

2025

Annual Report



love
in the name
of Christ

**Black
Hills**

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From Our Executive Director



“The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Go! ... When you enter a house, first say, ‘Peace to this house.’”
Luke 10:2, 5a

This passage has shaped both my life and our Love INC journey. It took nearly 10 years for Love INC to move past two full-time equivalent staff. We had amazing volunteers, but we were stretched to the max and regularly prayed for God to send us “workers for the harvest.” It was clear then, and remains clear today, that we can not do this vital work unless God provides the people.

For more than two decades, our prayer for workers has remained the same, and we are seeing the fruit of those requests. This past year, we had 190 regular volunteers and many more serving occasionally. Of the 763 initial calls or visits for help to our Connection Centers in Rapid City, Sturgis, and Hill City, nearly every person we asked to pray with said yes. At Life INC classes, prayer requests were gathered nightly and shared with a prayer team, resulting in an estimated 1,200 written prayers and 2,000 one-on-one spoken prayers over the past year. People’s hearts are ready for hope, and the harvest is plentiful.

Love INC gives Christians the opportunity to “Go!” We invite volunteers to step into the lives of people in our community who are searching for hope, stability, and connection. In 2025, through our various ministries, Love INC connected with 1,124 adults and 1,524 youth. Many engaged consistently, with teens attending our after-school programs week after week and adults and families growing together through Life INC classes.

Jesus taught that not everyone would be receptive to the Good News of His Kingdom. But He did instruct all who followed him to remain and share life together. Love INC seeks to embody that same posture, walking alongside people over time and sharing Christ’s peace. One example is a Life INC student we have journeyed with over the past two years who recently asked to lead a class. In 2026, she launched CROSSwalk, a peer mentoring class that helps participants grow as leaders and servants. We are excited to see how God leads her through this next step of growth and leadership.

As we look ahead to this year, Love INC is rolling out a new strategic plan reflected throughout this Annual Report. We have big dreams for where God may take this ministry, but our mission remains the same: mobilizing churches to transform lives and communities In the Name of Christ. Our success continues to depend on praying to the Lord of the Harvest to provide workers who will go and share His peace. We invite you to prayerfully consider how God is calling you to participate in what He is doing through Love INC.

JOHN LIGTENBERG

Executive Director, Love INC of the Black Hills

Celebrating 25 Years of Ministry



Bringing Hope and Transformation In the Name of Christ

For 25 years, Love In the Name of Christ has served as a bridge between local churches and neighbors in need across the Black Hills. We believe that lasting transformation happens through relationship, not just relief. By mobilizing a network of local congregations, we move beyond meeting immediate physical needs to addressing the deeper relational and spiritual poverty that affects our community. As we celebrate a quarter-century of ministry, we are entering a new season of intentionality. This annual report outlines our 2025–2028 Strategic Plan, a roadmap designed to deepen our impact through comprehensive mentoring, innovative social enterprises, and the strengthening of our "Hometown" roots across the Black Hills. Together, we are not just providing a service; we are mobilizing the church to transform lives In the Name of Christ.

OUR MISSION

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

OUR PURPOSE

Our purpose is to walk alongside people on their journey to wholeness through mutual service, education, friendship, and prayer.

OUR VISION

Our vision is to see people thriving in healthy relationships where they know their value, purpose and place in Christ and our community.

OUR VALUES

Because of God's love, our organization, our activities, and our relationships will demonstrate you are loved, you belong, you have choices, and you have something to offer.

Love INC at a Glance

How Our Ministries Work Together to Multiply Impact

Love INC mobilizes churches, relationships, and ministries into one coordinated system of care, moving people from isolation to belonging and toward lasting stability and contribution. We don't just meet practical needs. We stay with people, surround them with community, and call them forward into growth. Because of partners like you, individuals are not just receiving help—they are building relationships, growing in faith, and becoming contributors in their communities.

CONNECTION CENTER

As the 'front door' of Love INC, the Connection Center is where potential participants first meet with a volunteer to share their story, receive prayer, and be connected to the right church or program for support.

