



LOVE
for lane county

Serving Our Community | Loving Like Jesus

Volunteer Training & Orientation

Our Mission: Love for Lane County exists to identify and support unmet needs within our community, providing members of local churches an opportunity to serve.

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Our Clearinghouse receives over 500 calls per month. That is 500+ opportunities to make an impact in the life of someone in need. In our first 5 years, we were able to meet over 4,000 individual needs for more than 6,000 adults and children, and our volunteers logged nearly 17,000 hours in service to our community.

What we do: Love for Lane County is committed to providing a holistic response to unmet needs through active faith. Our primary focus is to offer short-term practical, hands-on assistance for those who are in desperate need in our community and have nowhere else to turn. We provide “gap services” to meet the needs of our community, providing support that other agencies are unable to offer. Keeping in mind, we are not an emergency service.

Who we serve: we serve everyone with equal passion. We provide services to individuals without regard to race, ethnic origin, religion, gender, age, or disability.

Volunteering with Love for Lane County

All volunteers must be in agreement with the Beliefs Statement (“What We Believe”, found below). With a broad support base of churches, we are able to effectively serve the community in practical ways, resulting in transformed lives! Love for Lane County facilitates opportunities for you to love your community in really practical ways

What makes us unique?

- Flexible, we work with YOUR schedule
- A large variety of service options
- Partnering with believers from other churches
- A sense of unity/teamwork
- Seeing lives changed through simple acts of love

Areas of service

There is something for everyone at Love for Lane County

- Rides to medical appointments, grocery store, post office, etc.
- Light yard work
- Prayer requests
- Helping at the warehouse (logistics and coordination)
- Transporting donated furniture and goods to our client’s homes
- Preparing meals
- Delivering firewood
- Administrative duties and data entry in our office
- Answering phones and working in the Clearinghouse call center
- Graphic design, marketing, and social media

What We Believe

One Body, United in Christ

Since the beginning our organization, (formerly Love INC of Central Lane County), Christ has been central to bringing together a broad base of Christian churches in a community to minister to the needs of that community. We partner with a network of churches and a wide variety of denominations. Together we focus not on theological or doctrinal differences, denominational practices, political or social agendas, but on our belief in the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and outreach to people in need while showing the love of Christ. We bring together mainline Protestant, evangelical Protestant, Roman Catholic, Orthodox, and other Christian churches to minister as the full, unified body of Christ to people in need. We affirm the incarnate deity of Jesus Christ, the need to live in accordance with His will for their lives, and that the Bible is the written Word of God.

Today's Meeting Agenda:

- A general look at poverty; the history of it, God's thoughts about it, and types
- The differences in how individuals with different levels of financial income view life (Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs & Hidden Rules Among Classes)
- Different types of compassion (Charity & Developmental)
- Give insights in how volunteers can practically serve through Love for Lane County's unique approach
- Q & A
- Clearinghouse & warehouse tour

General look at poverty

We do not want to generalize the individuals struggling in poverty because each person has their individual story and reason for their place of need. Generalization can lead to being judgmental.

Biblical look at poverty:

- God's provisions in His laws: "When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest. 10 You shall not strip your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the Lord your God." -Leviticus 19:9-10
- God's Instruction: "Give liberally and be ungrudging when you do so, for on this account the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake." -Deut. 15:10
- God's listening ear and response: "Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?" -James 2:15-16

Types of poverty

People are living in poverty when they don't have enough of what it takes to fulfill basic human needs such as food, clothing and shelter. Poverty can be a temporary or chronic situation. *Please remember that lack of wise management of a person's funds can make it appear as though their lives are impoverished when in reality there IS enough money to meet basic needs but because of choices, it is actually the allocation of resources that leads to difficulty meeting basic needs. Here are the three basic types of poverty:*

1. **Situational Poverty:** have entered into poverty within their generation and are experiencing changed circumstances like illness, divorce, debt, loss of employment, death of a primary wage earner, etc.
2. **Generational Poverty:** people whose families have been in poverty for 2 generations or longer and for whom living with a lack of resources, including financial hardship, has become a way of life. In the US, It can be a learned lifestyle to be and stay dependent on governmental social service programs for income.
3. **Relational Poverty:** People who are isolated, without a support network, and do not have family members for support (by the choice of either side of the family or due to death or physical location), friends, or even neighbors to turn to in time of need.

