



Church Partnership Agreement

Elements of a Partnership

Church partnerships are essential to the accomplishment of the mission of Love INC of Clay County (Love INC). Without church partners, there is no Love INC. Each church partner commits to joining with other churches to provide volunteer and financial support for the operation of Love INC.

Churches demonstrate their commitment to the partnership by:

- participating in the financial support of Love INC;
- participating in the in-kind support of Love INC care pantry and special care projects;
- referring requests for help to the Love INC Clearinghouse;
- accepting referrals for help from the Love INC Clearinghouse to existing church ministries;
- encouraging church members to participate in the ministry of Love INC as volunteers and donors;
- appointing a Church Ministry Coordinator to act as the liaison between the Love INC Clearinghouse and the church; and
- praying for Love INC clients, volunteers, staff, board members, and other partner churches.

Churches may have differing abilities to partner with Love INC, but Love INC works with churches wherever they are at, to encourage them and help equip them for service.

Love INC makes it possible for Churches to effectively respond to the complex issues of need and poverty in their communities by connecting people in need with people who care. Through Love INC, churches and individual Christians are mobilized to work together, across denominational lines, to provide coordinated and tangible help to the poor.

Requests for Help

Churches can refer anyone to Love INC who comes to them requesting help. When churches refer requests for help to Love INC, people in need have access to a wide array of resources available from all the churches in the network and area agencies.

Love INC will analyze the nature, extent, and legitimacy of the need and make the proper referral to an agency, church, or both, if needed. In the Clearinghouse, church volunteers will be trained to carefully listen to requests to discover what the actual needs are and have access to information about all the services available from agencies and churches. This ensures a church is not overwhelmed by one person's needs and they receive referrals for needs that are manageable and specific to their ability to help.

In addition, the Love INC Clearinghouse will keep a record of help each person has received and can identify people who have already been helped or who need long-term support and relationship.

The Apostles' Creed

Love INC is an explicitly Christian organization and ministry, which uses the Apostles' Creed as its doctrinal statement of faith. For that reason, Love INC partner churches, staff, board members, and volunteers must be professing Christians willing to agree to the Apostles' Creed, as it has been interpreted historically and traditionally by Christians.

"I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen."

Confidentiality Statement

Love INC also requires its partner churches, staff, board of directors, and volunteers to protect the confidentiality of its clients and partners.

I agree to take extreme care to protect the confidentiality of all individuals (clients, volunteers, staff, donors, etc.) and churches involved in the Love INC ministry. I will hold any information obtained by me or to which I have access in the strictest confidence. I will not disclose or discuss information regarding any individual or church to anyone other than the appropriate Love INC personnel.

Signature

Our church would like to become a partner with Love INC of Clay County. We support the Apostles' Creed and agree to abide by Love INC's Confidentiality Statement.

Signature

Date

Print Name

Title

Name of Church

Church Ministry Coordinator

Email