LIFE INC

Life INC is a 'mobile university' hosted by local churches where participants build practical skills and spiritual foundations through classes and long-term mentoring.

THRIVE

Thrive is an adventure retail store that sells donated gear to support the ministry and offers two programs: Vision Bikes for transportation and TRAK for teen mentorship and life skill development.

RISE

RISE is an upscale boutique that sells donated furniture to support the mission, while participants in our "Work 2 Earn" program gain skills and earn essential home furnishings.

GAP MINISTRIES

Gap Ministries are church-led programs that provide essential household items like linens, kitchen supplies, and medical equipment through the MEND (Medical Equipment Needs Delivered) ministry.

HOMETOWN

The Hometown Initiative brings the Love INC model directly to Black Hills area communities, like Sturgis and Hill City, to help neighbors right where they live.

AFTER SCHOOL

Our Teen Centers are safe spaces where mentors live out their faith by building real relationships with teens through fun and life-skills development, helping them grow and connect to a local church.

WAREHOUSE

The Warehouse Ministry manages the heart of our logistics by receiving and storing donations while mobilizing volunteers to deliver furniture to participants' homes.

The Love INC Ecosystem

A Christ-Centered Journey of Care

For many people, their journey with Love INC begins with a call to our Connection Center for help with practical resources like furniture or a bicycle. From there, they are connected to caring volunteers, churches, and resources. Many step into RISE and Thrive, where “Work 2 Earn” becomes more than a pathway to resources—it’s a place where relationships take root as people work side-by-side, building confidence and community. They are then invited to take next steps through Life INC, where education and mentoring build a foundation for growth and connection to the local church.

Stabilize → Strengthen → Serve

Transformative care is relational, not transactional.



This same pattern is reflected in other ministries like Teen Centers, the TRAK program at Thrive, and the Kids Clothing Closet in Hill City. All along the way, individuals are pointed to Jesus as the ultimate source of hope, no matter what life brings. Over time, some participants choose to give back by serving and mentoring others. Each journey looks different, but at every step, relationships open the door to growth, belonging, and purpose. This is the kind of impact your support makes possible.

Four Strategic Priorities



Clear Direction for the Future

Over the past year, Love INC leaders and ministry teams prayerfully developed a three-year strategic plan to guide the next season of impact across the Black Hills. From this process, four key priorities emerged that will guide our focus and expand our impact in the years ahead.



CHURCH MOBILIZATION

Our goal is to support local congregations for impactful mobilization through clear opportunities, shared resources, and meaningful partnerships, with a vision of a united Church actively engaged in meeting real needs across the Black Hills.



DEVELOPING A SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

Our goal is to develop a social enterprise that creates pathways to employment and supports long-term sustainability, with a vision that individuals gain dignity, build skills, and achieve lasting independence through consistent work opportunities



COMPREHENSIVE MENTORING

Our goal is to develop comprehensive mentoring for all ages that fosters growth, stability, and long-term transformation, with a vision that individuals and families move toward stability through consistent relationships and support.



HOMETOWN EXPANSION

Our goal is to strengthen existing Hometown locations and prepare for expansion through consistent systems, local leadership, and sustainable community support, with a vision that communities are equipped to care for their neighbors in lasting and meaningful ways.



STRATEGIC CONNECTION



CHURCH MOBILIZATION



DEVELOPING A SOCIAL ENTERPRISE



COMPREHENSIVE MENTORING



HOMETOWN EXPANSION

Look for this section throughout the report to see how our strategic plan strengthens every part of Love INC.

Rapid City Connection Center



Where Neighbors Find Help and Hope

Jim spent decades in law enforcement and private investigations, often witnessing the hardest realities of life. When he retired, he wanted to serve people in a different way. At the Love INC Connection Center, Jim now volunteers three days a week listening to stories, praying with callers, and offering hope. “I like giving people hope instead of taking it away,” Jim shared. His story is a reminder that transformation happens not only for those seeking help, but also for those who step forward to serve. Because of your support, volunteers like Jim are able to be present in these moments—listening, praying, and offering hope when it’s needed most.

