

2010

Love Link Ministries

Five-Year Plan and Dreams



LOVE LINK MINISTRIES 5-YEAR VISION

Introduction:

Love Link Ministries, Inc. has been serving Oklahoma City since 1991. Historically all of the operations were located at 500 S. Western, an 8000 square foot warehouse. In December 2005 the ministry purchased an 80,000 square foot building, the former NuWay Laundry and Dry Cleaners located just west of the downtown area on the corners of NW 6th, N. Western and Linwood Blvd. There are two parts to the building: building #1 is approximately 50,000 square feet of warehouse space, and building #2 is approximately 28,000 square feet of retail and office space. These buildings give Love Link the unique opportunity to become a major compassionate ministry center offering a variety of services to the poor and disadvantaged of Oklahoma City. Many clients in food pantries and soup kitchens have problems with addictions. Many of Oklahoma's homeless have problems with addictions. If we can help people at the root of their need, we can truly make a difference in their lives and the life of the community. In addition to our food pantry, it is the desire of Love Link Ministries, Inc. to offer outpatient drug and alcohol treatment to men, women and children in the Oklahoma City area. Outpatient drug and alcohol treatment coupled with job training, basic financial education, and life skills are some of the avenues for meeting these needs. Plans are to not only offer services to the community but also offer the Christian community opportunities to serve through volunteering. In addition, we want to be a teaching/training center in multi-cultural and compassionate ministry. The remodeling permit from the City of Oklahoma City was received for building #2 in May of 2009.

SOBER-LIVING PROGRAM: Currently, there are three houses that serve as home to men who want to leave their lives of drugs and alcohol behind. Most of the men would be homeless if they were not in these houses. The program is based on group and personal accountability. Men in the program that are not working outside jobs help in various areas of the ministry. Men working outside jobs contribute a portion of their income to the ministry. The men attend 3 different meetings a week plus church services. We network with multiple organizations to meet the various needs of each individual.

Year 1	Continue housing program while looking for an apartment style or group living style building for relocation closer to the NuWay building.
	Recruit volunteer counselors.

Seek grants for expansion of services and housing.

Develop and maintain record keeping for the program.

Continue expanding network services.

Offer asbestos training through the Absentee Shawnee Tribe as warranted. Aid in transportation, licensing, physicals, etc.

Offer quarterly financial education seminars.

Refer to area clinics for medical treatment as needed.

Hire a Sober Living/Outpatient Treatment program director.

Housing capacity is 10 – 12.

- Year 2 Relocate the men from the existing neighborhood.
Research and develop a transitional housing program as well.
Begin outpatient treatment as part of sober-living program.
- Year 3 Continue to develop sober living program in conjunction with outpatient treatment, job training, and transitional living.
- Year 4 Explore the need for and viability of a women or women with children's sober-living program.
- Year 5 Fully developed sober-living program with outpatient counseling, support groups, Bible study, job training, basic financial training and transitional housing opportunities.

OUTPATIENT TREATMENT PROGRAM:

- Year 1 Recruit at least one volunteer licensed drug and alcohol counselor.

Purchase matrix based outpatient treatment curriculum for continuity of treatment (24 week format).

Require the men in the sober-living houses to participate in outpatient treatment as part of their program.

Hire a sober-living/outpatient treatment program director.

Begin developing relationships with other area agencies for referral purposes.

Develop network of agencies to help when medication is needed or inpatient treatment is recommended.

- Year 2
- Expand the number of volunteer counselors.
 - Create counseling room(s) downstairs for expansion of program.
 - Begin referring men identified through the food pantry or other area agencies to the outpatient program.
 - Open the outpatient treatment program to men from the community.
 - Seek grants and other avenues of payment for treatment.
 - Begin referring to job training as these areas develop.
- Year 3
- Open the program to women in the community.
 - Continue recruiting counselors.
- Year 4
- Open the program to teens and children.
- Year 5
- Fully functioning outpatient drug and alcohol treatment center; fully staffed; offering services to men, women and children; individual and group counseling. The counselors available will determine each year the number served and the number of groups offered.

Food Pantry: Currently Love Link Ministries serves 450 families per month in the food pantry. The food pantry is open on Tuesday and Friday from 11:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m. Feeding the hungry is one of the primary missions of Love Link Ministries, Inc. This program will be the primary point of identifying needs and referring clients to other areas of service within the ministry as well as networking with other agencies as needed.

