteer for a shift during the Stroll.

Everyone is invited during the Milford Community Downtown Holiday Stroll held on Dec 5 5-8pm. The stores will be open late for this Holiday Event.

Come to the First Presbyterian Church to make Your Own Christmas Decoration, Caroling on the Steps of the Church, a chance to hear the Christmas Story, create Christmas Crafts, Cookies & Hot Chocolate.

Stop by the Mispillian Art League Gallery & other downtown businesses during the Downtown Milford Inc.'s Holiday Stroll.



(cont.page 2)

Why You Need A GED? Here's How To Get One.

Want to get your GED in DE? The GED exam is for adults who have not completed their high school diploma. The certificate that you receive upon completion of the Delaware GED examination is accepted as an equivalent credential to a high school diploma by employers and colleges throughout the United States. Within the United States of America more than thirty-nine million adults are seen as not having a high school diploma.

With the current job market in today's society one of the main reasons resulting in men and women constantly laid off is the lack of possessing a high school diploma or GED certification. The General Education Development examination

tests basic skills that students learn about in high school. Topics covered in GED classes include writing, reading, social studies, math, and science.



Those are the subject areas that make up the GED examination in Delaware. Each section awards a score between 200 & 800. Most states require students

to receive a score of 410 on each of the five sections and an overall average of 450 for the GED exam to pass.

GED® preparatory classes are held in Polytech Adult Education at Woodside during the day and evening. Classes are also available in Christ Episcopal Church Milford, DE. The Multicultural Community Center hopes to begin having GED classes available January 2015.

Usually GED testing in Milford DE is offered at: Milford Community Colleges, Milford ISD, Milford Literacy Centers, Milford High Schools and Del Tech. Make arrangements to get your GED today.

Non-Commerical Christmas Traditions

"Maybe Christmas, he thought... doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas, perhaps... means a little bit more!" Dr. Seuss

"I also want to point out that our family Christmas traditions are not limited to what's under the tree on Christmas morning. We have lots of traditions surrounding the holidays." Here are our non commercial traditions:

- 1) We sing! I love Christmas music.
- 2) We read. We have lots of Christmas books,
- 3) We watch Christmas movies. We turn on the Christmas lights, snuggle under cozy blankets in

the living room and watch our favorite holiday shows together.

- 4) We drive around to look at Christmas lights. We bring cookies and hot chocolate and make memories that will last a lifetime.
- 5) We spend time with family and friends.
- 6) We bake. We make batch after batch of cookies during the holidays. We keep some for ourselves and send others to loved ones both near and far.
- 7) We talk about why we celebrate Christmas.
- 8) I would like to add helping others to our list as well.



Need for a Code Purple Shelter in Milford, DE

Some may wonder what is "CodePurple"?

As frigid nights continue this winter, homeless men, women and children are left out in the cold, without a warm place to spend the night.

Code Purple, a declaration made when conditions are considered unsafe to stay outside, calls for shelters to open to house those in need. The call is left up to individual municipalities and is typically enacted when the wind chill reaches 25 degrees or lower.

Shelters are available in both New Castle and Sussex counties if Code Purple is enacted .

You maybe asking how you can help?

The shelters will rely on the community for supplies including food and cots. Anyone interested in donating, becoming involved or with ideas for Code Purple shelters should email interfaithdover@verizon.net.

The shelters are in need of volunteers to prepare meals, donate sheets, pillows, blankets, hygiene products and more. Contact the shelter to donate your items and find out what specific items the shelter needs.

Seaford has two sites for Code Purple.



Dover now has six sites for Code Purple through Dover Inter Faith Mission Housing.

Milford has one site for single women and women with children which should open in mid-December.

To get a list of Code Purple Shelters call 1-800-733-6816

Why Our Community Would Benefit From LOVE, INC?

2) A Partnership of local churches, that links Christian volunteers and ministries to people in need.

3) A Movement of Christian churches working together to show God's Love to those in need.

4) A Model for implementing Christ-like relational ministries that transforms lives - both those being served and those who serve.

5) A Method for mobilizing local church congregations to live out the two great commandments of loving God and loving their neighbor.

6) A Network of affiliates supporting and encouraging each other.

7) A Collaboration between local churches and their community (agencies, ministries, government,

schools) to provide effective help for the disadvantaged.

8) A Vehicle that helps churches, collectively and individually, fulfill their biblical mandate to reach out to their community.

No affiliate in your community? Then why don't you help start one?

The Love INC Movement has a proven, step by step process for helping a community start a new Love INC affiliate.

In addition we provide resources, guidance, a rich support website, training and personal advice to developing affiliates as they move

through the process. To begin the process please contact Love INC by filling out the Contact Form and indicate that you are interested in starting a Love INC affiliate in your community.



<http://www.loveinc.org/>

WARM COATS FOR KIDS

Do you know any kids that still need a warm coat for the winter season?

Would you like to donate a winter coat or jacket this season?

Below are a few sites and the links to contact them that are offering Warm Coats for Kids in Delaware.