710

Calls for Assistance



634

Completed Intakes



1,027

Individuals Received Help



STRATEGIC CONNECTION

CHURCH MOBILIZATION

COMPREHENSIVE MENTORING

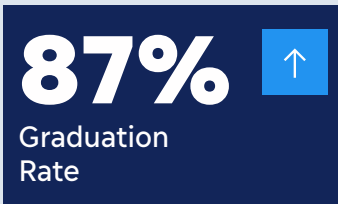
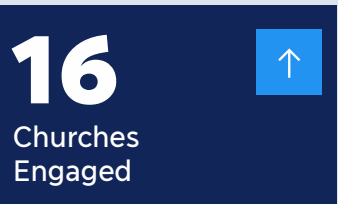
Our strategic goals are to expand church engagement, increase meaningful participant touchpoints, and strengthen transformational programs. We aim to mobilize church teams and increase home visits while strengthening how our programs serve people.

Rapid City Life INC



Education + Relationships Create Long-Term Change

Life INC functions like a mobile university hosted by local churches, helping participants build practical skills and spiritual foundations. Each class represents more than information; it creates relationships, a pathway to mentorship, and a support network that continues after graduation. Through these relationships, individuals begin to experience stability, grow in confidence, and take meaningful steps toward a life of purpose and connection. Because of your support, more people are able to take part in this kind of journey.



A Year of Transformation

When a single mom came to Life INC, she knew what she needed: stability, connection, and a chance to move forward. Over the course of a year, she took courageous steps, completing classes like Bridges to Freedom, ReAlign Financial, and Create Better Health.

Armed with new knowledge and relationships, she moved on to pay off her last debts, found a church she loved, and with confidence she stepped up to serve in children's ministry. She didn't just find stability. She found purpose.

STRATEGIC CONNECTION

CHURCH MOBILIZATION

COMPREHENSIVE MENTORING

Our strategic goals are to develop strong mentoring, build a thriving KidsMinistry, engage churches in ownership, and create clear next steps for all ages. We aim to equip mentors and partner churches while strengthening communication and pathways for growth.

RISE Furnishing & Decor

Dignity Through Contribution

Our ministry serves as a relational on-ramp and stabilizing space within Love INC's pathway, where practical needs intersect with dignity, purpose, and consistent presence. Many people enter through tangible need or volunteer engagement and move next toward deeper relationship, mentoring, employment readiness, and connection to church based support.



Furniture Restoration to Personal Restoration

Samantha arrived at RISE unsure of her value. Through consistent participation in restoring furniture alongside volunteers, her confidence returned as her furniture restoration became personal restoration.

RISE Impact

Through hands-on work restoring furniture and serving customers, participants gain job skills, confidence, and a renewed sense of purpose. Each number represents a person whose life was touched through the support of people like you.

132



Average Customers Per Sales Day

4,491



Volunteer hours

136



Participant Families Served

 **STRATEGIC CONNECTION**

 **CHURCH MOBILIZATION**

 **DEVELOPING A SOCIAL ENTERPRISE**

Our strategic goals are to expand operating hours, grow sales, increase community engagement, and strengthen church involvement. We aim to increase access and participation while expanding Work 2 Earn and building consistent support for participants.

Thrive


From Bikes to Breakthroughs

At Thrive, a bicycle is just the beginning. Many participants first come to us through the Connection Center, where they can earn a bike through our Vision Bike program—but what they gain goes far beyond transportation. Through that first connection, people have been linked to jobs, rehab programs, church communities, sober living houses, and Life INC classes.

Our teen TRAK ministry works with youth by teaching them basic bike mechanic and retail skills. As teens work alongside Thrive volunteers they not only learn the basics of mechanics and retail, they also build a relationship with a trusted adult mentor.

Thrive Impact Stats

We offer a "Work-2-Earn" pathway where dignity is restored as participants contribute labor to earn primary transportation.

