



**A NOTE FROM TRACI SLAGER,
OUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR!**



Wow! I have felt so welcomed into the Love INC of Newaygo family! Allow me to introduce myself a bit more to those I have not yet had the opportunity to meet.

I have been married for over 22 years to my high school sweetheart, Rob. We have three very active and bright boys—Nathanael (almost 16), Jeremiah (14), and Jonah (8). Our kids are involved with sports year-round, so it's a good thing watching them play is my favorite pastime! I enjoy outdoor activities like hiking or camping, as well as a good movie or card game. We live in an old 1901 farmhouse in Cedar Springs, so needless to say I am frequently dreaming about the next renovation project, too!

I earned my B.A. in Social Work from Taylor University and then my Master's from the Indiana University School of Social Work. Early in my career, I worked as an ATOD (alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs) prevention and addictions therapist with adolescents and adults. While in Fort Wayne, IN, I was blessed to have the opportunity to be involved with founding two nonprofit organizations—one of which I served on the board for and the other I served as director of for 6 years before moving back to Michigan. I have also taught as an adjunct professor both in the classroom or online for almost 14 years (Intro to Nonprofit Administration, Helping Troubled Families, and Social Welfare History). Most recently, I leave behind my role as Director of Kids and Students at Magnify Church at Ensley where my family currently attends. I also have been serving on the Cedar Springs Board of Education for about 4 years.

God certainly has a plan for bringing me to Love INC! Mobilizing those in the church to transform lives and communities is something I have been passionate about for many years. I still can hardly believe how similar the mission and values of Love are to the ones I have personally advocated for and embraced. As I look to what's next, I am eager to meet and partner with more local churches. I'm excited about the people God will raise up to serve and the hearts He will transform. It is my prayer that as Christ followers we will be united more than ever in our effort to love the lost and broken, while being renewed and changed ourselves. I want nothing more than for His name to be glorified in the work we do and the way we care for one another here at Love INC of Newaygo! ♥

OPERATING HOURS UPDATE:

- **Help Office:** M/T/TH/F: 9 am - 3 pm
Wednesday: 10 am - 3 pm
- **Food Pantry:** Tuesday - Thursday: 10 am - 2 pm
Tuesday Evenings: 5 pm - 7 pm
- **Resale Store:** Monday - Saturday 9 am - 4 pm
Tuesdays ONLY: Open until 7 pm

OUR VISION

is to see all people living out, in words and actions, the life transforming love of Jesus Christ.

Visions Become Reality Through Missions

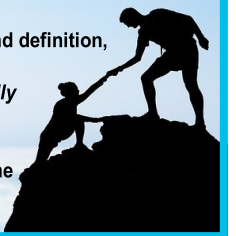
OUR MISSION

is to mobilize local churches to transform lives and communities
In the Name of Christ.

LOVE In the Name of Christ, in its most basic form, is a partnership of local Christian churches working in a coordinated way to address and respond to the needs of our neighbors.

The Church is ideally suited, by design and definition, to address human needs...
spiritually, physically, relationally and emotionally.

Love INC brings churches together into one working unit to share the love of God with our neighbors in need.



**CONNECTING CHURCH AND COMMUNITY RESOURCES
TO LOVE PEOPLE FORWARD**



On July 12, 2021, my husband had his left leg amputated about 6 inches below his knee because of him being a diabetic for 50 years. He spent a week at Butterworth Heart Center. Then he spent about a month at Mary Free Bed doing rehabilitation learning to walk with a walker. Most of the time it was very hard for him to do rehab because his blood sugars kept dropping during his sessions.

My husband was going to have multiple appointments, now, getting things set up for the prosthetic he would now need for his newly amputated leg. While my husband was at Mary Free Bed, our son, Nick, had several Grand Mal seizures which resulted in having to make extra doctor appointments for him. Getting to all of these appointments was hard because our truck wasn't reliable and it kept giving me problems.

My truck started issues with catching fire. On one occasion we were in Big Rapids and the security guard at the Social Security office came out with a fire extinguisher because we had smoke pouring out from under the hood of my truck. I was able to get the smoke stopped when I got the truck shut down. I tried to get parts so my son and I could fix it ourselves. We went to the parts store and my husband, who was in the truck with his wheelchair, couldn't get the seatbelt unlocked so we could get him out. While my son and I went into the parts store, my husband called our pastor, Pastor Curt, who came out to help us. We were able to get the truck to run enough to get us home.

Due to the truck not being able to be repaired, we ended up selling it for parts. This meant I no longer had a way to get to appointments for any of us unless we had someone to take us, or we got a rental car. We did use a rental car a couple of times with help from one of our church members, but that is very costly.

I reached out to my pastor from our church and my mentor from Transformational Ministry at Love INC of Newaygo County about our situation with no vehicle. Love INC contacted several churches and organizations to see if they could help. Through their collaborative efforts, the funding was found to cover the cost of a 2009 Jeep Laredo. Our church, Croton Trinity Bible Church, St. Bartholomew Catholic Church, Bailey Christian Church, and the Fremont Car Ministry all generously contributed to cover the balance of the cost of the Jeep Laredo. The money we got from our truck went toward the Jeep as well. A huge "Thank You" goes out to all of the above! We also want to thank Fremont Ford for everything they did in this process.

The Jeep has enough room for my husband to get into and out of with his prosthetic on, and enough room for his walker and wheelchair if needed. There is also enough room for my son to be with us so that we don't have to worry about him staying at home by himself. We are so grateful for our "new" vehicle and the ability to get to all of our appointments safely! Thank You, once again! ♥

Love INC's Quarterly
PRAYER
GATHERING
held at Trinity Fellowship Church
Thursday, January 6th at 6:30 pm



Love In the Name of Christ
Resale Store Coupon

Receive 1 FREE clothing
item up to \$3.50

One coupon per customer

Location:
11 W. 96th Street, Grant.
(Corner of M-37 & 96th Street)

Expires 1/31/2022