

Vision for 2010

Communication! Mid-Hudson Love In the Name of Christ aims to raise the visibility and impact of local volunteers meeting needs through caring relationships. We will be reaching out in many ways to our Partner Churches, our volunteers, local businesses, support agencies, the press, people in need, and expanding the network of participating Christian churches!



Ribbon Cutting with Mayor John Tkazyk

Board of Directors – 2010

John Bowen, New Beginnings
Ann Derwin, Vineyard Community Church
Christina Meyer, Calvary Chapel
Lisa Owens, Beulah Baptist Church
Jewel Ratzlaff (Chair), New Beginnings
Pamela Terwilliger (Vice-Chair),
Poughkeepsie United Methodist Church
Ruth Zoodsma (Secretary), River Church

Bill Brunsvold, St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Arthur Lehtonen, Our Savior Lutheran Church
Evelyn Newton, Bethel Missionary Baptist Church
Mike Pickett (retiring Vice-Chair), St. Martin de Porres
Timothy Stoll, Community at Creekside
John Thoman, New Beginnings
Glenn Van Heemst (Treasurer), New Beginnings
Rev. John M. Young, Our Savior Lutheran Church

With our sincere thanks and appreciation for their years of service, to 'retiring' board members Sally Whitson (New Beginnings) and Pastor Mark Mast (Hopewell Reformed Church).

...(you are) fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In Him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in Him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit. Ephesians 2:19-22

Partner Churches – 2009

Beulah Baptist Church, Poughkeepsie	Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, Wappingers Falls
Community Baptist Church, Wappingers Falls	Church of the Resurrection, Hopewell Junction
Community at Creekside, Poughkeepsie	Hopewell Reformed Church, Hopewell Junction
New Beginnings, Poughkeepsie	Immanuel Christian Reformed Church, Wappingers Falls
Our Savior Lutheran Church, Fishkill	Poughkeepsie United Methodist Church, Poughkeepsie
River Church, Poughkeepsie	St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Poughkeepsie
Vineyard Community Church, Hopewell Junction	

Thank you to Antoinette Guinan for the design and printing of the Annual Report.



Mid-Hudson Love INC
Love in the Name of Christ
226 Church Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Meeting needs through caring relationships.



Mid-Hudson Love INC
Love In the Name of Christ

April 2010

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Our Mission
is to mobilize the Church
in the Mid-Hudson Region
to transform lives
and communities
In the Name of Christ.

Mid-Hudson Love INC
Love In the Name of Christ
226 Church Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
845-471-0102
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www.mid-hudsonloveinc.org

"Laying The Foundation"

In the beginnings, O Lord, you laid the foundation of the earth. Psalm 102:25a

2009 Annual Report

Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Psalm 127:1

From the Director

Building was the word for Mid-Hudson Love INC in 2009. We are constantly seeking the Lord's direction because we certainly don't want to build in vain. We have built clearinghouse procedures, volunteer training protocols, statistical tracking systems, spreadsheets, computer files, numerous forms—all the important "support beams" of a sound structure. We have built an excellent Clearinghouse Intake Volunteer Team—our front line with clients. We have built relationships with clients on the phone, praying with them, serving them, sending them 'love notes' and receiving thank you cards and Christmas pictures from them.

Most of all we have built hope in the lives of the disenfranchised here in the Mid-Hudson valley. Simply listening, providing personal care items, and praying hope into their lives, is what builds the ministry of Love INC one brick at a time.

I will never forget entering Natasha's home with Jewel Ratzlaff, our wonderful Board chair. Natasha lives in the "projects" of the City of Poughkeepsie. As we entered the apartment I was struck by the contrast of a barely furnished living area on one side of the room and a beautifully set dining table on the other. Many of you met Natasha



Natasha's "Table of Hope"

at our Choir Fest and heard her story of ill health which led to her relocation from North Carolina, more health setbacks, and financial hardship. That night of the Choir Fest I shared the story of Natasha's "Table of Hope." As her daughter says, "We might live in the projects but we don't have to look and act like we do." So each week that daughter is given a few dollars to buy accessories for their Table of Hope from the Dollar Store. On a dining room set given by Love INC, blue and yellow checked placemats grace a cheery yellow tablecloth, highlighting blue plates, stemware, flatware, cloth napkins and a centerpiece surrounded by blue and yellow curtains at the window. It is a picture of beauty and one of hope!

That's what we are building through God's people in Mid-Hudson Love In the Name of Christ. We are building hope in forgotten lives; we are building trust in isolated relationships; we are building faith in tired souls.