168 

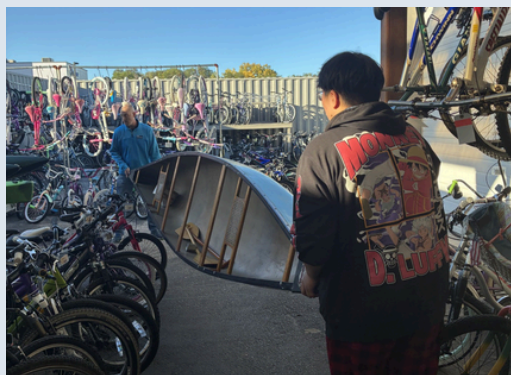
Vision Bikes Earned

69 

Work-2-Earn Bike Repairs

30+ 

Bikes Given to Foster Kids



 **STRATEGIC CONNECTION**

 **CHURCH MOBILIZATION**

 **COMPREHENSIVE MENTORING**

Our strategic goals are to increase sales, raise awareness of our ministries, expand volunteer engagement, and strengthen program development. We aim to improve how our bike shop operates and connect more people to the opportunities our ministries provide.

Warehouse Ministry

The First Step Into Community

The Warehouse Ministry is about far more than furniture. By providing participants with essential household items and large medical equipment. It creates a doorway to genuine connection with the local church. Delivery teams from area churches do not just drop off a couch and leave. They listen, they pray, and they extend an invitation to belong. For many participants, the delivery is the final step in their journey with Love INC and the first step into a church community.

142

Furniture Deliveries



240

Furniture Pickups



A Delivery That Opened a Door

When a couple from West Africa recently relocated to the area, they arrived with little community and few connections. A Warehouse Ministry delivery team showed up with more than furniture. They also prayed with the couple, and extended a warm invitation to Redeeming Grace Church. Overwhelmed with gratitude, the couple visited and are now pursuing church membership. A delivery became a doorway.



 **STRATEGIC CONNECTION**

 **CHURCH MOBILIZATION**

Our strategic goals are to purchase our warehouse, expand capacity, improve efficiency, and strengthen resource stewardship. We aim to increase access and impact while removing growth constraints and enabling the next phase of ministry.

Volunteers

Transformed Through Service

Volunteers come to Love INC in different seasons of life, but many discover the same truth: transformation happens on both sides of service. As they walk alongside others, they find their own faith deepened and their purpose renewed. What begins as service becomes a shared journey of growth, connection, and impact.



Trish - Connection Center Volunteer

Trish came to South Dakota looking for a way to serve her new community. What she found at Love INC was more than a volunteer opportunity—it was a ministry offering a "hand up rather than a handout." In less than a year, she's witnessed change lives and experienced her own personal growth. "It has increased my prayer life," she shares.



Marie - RISE Volunteer

Marie's journey with Love INC began over ten years ago during a season of personal loss. Invited by a friend, she came to Love INC searching for connection. What she found was a calling. She served six years on the board and continues today in the RISE ministry. Over the years, she's watched former participants return as committed volunteers. "That speaks so well for Love INC," she reflects.

2025 Volunteer Stats



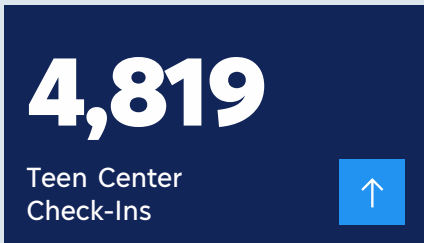
Our strategic goals are to expand volunteer opportunities, improve coordination, increase engagement, and create defined roles. We aim to provide consistent, impactful ways to serve while connecting people to transformational ministry.

After School



Investing in the Next Generation

Our teen centers provide safe spaces for mentoring and life-skills training that connect young people to caring adults and the local church. As teens show up week after week, relationships form with mentors who listen, encourage, and walk alongside them through everyday challenges. Over time, these connections build confidence, strengthen identity, and open the door to a supportive community rooted in Christ.



One Student, Rippling Impact

Sam is a 6th grader who started attending Bethel Church through our teen center. New to the faith, she invited a neighbor family to join her at church, and both parents were baptized. That family then brought two more families to church for the very first time. Sam also serves in children's ministry, and recently stopped to pray with one of the students she works with during a prayer and worship night. One 6th grader. One invitation. A ripple that is still spreading.

