

S P R I N G 2 0 1 3

In Christ's Name

eNewsletter for Love INC Juneau



Jobs for Life

Have you ever looked in life's rear view mirror and been paralyzed at what you saw? Were your senses flooded with an emotion that gripped you?

Well, on January 17th twelve students embarked on a journey called "Jobs for Life". Their first challenge was looking in that rear view mirror and identifying roadblocks from their past. They looked at things that kept them from pursuing their goals: loss of a job, broken relationship, peers, or a death of a loved one. Taking a good look into our past often gives us clarity for the future, so with a mentor by their side these twelve students not only identified their roadblocks but also brainstormed ways to hurdle them.

After dealing with the things in the rear view mirror, the class began collecting tools to equip them for the workforce. A highlight for many was having several employers from our community spend an evening sharing with the students what they look for in their employees. The students were taught the necessary skills to build a resume and how to dress for an interview. They practiced interviewing with different employers.

On March 4th a celebration for seven students graduating from the class concluded the eight week Jobs for Life journey. After certificates were handed out, pictures taken, and cake devoured, the room buzzed with laughter and fellowship.



I'm truly grateful for Love INC and the opportunity it provided to build relationships with people I probably wouldn't meet otherwise. It's been a great privilege being a mentor and walking along side someone as they navigate the roadblocks of life!

-- Brynden Wiens

Bags of Love

Welcome to our newest ministry – Bags of Love. Patterned after "It's My Very Own" in Valdez, Bags of Love are given to children who have been removed from their homes by Office of Children Services, often in the middle of the night and with little more than the clothes on their backs.

The Bags of Love are pillow cases filled with a handmade blanket, a soft cuddly animal, a book, personal care items (toothbrush, shampoo, hairbrush, etc.), pajamas, slippers, and a toy or two. The bags are age and gender appropriate for infants through 16 years.

Bags of Love's mission is to help ease the pain brought on by the actions of others. These items hopefully will show them the love of Christ in their community.

Thank you to the Brownie Troop and many Fireweed Place women for their contributions to the Bags of Love ministry!



Re-Entry Coalition

A few months ago I had the opportunity to attend a very important meeting in our community – the newly formed Re-entry Coalition, and I found myself moved to do something about the urgent needs that were shared.

In attendance were many people from different walks of life: probation officers, drug and alcohol counselors, nurses, builders, attorneys, and prisoners. Two of us from Love INC also attended, representing the faith community. It was a privilege. I felt a great burden to offer some help to the folks telling their amazing testimonies.

The need was resounding. “We need help. We need help now! There is no time.” Four individuals in the packed

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room courageously told about their “messed up” pasts, stories of drugs, alcohol, recovery, and attempts at re-entry, only to find the doors slammed, one after another, as they tried to re-enter. They had done their time and paid the price. They were employed and could pay their own way, but housing was a problem. “No, I’m sorry, no felons allowed on these premises.” “My family isn’t clean, so there’s no way I can return home.” “Sorry pal, loved to room with you, but it’s not cool if your probation officer is going to show up anytime and check the place out.” On and on it goes. So, back to the streets they go, and the cycle goes on.

On the heels of this meeting, a very encouraging scene occurred. The head of the probation officers agreed to be more pro-active in helping with housing placements for his people. He is willing to meet with anybody who owns a rental, helping them with screening and guidelines, so that it might be a win-win situation for all concerned.

Head of probation
officers agrees to be
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helping with housing

I have to say, it has been so inspiring to work on this re-entry coalition alongside several men and women who are on probation. Many of them are doing well and owe their success to some individual or church willing to encourage and guide them. As Philip Yancey recently said, “God becomes visible through God’s people, who live out the mission that Paul expressed so well: ‘Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.’” (2Cor. 1:3-4). Isn’t that what we all need and want and have been given, over and over again, in different areas of our own lives?

Please help us to spread the word about this BIG need in our community! I know this problem seems overwhelming, but I trust and believe in a God that is much BIGGER. If you’re interested and would like to know more, please contact me at Love INC, 780-4090 ext 22. Thank you and God’s blessings.

-- Ann Lockhart

Upcoming Classes

- Christian Lifeskills @ Lemon Creek Correctional Center
- Money Management on Wednesday afternoons @ Love INC Clearinghouse
- Jobs for Life on Monday evenings @ Juneau Christian Center

Please call our office if you are interested in participating in any of these opportunities or if you know somebody who is! 789-4090

**Thank you for your amazing support to us,
with your prayers, money and volunteer
work! We are so very grateful.**

**Love INC is moving to e-newsletters.
If you would like to receive the latest
happenings that way, please let us
know at loveinc@alaska.net and we
will add you to our list!**