- Year 1 As we move into Building 2 at NuWay we will continue to offer our current services. Current services involve pre-packed sacks of groceries handed to the people as they go through the sign-in process.
- Work closely with the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma to meet the needs of our community, developing partnerships with them to define and refine our hours and regulations to meet the most needs.
- Develop client resource base. Network with other agencies.
- Year 2 As we move into Building #1: Develop a more complete food program.
- Construct a reception area, waiting room, children's play area, three interview booths and two prayer rooms.
- Recruit volunteers
- Install shelving in the dock area storage room. Begin utilizing the loading dock for Food Bank and other food deliveries and the adjoining room for storage.
- Continue networking with available client resources
- Volunteers will begin interviewing each individual client as they join the program. Identify needs.
- Begin offering nutrition training, how to plan for meals, cook meals, store food, etc.
- Year 3 Increase training to include diabetic and nutritional counseling. Many of the men in the program as well as many of our clients either are diabetic or fall into high-risk categories. Obesity is also an issue. We will recruit medical/nutritional volunteers to offer classes and training to help in these areas.

Identify problems with addictions and/or a need for job training in the clients in the food pantry and refer to other areas of ministry within Love Link Ministries and other agencies.

Years 4 and 5 Continue with a fully developed Food program. Reassessing and redesigning as necessary.

Office Use: Building #2 has a large office area with several offices, classrooms, a library/conference room and modest kitchen facilities. These offices will be available for Love Link office usage as well as availability to other organizations to work in partnership with Love Link.

We are very interested in developing a ministerial training program for both men and women; particularly a program targeted toward inner city ministry opportunities.

We also look forward to partnering with additional ministries to teach Native American and/or Spanish Ministerial Training, Celebrate Recovery Programming, Neighborhood Bible Study Opportunities, After School Tutoring, and Literacy Training Opportunities.

Our goal is to incorporate such training within two years and if possible within the next calendar year.

Year 1 Obtain Certificate of Occupancy from OKC

Year 2 Lease office space for evening use as an educational center
Target will be community educational services to improve employability of local residents.

Design and equip one area for a vocational classroom.

Align with local ministries that need office space in the area.

Objective is to fully utilize the office space resource with local organizations to meet local needs

Thrift Shop: Love Link Ministries has operated a thrift store (Resale Link) for many years. Resale Link currently provides donated household items, clothing, and furniture for sale to the public, a work place for the men in the recovery program, and volunteer

and work 'n' witness opportunities. It is presently located at 500 S. Western. As soon as we acquire occupancy for the NuWay facility, Resale Link will be relocated into the Northwest section of building #2. We currently are blessed with a dedicated group of volunteers who come weekly and sort and display donations.

Year 1 Hire full-time store manager. Compensation to include commission of total sales.

Recruit volunteer staff

Utilizing display windows, setup attractive, inviting merchandise

Sales \$1,500 to \$3,000 per month

Year 2 Increase quality donations

Sales between \$6,000 and \$8,000 per month

Year 3 Expansion into northeast corner of building #1, a prime retail location. Increasing visibility from Western Avenue and the downtown area.

Utilize vocational program with men in the Sober-Living Program learning appliance repair and furniture restoration. Repaired items to be sold in the thrift store, increasing revenues.

Sales \$10,000 - \$12,000 per month

Years 4 & 5 Continued growth and expansion

Vocational Training: Vocational training is scheduled to start by the third year when Love Link's is in building #1. Training will start out with appliance repairing. This will enable the ministry to offer training to many of the men in the Recovery Program while at the same time producing products that can be sold in the thrift store. In the 3rd, 4th and 5th years this vocational training program will be increased to include carpentry, sewing, metal working, electrical and even automotive. These additional skill training classes will depend on donations of the proper equipment for running such a shop as well as qualified teachers and staff to run the programs.

- Year 1
- Obtain occupancy permit for Building #1 so that Love Links can develop the large interior space with vocational training facilities.
 - Design vocational layout for Building #1
 - Apply for government or private grant to develop vocational training operations to be run out of Building #1
 - Sign partnering agreements with other churches to support developing the vocational training operation.
- Year 2
- Design and build out vocational classroom.
 - Raise funds to build out the vocational training classroom.
 - Design and build a vocational shop for small appliance repairs and training.
 - Raise funds and donations of training equipment for a small appliance repair training shop.
 - Develop a training syllabus for small appliance repair training.
- Year 3
- Hire staff and trainers to begin training at least 5 students from the Love Link's recovery program or other similar programs in OKC.
 - Students to work on donated small appliances that will then be sold in the Love Link and ROC thrift stores.
- Year 4
- Expand vocational training to include upholstery and furniture repair. Build furniture repair shop in building #1.
 - Develop furniture repair class curriculum.

Students to work on donated furniture that will then be sold in the Love Link and ROC thrift stores.

Add a sewing class to train local residents in garment repair. Build and equip sewing training class with at least 5 sewing machines.