 **STRATEGIC CONNECTION**

 **CHURCH MOBILIZATION**

 **COMPREHENSIVE MENTORING**

Our strategic goals are to strengthen program foundations, establish clear guardrails, expand teen outreach, and grow church partnerships. We aim to clarify how UNITE fits within our ministry and introduce new opportunities while engaging more teens.

Meeting Needs Where They Are

Love INC of the Black Hills thrives when we meet people exactly where they are. This year in Hill City, that meant bringing the classroom to the workplace. By partnering with Matt Stelmach and Pete Jensen, we introduced the Realign financial curriculum to local workers in a relatable, low-pressure environment. This “bridge event” connected participants to other Life INC programming at Little White Church. This effort showed us when marketplace and ministry align, the community flourishes In the Name of Christ.

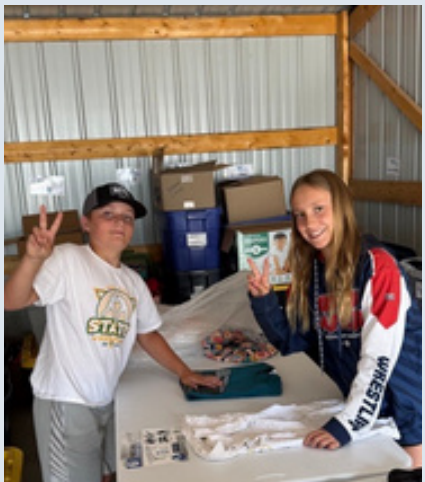
the COMMUNITY KIDS CLOTHING CLOSET

A community “hand-me-down” event where families can get donated school clothes.

167 ↑
Bags of Clothes Given Out

135 ↑
Kids Received Clothes

50 ↑
Families Served



STRATEGIC CONNECTION

DEVELOPING A SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

HOMETOWN EXPANSION

Our strategic goals are to establish a physical location, expand Life INC classes, increase community awareness, and grow our volunteer base. We aim to use this new space as a ministry hub through prayer, classes, and community engagement.

Small Town, Big Impact

Love INC Sturgis brings the Love INC model to Sturgis. We receive people with dignity, connecting them to volunteers, and guiding them toward lasting transformation through Life INC classes, church partners, and mentoring relationships.

<p>30</p> <p>Volunteers Served</p> <p>↑</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Life INC Graduates</p> <p>↑</p>
<p>36%</p> <p>Area Churches Participated in Annual Church Bowl Off Event</p> <p>↑</p>	



A Room, A Community, and A Fresh Start

When Patricia came to Love INC Sturgis, she was living out of her vehicle. Referred by her pastor, she arrived already working hard on her own, researching housing options and hitting dead ends. At our next Churches Care for Whitewood Alliance meeting, we shared her situation with local church partners. An elderly couple in attendance, Burt and Barb, offered her their guest room. After a warm conversation, Patricia had a place to call home. The very next day, she showed up to volunteer with Love INC, giving back even while navigating her own challenges.

-  **STRATEGIC CONNECTION**
-  **HOMETOWN EXPANSION**
-  **CHURCH MOBILIZATION**

Our strategic goals are to strengthen church partnerships, expand community engagement, build a strong donor base, and grow our volunteer team. We aim to build relationships and increase visibility while strengthening systems for training and collaboration.

Financial Reports

2025 Income	Black Hills	Sturgis	Hill City	Total	%
Business	\$167,086	\$4,500	\$5,000	\$176,586	13%
Organizations & Grants	\$12,267	\$1,000		\$13,267	1%
Church	\$51,846	\$6,876	\$4,256	\$64,760	5%
Individual	\$719,081	\$28,930	\$8,550	\$756,561	57%
Taxable Dividends & Interest	\$37,100			\$37,100	3%
Sales	\$243,645			\$243,645	18%
Ticket Sales	\$25,413	\$4,734		\$30,148	2%
Total	\$1,261,819	\$46,040	\$19,588	\$1,327,447	

