

Love Link Ministries, Inc.
Annual Report of the Executive Director
2010

Love Link Ministries, Inc. is a recognized 501(c)3, non-profit organization.

Love Link's mission statement: Love Link Ministries, Inc. seeks to demonstrate the love of Christ by providing spiritual, physical, and emotional help for those in need in the inner-city as well as the greater Oklahoma City area.

Love Link exists to help the poor and marginalized of the greater Oklahoma City (OKC) area. Currently we live and breathe at 500 S. Western Ave., very near the heart of downtown OKC. In 2005 Love Link Ministries purchased the old NuWay Laundry and Dry Cleaners. We have been in the process of renovating that building. While renovating we have continued all our ministry areas. We have had a great year. God has richly blessed all that has come in as well as everyone who has been a part of the life of Love Link.

2010 in review:

Income raised for all purposes (except the Brownfield grant); \$137,832.50

Expenses for all purposes (except asbestos abatement): \$145,148.93

Net: -\$7316.43

Indebtedness was reduced by \$23,000

Remodeling expenses were \$13,817.81

Overall, a very successful year! Our giving was up in an economy that is down. God took all you gave and did miraculous things.

Food Pantry:

Our food pantry continues to be open two days a week, Tuesday and Friday, from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Hungry people in Oklahoma received 445,648 meals from Love Link Ministries, Inc. in 2010. Fifty-two percent of those receiving food were children!

We have an outstanding group of volunteers that come in regularly to help with this ministry. Serving others in this capacity has changed their lives. We'd also like to welcome Roxie Jones to our team. Roxie joined us mid-September as our part-time Office Manager. There's a lot to learn but she's doing a great job.

Thrift Store:

The thrift store continues to be a blessing to those in need by offering very modest prices for clothing, household items, books and misc. items. We have not wanted for donations at all this year. Matter of fact, at times we were almost overwhelmed by people's generosity. The thrift store brought in \$6,429.23 in 2010. Look for that number to more than double when we have windows, heat, cooling, and better visibility. We'd like to welcome Dave Clawson as our part-time Thrift Store Manager. Good things are on the horizon. I'd also like to thank Marge Hess for 10+ years of volunteering. She has sorted clothes and all the donated items 2 or 3 times a week regardless of conditions. We'd be lost without her! Thanks, Marge!

Sober-Living Program:

Love Link has maintained three houses that are home to 10 men. These men are trying to leave their lives of drugs and alcohol behind them. I hear many times "I want my life back". Through Celebrate Recovery, support group, Bible study, church services, journaling, mentoring, etc. we try to help them get it back.

16 different men were in our program in 2010: 6 left to return to drugs and alcohol and life on the street; 6 are still in the program; 1 man left on uncertain terms but continues to be employed and maintain an apartment; 1 man was approved for housing after 6 months of sobriety and left to live in an apartment; 1 man left after 1 year of sobriety to move in with a friend; 1 man finished the program with a job for a year and a half, 2 years sobriety and moved into an apartment. We offer them tools. We offer them Christ. What they do with it is a choice only they can make.

The men currently in the program all have at least 3 months sobriety. We are having success with sobriety and staying clean but transitioning into jobs, paychecks and housing is rough. We continue to learn how to help them in this process we call life.

I received a call from one the men that has been working for the last year and a half. His boss wanted to know if we had anyone else certified to do asbestos abatement. He would hire anyone we had, because he was so impressed with the two working for him now. To God be the glory.

Volunteers:

What a year we've had! 18 groups from 6 states, 8 denominations representing 3817 man-hours. That is in addition to our 9 weekly volunteers, 1 monthly volunteer, 3 volunteers that have worked tirelessly on NuWay and 2 "ROAMers", RVs On A Mission that came and worked 20 hours a week for 3 weeks. God has truly blessed their labor.

Remodeling NuWay:

I'm going to give you a list – not a complete list but a good list of what's been accomplished this year. This has been due to the efforts of so many people but especially, Jerry Taylor and Keith Hensyel. These two men have put in many, many hours, graciously, tenaciously and freely. We couldn't have done it without them. Thank you Jerry and Keith. Also, at this point I want to mention Sandy Poolaw. Sandy does not want recognition but he has been a lifesaver for me. Knowing that he lives in the building is a great source of peace for me. In addition, he has done many projects that go unnoticed by most but without them life in NuWay would not be as pleasant as it is. Thanks, Sandy, for all you do.

- Asbestos floor tiles removed upstairs and down
- Asbestos removed from gray building and NuWay warehouse area
- Gray building torn down, site leveled
- Survey of property on Westside of Klein completed
- Ceiling grid is complete in thrift store, upstairs and downstairs office area
- Sprinkler system is ready to wired to alarm and phone and then inspected
- Ceiling tiles are in the thrift store area and downstairs office areas as well as ½ of the upstairs area
- Lights in the thrift store completed, bathroom electrical completed, hot water wired, outlets for heating units installed
- Bathrooms in thrift store area are plumbed
- All offices have rec'd at least one coat of paint
- North walls of thrift store and medical dental area are sheet-rocked
- Thrift store is painted, floor is completed, baseboard started
- Downstairs office area floor has paint but no topcoat
- Parapet wall above carport has been rebuilt, sealed and painted
- Mechanical shop area cleaned and somewhat organized
- Tracking from dry cleaners in warehouse area removed and sold for scrap
- Door between thrift store and office area in place
- All 4 of the two bedroom apartments have had an initial cleaning
- Front window and door to thrift store replaced
- Upstairs bathrooms, board room and center area painted
- Lights changed in safe room; shelving installation begun

The Future:

"The future is as bright as the promises of God", an anonymous quote that sits in my home. I believe it. His promises are real. His blessings are touchable here at Love Link.

The remodeling of the front third of NuWay should be completed in a matter of weeks with temporary occupancy close behind. I can hardly wait. Look for an explosion when that happens.

We received a \$200,000 grant from Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to install a vapor mitigation system. We hope to have that completed by summer. Installing this system may result in DEQ giving us a 'green' bill of health, which could be very helpful in the future as well as providing a great sense of peace in knowing that we have a healthy environment in which to serve the people of Oklahoma City.

Our Annual Banquet will be March 4, 2011. It should be a great time of celebration of the faithfulness of our Lord. He has done amazing things this year. We hope to cast a vision for seeing souls saved and lives changed through the services we will offer in the NuWay building. We need to continue restoring and renovating the NuWay building after occupancy in order to see all of this happen.

I'm looking forward to the day when we identify a need through our food pantry; plug that person into outpatient counseling; teach them life skills; identify job skills; train them in those areas and they no longer need our services. Trusting that in the process they will see Christ and allow Him to change them from the inside out. This will take more volunteers, more time, more resources of every kind and more prayer to cover it all.

We have taken on a God-sized project and He will be faithful as we seek Him and follow His leading.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Stark
Executive Director
Love Link Ministries, Inc.