God IS building the house and I, for one, am grateful for the opportunity to serve his people through Love INC.

Join us! The rewards are out of this world!

Frances Thompson-Gee
Executive Director



Events

2009~

Cookie Walk

Saturday, February 7

Hundreds of dozens of gourmet cookies were brought to St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church for a fun day of fundraising and fellowship.

Open House

Sunday, March 1

50 friends dropped by for an Open House followed by an informative Annual Meeting and prayer time.

Clearinghouse Opened

Monday, March 16

Our first official day of operation.

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Wednesday, March 25

Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce President Charlie North and Poughkeepsie Mayor John Tkazyk joined 25 others for pictures and a reception at the 226 Church Street Office.

Auction

Saturday, August 8

Going, Going, Gone! Live auction hosted by a professional auctioneer accompanied by a silent auction raised funds for Love INC from the many beautiful donated items, services, and even a vacation.

SCRABBLE® Tournament

Thursday, October 15

The fun-filled, fast-paced evening was hosted by Bright Horizons at Casperkill and co-sponsored by St. Francis Hospital. 21 teams played for fabulous prize baskets, enjoyed complimentary food and beverages, and were entertained by Emcee Charlie North, DCRCC President.

2nd Annual Inter-Church Choir Fest

Saturday, October 24

Featured a guest organist, 6 area church choirs, volunteer appreciation, worship, and an appearance by a guest composer/performer. This event hosted by Bethel Missionary Baptist Church in Wappingers Falls provided a wonderful evening for the over 225 people who attended. A free will offering benefitted Love INC.

2010~

Annual Meeting Sunday, March 14

Cookie walk Saturday, March 27

Auction Saturday, June 5

SCRABBLE Tournament - September

Choir Fest - October

Check our website at

www.mid-hudsonloveinc.org
for information on:

Volunteer Training

Monthly Prayer Gatherings

A Love Story

"When people are in need and going through hard times, Love INC steps in and reaches people with God's love. Love INC is a gift from God." says one Love INC couple. They moved from the Westchester area to Poughkeepsie with few material possessions but full of joy and expectation as newlyweds! The husband's medical issues had drained their resources and 'starting over' in an empty apartment was draining their hope. "I felt very isolated," says the wife. She attended a Bible study in their apartment building and asked the teaching pastor if he would come upstairs to administer Holy Communion to her husband. Pastor Mike Gerhardt (New Beginnings) agreed. When he saw their meager furnishings he gave them a Love INC card and encouraged them to call. That began a lovely relationship of caring and support that has lifted their spirits and helped the newlyweds get on their feet.

Love INC has provided personal care items and, through other referrals, 10 volunteers from seven different partner churches have connected with this special couple, ministering through friendship and prayer, and bringing Thanksgiving dinner, a Christmas tree with beautiful ornaments, a new bed, bedding, towels, two used dressers, a check to help with back rent, a microwave, toaster, and a laptop, which is opening the door for the wife to start work on her Masters degree through an on-line university. The newlyweds receive a call each week to arrange transportation to church, while they are trusting God to provide a car for them. "We have been so touched by these gifts. It's just like Jesus says in Matthew 25: *I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in... I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.* Thank you Love INC!"



Left: Angels Without Wings Children's Choir
Below: Love INC's first clients receive furniture
Right: Intake volunteer Jan Peters



How do clients find Mid-Hudson Love INC?

Referrals from pastors, other clients, Dutchess County Social Services, Dutchess Outreach, Catharine Street Community Center, Family Services, Mental Health Associates, Section 8 Housing Department, newspaper articles.

Geographic Region Served

Hopewell Junction, Fishkill, Wappingers Falls, Poughkeepsie, Arlington, LaGrange, Pleasant Valley, Hyde Park

Our Core Values are:

- We are Christian. Everything we think, say, and do is in the name of Christ.
- Prayer is an integral part of who we are.
- We follow Christ's example of valuing the poor and needy.
- We value unity of the Body of Christ.
- We value transformation in the lives of people and communities.
- We value churches living out the two great commandments to love God and love their neighbors.
- We value building Christ-like relationships.
- We value the connectedness of the Love INC movement.
- We model excellence.
- We value continually maturing in our capacity to meet people's needs.

The Face of the Foundation - Volunteers

For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. 1 Cor. 3:9

Mid-Hudson Love In the Name of Christ provides gifted, caring Christian volunteers with meaningful opportunities to meet needs in the community, and in turn, this team of dedicated volunteers are blessed through their service and interactions. We are so grateful for the many sensitive, passionate, fun people who continue to step forward and say "Sure, I can do that!"