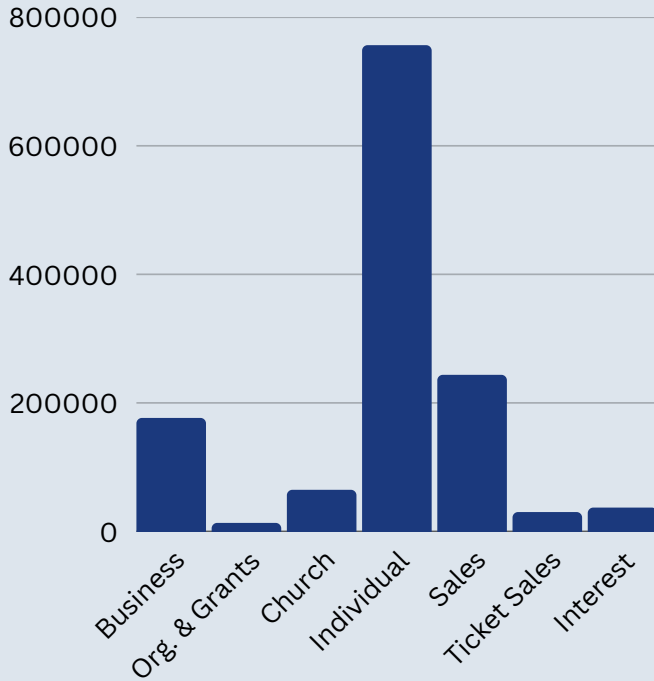
2025 Total Expenses	General	Sturgis	Hill City	Total	%
Administration	\$110,363	\$959		\$111,322	10%
Donor Relations	\$131,780	\$4,796		\$136,576	12%
After School	\$20,888			\$20,888	2%
Connection Center	\$199,627			\$199,627	17%
Hometown	\$55,028			\$55,028	5%
Life INC	\$109,713	\$90,158	\$3,022	\$202,893	17%
RISE	\$171,707			\$171,707	15%
Church & Volunteer Relations	\$111,540			\$111,540	10%
UNITE	\$5,687			\$5,687	0%
Thrive	\$154,226			\$154,226	13%
Total	\$1,070,559	\$95,913	\$3,022	\$1,169,494	

Endowment Totals	2023	2024	2025
SD Community Foundation	849,571	849,063	921,596
BH Area Community Foundation	104,432	115,292	111,322

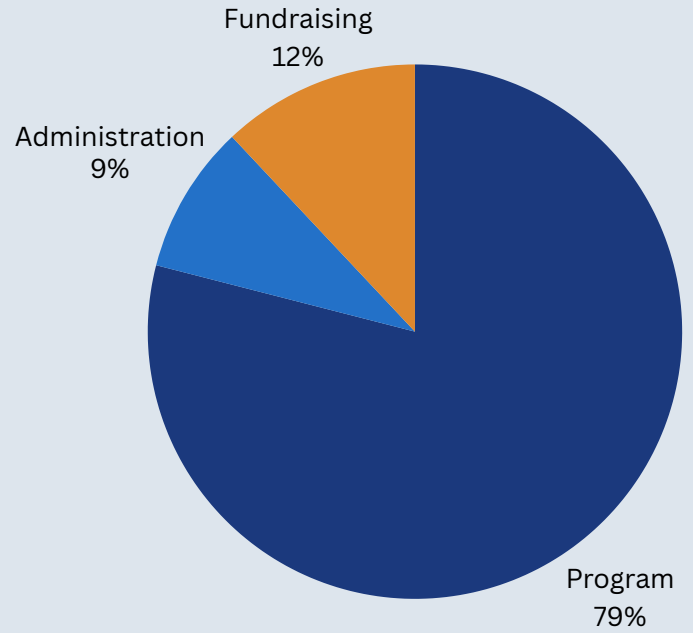
414 E Omaha RC Building Loans: \$580,110