Develop sewing class curriculum. Training to include starting and running a small business.

Students to work on donated clothing that will then be sold in the Love Link and ROC thrift stores.

At least 5 vocational training students will open their own local sewing businesses.

After School Program: Reaching at risk children and teens is an ever increasing problem. Love Link Ministries would like to be a part of the solution. Within a three mile radius of our location it is projected that by 2010 that 37% of the population will be under 24 years of age; 23% under the age of 15. Developing tutoring and after-school activities can help break the cycle of poverty. There are areas in building #1 that would provide ample space for children and teens to be in a safe learning environment.

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| Year 1 | Begin looking for and recruiting volunteers to set-up and staff the program |
| | Begin with a few students in the open area upstairs, two days a week. |
| Year 2 | Expand the program to include more students with more mentors in place |
| Year 3 | Develop an area in building #1 for the program |
| | Expand to more days including at least one Saturday a month |
| Years 4 & 5 | Continue to develop the program. Assessing needs and determining methods of implementation and evaluation |

Auditorium: There have been discussions with the Oklahoma City Youth For Christ in building an auditorium inside building #1 to provide facilities to have youth rallies at the NuWay building. YFC used to have rallies in the NuWay building many years ago and we would be glad to once again host these groups. Once this meeting facility is built, it can then be used for many additional groups as well; such as Nazarene youth rallies and other large church related meetings and/or groups who share the vision of Love Link Ministries, Inc.

Use of an auditorium is still to be determined based on the needs of local organizations and churches.

CONCLUSION:

By giving Love Link Ministries, Inc. the NuWay building, God has given us a very unique opportunity, an opportunity that cannot be duplicated in Oklahoma, or for that matter, any other place that we are aware of. It is the opportunity to create a large Christian community center in the heart of Oklahoma City that can impact everyone around it. It can become an oasis for several diverse communities within its sphere of influence. By the grace of God, the NuWay building will allow Love Link to become the path to the New Way for hundreds of men, women and children in Oklahoma.

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

3, 5 and 7 mile radius

Attached is a recently prepared market profile giving extensive demographic detail of the community surrounding the NuWay building in Oklahoma City.¹ While the report covers 3, 5 and 7 mile radiuses, this summary will discuss the demographics within the 5-mile radius of the property.

The 2010 total population within 5-miles of the NuWay building is almost 215,000 people. Of this population, 114,000 (53%) are white, which is a decrease from 58% in 2000. Hispanic is the next largest ethnic group with 48,000 people (22.2%). The Hispanic group is the fastest growing group in the area increasing to 22% from 18% in 2000. The Black population totals 43,000 people (20.2%), which is fairly constant from 20.0 % in 2000. American Indian is constant at 9,000 population (4.2%) with 4.5% of the population in 2000. Other minorities or two or more races make up the balance of 49,000 people (22.6%). So it can be seen that this area is a very diverse community with a diversity index of 78.7.

Within 3 miles this diversity is even greater with Whites making up only 44.5% of the population and Blacks and Hispanics having 26.5% and 25.3% of the population respectively. That gives the area almost 44,000 Black and Hispanic minorities within a 3-mile radius.

By 2010 within 5 miles of the property there will be 88,800 households and 48,500 families with the average family size of 3.15 people. There are an estimated 104,000 housing units, of which 42,600 are rented (41.0%) and 15,000 are vacant (14.6%). Median household income \$36,000, which is actually skewed to the high side by the Heritage Hills high-end home area located about a mile to the north of the property. Household income is less than \$15,000 per year for 17,200 (19.4%) of the households within 5 miles. This means that 17,000 households that represent 40,000 people earn less than \$1,250 per month.

Looking at the 2000 census (later numbers are not available), the population of older than 3 years totaled 74,000 with the 3-mile radius. Of this number, 8,700 are children in grades 1-8 (11.8%) and 4,000 are in high school (5.5%). These numbers should increase by about 7% by 2010. Thus there is a very large base of children close to the NuWay building.

¹The report is actually for a commercial site located about ½ mile east of the NuWay building. Nonetheless, it was felt that the data was close enough to the NuWay building that it would be a waste of resources to purchase a new study.

While these are the official governmental numbers, they do not show the real economics of the local neighborhood. Low-income housing surrounds the immediate walking area around the NuWay building. Both Black and Latino gangs are present in the communities. The west side of town has become a flophouse area that has attracted the homeless and derelicts of society. However, the mid-town area has been experiencing a renaissance in the past 2 years and the homeless have been moved further west towards the NuWay building and the flop houses have been demolished, increasing the numbers of homeless. It is to these people and their families that Love Link Ministries has been called to serve.