Executive Director Frances Thompson-Gee and Linda Fulton, Love INC's volunteer Clearinghouse Coordinator, have trained a fantastic crew of Clearinghouse Intake volunteers who are the 'first responders' in this ministry. Following a time of scripture reading and prayer, intake volunteers are quickly engaged with clients who call with concerns, questions and requests. The intake volunteers listen carefully, gracefully ask the necessary questions for clarity and pray with the caller if permission is given, offering hope and love in Christ's name.

Volunteers who are delivering bags of Personal Care Items to verified clients are trained by Board Member Pam Terwilliger. These volunteers have the opportunity to meet Love INC clients face-to-face and bring them much needed personal care items. They always receive a warm welcome!

Volunteers are being trained by Board Member Jewel Ratzlaff to do 'site visits' in the homes of clients who have requested furniture or beds. It is so helpful to actually see the home, meet the client face-to-face and begin building a relationship. Love INC can evaluate the need and any problematic stairs or doorways and often volunteers have a wonderful opportunity to build trust and offer a glimmer of hope and joy.

Mobilizing the Church

- 21 Volunteers in the Clearinghouse
- 31 Volunteers delivering Personal Care Bags
- 10 Volunteers in Personal Care Pantry
- 25 Volunteers delivering furniture
- 33 Volunteers involved with events
- 14 Board of Directors
- 9 Additional Volunteers

143 Total Number of Volunteers

22 Total Number of Churches Represented

4,382 Total Number of Volunteers Hours

To Transform Lives

- 131 Households touched
- 246 Calls for help received
- 416 Needs met for adults
- 365 Needs met for children
- 159 Deliveries of Personal Care Items
- 11 New beds delivered
- 35 Other furniture deliveries



Personal Care Pantry

Ministries that Open Doors

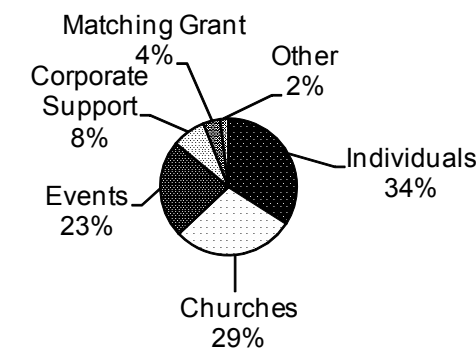
Mid-Hudson Love In the Name of Christ is opening doors for volunteers to interact with and serve individuals and families in need including:

- Love INC's Personal Care Item Pantry (bags of toiletries delivered by volunteers)
- HRC Bed ministry (volunteers from Hopewell Reformed Church deliver beds)
- Site visits (some volunteers meet furniture donors, other volunteers meet clients)
- School supplies provided for six children of clients
- 55 Thanksgiving baskets added to the Poughkeepsie United Methodist Church ministry
- Christmas gifts provided for fourteen children of clients
- Bedding & Household Items (volunteers deliver small appliances, bedding, towels, cooking utensils)
- Furniture (volunteers deliver a wide variety of needed furniture)

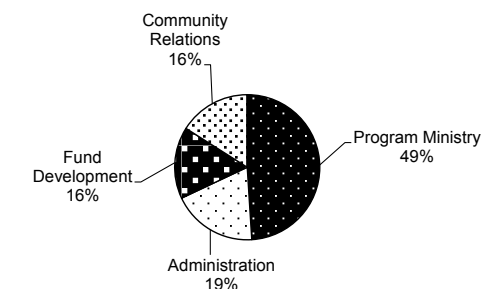
Fiscal Building Blocks

God is faithful, and His people are generous!

Contributions By Source \$44,828



Expenses By Category \$40,672



Building a firm fiscal foundation takes participation from many. We are blessed to announce that although we did not meet our expected revenue projections for 2009, our revenue was actually more than our expenses!

Mid-Hudson Love In the Name of Christ extends a hearty THANK YOU to all our contributors: Individuals, Board Members, Partner Churches, VBS programs, small group Bible studies, Lutheran Thrivent Grant, Sound Off for Poverty campaign, Church fund-raisers, Honorary Birthday Gift Fund, Special Church Offerings, Corporate donors, both one-time gifts and monthly support. The Hopewell Reformed Church Thanksgiving offering is being used to purchase new beds for Mid-Hudson Love INC clients, with HRC volunteers delivering beds in 2009 and into 2010.