Financial Reports

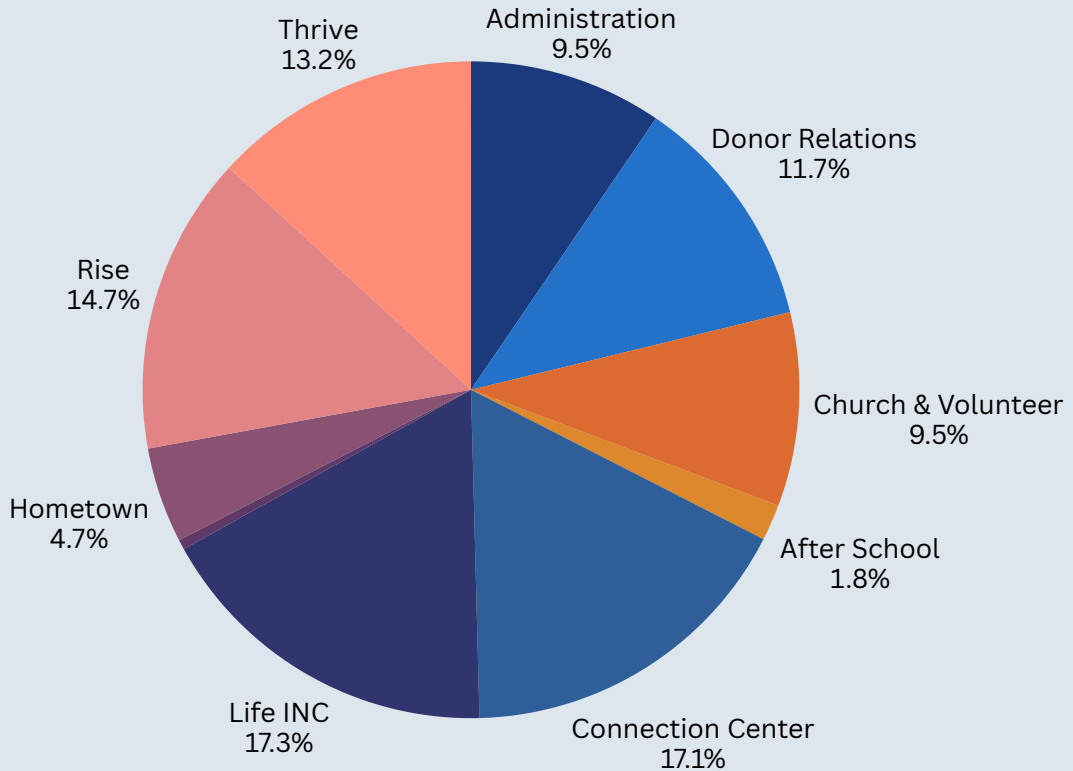
Income Statement



Statement of Functional Expenses



Expense Statement



2025 Love INC Board of Directors



Hollie Strand
President



Craig Moore
Vice President



Kim Reed
Treasurer



Frances Becker
Secretary



Donna Larson
Member



Dan Bruner
Member



Deb Holland
Member



Josh Bybee
Member



Natalie Cutler
Member

**Join us in transforming lives and communities
In the Name of Christ.**



Donate

Give personally, partner through your business, or donate quality household items, adventure gear, or medical equipment to support local families.



SCAN HERE TO MAKE
A DONATION TO LOVE INC



Partner

Volunteer your time and talents, or partner as a church, business, or community organization to love your neighbors and strengthen our community.



SCAN HERE TO SUBMIT
A VOLUNTEER APPLICATION



Shop

RISE Furnishings & Décor
Open Saturdays 9-1

Thrive Adventure Gear
Wed-Fri 9-5
Sat 9-1



SCAN HERE TO FOLLOW
ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Love INC Staff



John Ligtenberg
Exec. Director



Sheryl Hatch
Director of Finance & Support Services



Shawn Hayford
Rapid City Director of Operations



Jenn Vee
Rapid City Connection Center Director



Sean Donnelly
Love INC Sturgis Director



Sarah Koontz
Donor Ministry Director



Destri Diehl
RISE Retail Ministry Manager



Jordan Schneider
Thrive Retail Ministry Manager



Jill Peterson
Life INC Director



April Jones
Life INC KidsMin Coordinator



Kaleb Langham
Stuff Management Coordinator



JJ Dusing
Marketing & Communications Coordinator