

— USE YOUR  
**GOD GIVEN GIFTS** —  
TO SERVE OTHERS  
1 Peter 4:10

**LOVE**  **INC**  
Love In the Name of Christ of the Tanana Valley

April 2020

TRANSFORMING  
LIVES TOURS

**APRIL 9**  
**12:00**

**APRIL 16**  
**6:00**

see the incredible  
work of volunteers  
& hear stories from  
clients who's lives  
were impacted on  
this one hour tour!

**SAVE  
THE  
DATE**

**LOVE**  **INC**

Love In the Name of Christ of the Tanana Valley  
609 3rd St.  
Fairbanks, AK 99701

# A Love Story

*Strength doesn't come from what you can do. It comes from overcoming the things you once thought you couldn't.*

Leslie and her adult son called in 2016 for help with laundry. As we listened to her story, we learned her family was working and doing OK. Her son was working to complete his GED. One morning, her husband woke her up from a sound sleep, and when she looked at him, he pulled the trigger. Her world was instantly shattered. She was completely devastated, she suffered from PTSD, and experienced disabling anxiety. She could no longer stay in her apartment, so her friends helped her move. Since her husband's death, Leslie had made no changes to her spending habits and called when everything financially was crashing. Leslie was living way outside of her means, and she had turned to substance abuse to cope.

Leslie received coaching and advice on ways to cut back on her spending. After 8 months, she felt she made headway on some life changes. She felt she was doing well and didn't need the help from our program any longer. She stopped arriving for meetings and returning calls. We continued to let her know "We'll be here when you're ready". Sometimes it takes some time, patience, and prayer for life change to really, truly happen.

Fast forward to 2019. Leslie called once again asking for furniture. She had heard that Love In the Name of Christ may be able to help. She and her son had recently moved into a new apartment, she was employed, and life had turned around! We were so happy to bless this family with furniture in their new apartment and help them get a new start on life. We pray that Leslie and her son continue on the path of success and are glad that we could instill the knowledge through coaching and mentoring to allow real, long-lasting, life change.



Get the App

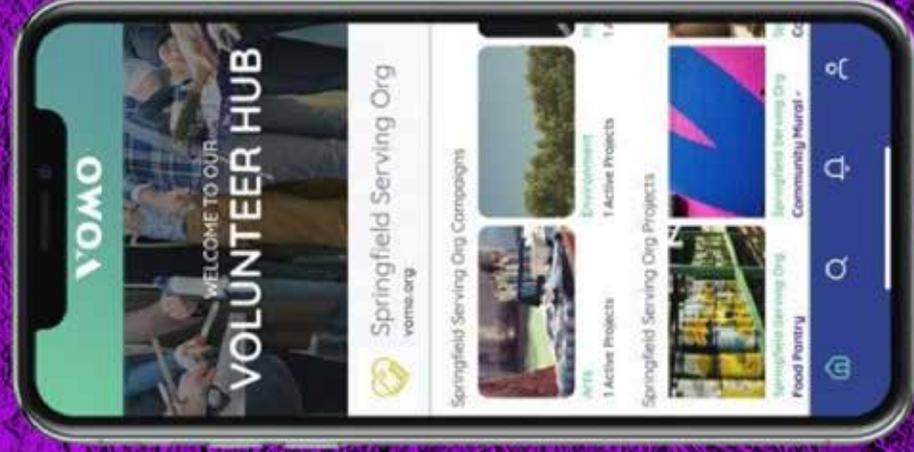


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**to 41444**

# HELPING HANDS

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR \$25 MONTHLY GIFT**

## Volunteer Spotlight

How did a busy mom of five school-aged boys possibly find the time to volunteer? Linda Walsh answered the call from her pastor 26 years ago after hearing him encourage their congregation to get involved just one day a week for three hours. She knows Fairbanks to be a very giving community and believes that Love in the Name of Christ helps the people who truly need help.

As a Caseworker, she often helps people find the resources they need just to stay warm. Some people move up here without any family or support or knowledge of the state, especially Fairbanks. "For example, you need more than one coat, you need two or three. You do need to have good boots, good winter gear. I don't think people understand that. They come up here, and ultimately, they end up calling the Help Line because they have no support. A lot of them don't even have a church, which is one thing that we do - try to encourage people to find a home church to go to so you would at least have church support."

When someone requests firewood, caseworkers encourage them to apply for energy assistance first, but while they are waiting for the application to get approved, they can receive firewood. At times, this is met with resistance. "It's things they know they should be doing, but I think you have to give them a gentle nudge that this is a priority. Especially when they had a shut off notice for today. You have to take care of this. You can't let it go."

Linda started volunteering with Love INC 26 years ago. Things started off in the little cramped Clearinghouse that was located inside a tiny cabin behind the Presbyterian church. Over the years, she has been excited to watch Love INC grow and serve more of those in need. Love INC moved to Noble Street, then to 26th Street, and now in our new location on 3rd Street. Linda says, "Now, it feels like a mansion, but it's definitely needed. It's really nice everything is under one roof (The Furniture Warehouse, the Loving Families Day Center, office space, and Clearinghouse), and the growth is helping the community. For anyone wanting to volunteer, there is something here for you to get involved with, no matter what your passion is."



# WHAT IS THE FURNITURE BANK?

Simply put, the Furniture Bank is a way for Love INC to help more people. Finding quality used furniture at a good price in Fairbanks is nearly impossible! The Furniture Bank offers affordable furniture for everyone, whether you're just getting on your feet and moving into your first place or upgrading the furniture you already have.

## ***Hold on a sec... I thought Love INC gave furniture to folks in need?***

We do! And we'll continue to. Furniture vouchers are available for those who qualify through a financial screening processed by our Clearinghouse. Our clients are our priority--always have been, always will be! For our clients, furniture has a profound impact on their quality of life:

- Decreased likelihood of experiencing displacement or homelessness again.
- Improved physical and mental health.
- Improved financial stability by freeing up funds for other essential items.
- Increased ability and likelihood to participate in and contribute to the community.
- Improved relationships with family and friends.

When furniture vouchers are granted, clients are able to come by, see what we have, and tag what they need. Simple as that!

## ***What happens with the money raised from the Furniture Bank?***

All funds raised through the Furniture Bank go back into our Clearinghouse program. We're excited to be able to do more for folks in need in our community because of the opportunities the Furniture Bank creates! It truly is a win-win. Some people will benefit from new furniture, and others will benefit from those sales.

## ***How do I know what you have in stock?***

As with most things these days, the easiest way to know when we get new merchandise is to follow us on our Facebook page, Love INC Furniture Bank. You can also stop in and check it out! Every day, new furniture is coming and going, so our stock is always changing.

## ***Where does all the furniture come from?***

All furniture is donated to us from individuals, businesses, and agencies in the FNSB. It's all gently used, clean, and ready for a new home!

## ***Will you pick up my furniture if I want to donate it? If I buy furniture, can you deliver it?***

We'd love to be able to, but right now, we need more volunteers to help make that happen! If you're interested in helping make the Furniture Bank accessible and available for even more people, check out our volunteer hub to get started!



Love INC

**Furniture Bank**

609 3rd Street