The Container Store is holding its fourth annual One Warm Coat drive in stores across the country. Please visit your nearest store now through December 31st. Click here to make a donation <http://onewarmcoat.org/donate/>

The Coats for Kids Foundation and Operation Warm Coats for

Kids, the Combined Federal Campaign's mission is to promote and support philanthropy through a



program that is employee focused, cost-efficient, and effective in providing all federal employees the opportunity to improve the quality of life for all.

To provide new winter coats to children in the National Capital

Area. We are also happy to participate in Delaware's State Employees' Charitable Campaign.

<http://www.operationwarm.org/pages/combined-federal-campaign>

Would you be interested in Hosting a coat drive for NEW winter coats for Operation Warm?

It can be a great hands-on way of serving your community and partnering with Operation Warm. If so click on this link.

http://b.3cdn.net/owarm/a576d3b79368d2c9a3_5pm6iyi4n.pdf

Don't Be Alone For The Holidays!

Don't stay home for the Holidays. Do you need some place to go for a Thanksgiving?

All are welcome to the Annual Community Thanksgiving meals which are free and open to the public served on Nov 27.

12pm-3pm at **Milford Church of the Nazarene** 11 NW Salevan Place Milford, DE Phone 302-422-7389 if you plan on coming. Volunteers are welcome.

12pm-2pm **Union UMC** Bridgeville 2 North Laws Bridgeville, DE 19933. For more information call 302-337-7409.

11am-4pm **Church of God** in their Lighted Pathway Life Center – 425 E. Stein Hwy Seaford, DE 19973

11:30am **Church of God and Saints of Christ**
10016 Concord Rd,
Seaford, DE 19973 and
also at satellite locations
all over Sussex County.
For more information call
302-628-0893.

RSVP: Laurel Pizzeria will serve a Thanksgiving Day dinner. Persons must RSVP in advance through a church in Laurel.



2pm-6pm **Conley's Chapel UMC** at the Church, 33106 Jolyns Way, Lewes DE 19958. For more information call at 302-945-1881.

Christmas Events & New Years Services

Dec 20 9am **Breakfast w/ Santa "Toys For Joy Giveaway"** sponsored by Food Lion at Multi-Cultural Community Church 105 N.E. Front Street Milford DE 19963

Dec 24 6pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at St. Paul UMC Milford, DE

Dec 25 12-3:30 pm **Free Christmas Day Dinner** at Masonic Lodge 610 N. Church Street Milford, DE hosted by St. Paul UMC. Delivery of Christmas Day Meals to individuals will be available. Contact St. Paul Church 302-422-0709 or Email:

stpaulumc2@verizon.net; Website: <http://www.stpaulumc2.com> Facebook: Milford St Paul UMC direct for seniors living alone &/or others in need. Contact on Christmas Day 302-424-1827

New Year's Eve Services:

Dec 31 10pm New Year's Eve Watch Service at Pentecostal Church of God of Lincoln
Dec 31 10pm New Year's Eve Community Watch Night Service at Mt. Enon Baptist Church 6th & Church Street Milford, DE

10 Things God wants you to remember

I will give you rest.
I will strengthen you.
I will answer you.
I believe in you.
I will bless you.
I am for you.
I will not fail you.
I will provide for you.
I will be with you
I love you.

Thanksgiving At Christmas

The Mountaire Thanksgiving for Thousands Fund @ the Delaware Community Foundation. Mountaire Farms has partnered with The Delaware Community Foundation to establish the Mountaire Thanksgiving for Thousands Fund at The Delaware Community Foundation.

This partnership now enables the growing number of volunteers and community supporters of the Thanksgiving for Thousands program to contribute tax deductible donations to help fight hunger here on the Delmarva Peninsula.

For more info on how you can contribute contact the Delaware Community Foundation or Roger Marino at rmarino@mountaire.com or 302-934-3123.

The goal of our program is to help provide a nutritious meal to needy families on Delmarva this Christmas season. If you would like to help us continue to grow our "Thanksgiving" programs which include Thanksgiving for Thousands, Thanksgiving at Christmas and Thanksgiving at Easter please contact us or you can donate to our Thanksgiving for Thousands account and help us feed more

families... "Feed-A-Family" campaign:

Thanks to Mountaire's partnership with the Delaware Community Foundation you can donate \$10 or more to the Mountaire Thanksgiving for Thousands Fund and help us feed another family in need this holiday season. Each \$10 donation creates another meal box from the program.

To donate via credit card or check please click on the link <http://www.mountaire.com/Thanksgiving-at-Christmas/>

Memories of Lighting the Advent Candles

As a mother, my favorite season of the year, as it is for many, is the Christmas Season - not because of cookies or family or gifts, but because of Advent. As a minister, it is easy to lose focus on the anticipation

Programs, Decorations, Family Responsibilities, and Re-Vamping the Christmas Message to make it more appealing to all the visitors that will grace our doors this season.

Each evening when my children were little, we would read from our family Advent book that told the Christmas story on each page, and progressed throughout December as we read a new verse each night.

My youngest is in college this year and she asked if we could read the Advent Book together this season, and through technology, all four of my children, all with different geography, will be signing



on to Skype and we will read Day 1, then Day 1 & Day 2, and then Day 1 & Day 2 & Day 3 until we all come together during Christmas week and our Savior's Birth

of the birth of Jesus. We are torn between Administrative Duties, Christmas Pageants, Feeding

But the lighting of the Advent Candle each Sunday is something special. The anticipation of an encounter with Jesus Christ makes the hectic season all the more important.

I encourage moms, dads, ministers and lay-leaders alike, to spend some time in the anticipation of His Birth.

Enjoy the Advent Season both in your home and in your church.

by Lisa Davis

"What sort of New Year's Resolution should a Christian make?"

The practice of making New Year's resolutions goes back over 3,000 years to the ancient Babylonians. There is just something about the start of a new year that gives us the feeling of a fresh start and a new beginning.

Bible does not speak for or against the concept of New Year's resolutions. However, if a Christian determines to make a New Year's resolution, what kind of resolution should he or she make?

A New Year can make for a great time to put the past behind us, renew our priorities and focus on changes in our lifestyle. I began to pray and

ask God for His guidance as I considered setting new goals in each category for the upcoming twelve months.



Praying Through Your Goals by committing these goals in prayer, I acknowledge before God that "apart from (Him I) could do nothing." (John 15:5) As I commit each goal to God in prayer, God has worked on my behalf giving me strength and favor to achieve these objectives. "Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed." (Proverbs 16:3, NIV)

As you approach a New Year, consider asking God what goals He would have for you to

reach. Share these goals with a good friend, preferably one who will help you to discern God's will in prayer and also pray for your success. Then pray for God to give you the grace and courage to fearlessly attempt what only He can do in and through you.

Here are some suggestions: (1) pray to the Lord for wisdom (James 1:5) in regards to what resolutions, if any, He would have you make; (2) pray for wisdom as to how to fulfill the goals God gives you; (3) rely on God's strength to help you; (4) find an accountability partner who will help you and encourage you; (5) don't become discouraged with occasional failures; instead, allow them to motivate you further; (6) don't become proud or vain, but give God the glory.

Psalm 37:5-6 says,

"Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun."

Helping Others This Christmas!

Holiday Adopt-A-Family Program:

Delawareans can help bring the holiday spirit to thousands of Delaware children, adults and seniors in need. The Human Services Council, Inc. in partnership with the Department of Health & Social Services, is seeking individuals, businesses & organizations to help provide holiday gifts for those living in poverty or in low-income households, or a people living in a nursing home. Donors are anonymously matched. Deadline to "adopt" a family is Dec. 15 and all gift cards & gifts must be delivered to the office by Dec 19. Donors can go to <http://www.CommunityGift.com/AAFDE>. Items can be dropped off at the Kent & Sussex County Adopt-A-Family office 13 SW Front St. Milford, DE. For more info go to <http://www.dhss.delaware.gov>

Gift Drive to help Homeless Families:

Coldwell Banker Realty-Milford is hosting a Gift Drive to support homeless families within the Milford School District along with the Milford Chamber of Commerce now through Dec. 4th. Ideas include but not limited to games, small toys, stuffed animals, cologne or perfume, scarfs, hats, etc. Bring all gifts unwrapped and no electronics. Drop off location 711 N. DuPont Blvd. Milford. This event supports kindergarten children through senior citizens.

Assist Veterans for the Holidays:

You can assist veterans who serve, honor, and protect by volunteering your time, donating or simply by

making a cash contribution to worthy cause. Here are some of the many ways you can reach out and make a difference to a veteran during this holiday season.

Contact a local Veterans Association residential home or hospital. Often times there are multiple older vets who either are hospitalized or residing within residential centers without anybody to keep them company within the holidays. Reach out to local military hospitals where disabled vets are in recovery. Typically there are pre-determined lists consisting of typical things which soldiers want to aid in their recovery such as CDs, MP3 players, gloves, video DVD's, cookies, socks and much more. <http://militarybenefits.info/how-to-help-veterans-during-the-holidays/#ixzz3J2mMoYdA>

Christmas Programs for Military Families in Need:

Click the website for several programs for the Military Families. <http://militarybenefits.info/christmas-programs-for-military-families-in-need/>



Holiday Gift Grants:

<https://www.modestneeds.org/about-us/grants-types-HGF.asp...>

<http://www.clubkids414.org/christmas-n-da-hood-2013.html...>

<http://www.toysfortots.org/default.aspx>

Soaks for Seniors:

Soaks for Seniors is an annual community service project through which new socks are collected to be distributed to elderly people in local area nursing homes around the holidays. To register to collect soaks, <http://www.socksforseniors.com/register.html>

Salvation Army Toy Drive:

If anyone, including civic groups and businesses would like to take on a worthwhile Christmas project, consider helping with the Salvation Army toy drive. Unwrapped toys are needed for both boys and girls, baby to teens. Toys are needed by Dec 3rd for distribution. Arrangements can be made for a toy pickup, if necessary. These toys will make Christmas happy for many children. For information on documents you will need to qualify call Salvation Army. <http://www.salvationarmyusa.org/usn/>

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