MASLOW'S HIERARCHY OF NEEDS & HIDDEN RULES AMONG CLASSES

See additional handouts for this information.

Types of compassion

Stance #1: offer relief without question to all on a fair distribution.

Stance #2: the recipient should be engaged and participating on some level in order to receive help.

1. **Charity Compassion**

Most Common of compassionate giving. This is a critical and necessary component in helping meet real physical needs.

Positive Aspects:

- Biblical Basis: Luke 10:33 The Good Samaritan
- Can be done individually and independently

Negative Aspects:

- Reactive
- Can create dependency rather than developing independence
- Giver cannot / will not continue giving: Compassion Fatigue
- Does not address the root reason
- Giver can remain detached and allow for self-serving motive
- Can reinforce recipient's negative feelings about themselves
- Can be INJURIOUS UNLESS IT HELPS RECIPIENT TO BECOME INDEPENDENT OF IT

2. **Developmental Compassion**

This is help given that engages the giver and the recipient so both parties are an active part of the solution...NOT DONE **to** OR **for** PEOPLE but **with** people....almost ALWAYS done hand-in –hand with Charity Compassion.

Positive Aspects:

- Affect change
- Is Biblical Leviticus 19...law given
- Is responsive and not reactive
- Is not driven by emotions
- Relationship and ministry are built in
- Offers a hand up rather than a hand out because it requires participation of both parties
- Empowers the recipient
- Networking built in
- Restores dignity and grows positive behaviors
- Sets boundaries and expectations

Negative Aspects:

- Less common
- May be perceived as unkind
- More difficult and time consuming
- A commitment is necessary
- Giver will probably be giving time, talent and treasure
- Positive and negative: Can be perceived as "unkind" has positive side: difficulty can be a great teacher

A great book to dig into these areas of compassion is, "When Helping Hurts" by Steve Corbett & Brian Fikkert

Love for Lane County's Philosophy in Helping Those in Need

#1 Focus on the person and not the need.

In the forefront of our minds should always be how to love the person in need while directing them toward Christ as their Savior through our words and actions if given the opportunity.

- Focus on relationship. We're not just about distributing "stuff."
- Engage them as much as possible in the solution to their problem. In doing so, you help them to not feel trapped by their situation. Further, it helps them feel that they have something to contribute. They have value.
- We take the time to invest in someone. This means looking beyond the need to see the person. Thinking about the story behind the story is critical to better understand, identify additional need, clarify and discern how to best address the situation.
- We verify the need and sometimes have to choose what might be labeled "tough love."

#2 Make decisions based on facts not emotions.

- Reactive giving vs. responsive giving

#3 Remember that certain emotions can be present as people live with great needs.

- Hopelessness, worthlessness, embarrassment, insignificance, unimportance, powerlessness, incompetence, dependence, defeat, helplessness, anger, entitlement, rejection, unloved, humiliation, imprisonment, isolation, depression, and frustration.

Love for Lane County's Goal – Practical

Our goal should be to improve a person's life rather than to help maintain a lifestyle that keeps the recipient from becoming self-sustaining.

Love for Lane County's Goal – Spiritual

Our goal is to help people grow in their relationship with God. We do that through our actions, voice, inflections, body language and conversations. We should always be ready to give an answer for the hope that lies within us as followers of Christ.

Practical Service Insights

1. Before calling someone or going to help someone PRAY for wisdom and discernment.
2. Remind yourself not to judge but that there is always a story behind a story.
3. You may be asked for money; it is important that you do not give money to people that you are helping, even if they if they ask.
4. Only help in the way you were asked to assist.
5. Show care and Christ's love with healthy personal boundaries at the outset.
6. Call Love for Lane County Clearinghouse Coordinator, Volunteer Coordinator or Executive Director if you feel a "check in your spirit", a concern, sense a "red flag".
7. In all you do and say CONSIDER how the gospel can be shared in deeds and words.
8. Remember you are not all things....nor should you try to be, or feel like you need to be to anyone.
9. Love for Lane County's mission is not to fix everything that is difficult in anyone's life. It is to join Christians together
10. Remember that if you are repeatedly putting in more effort than the person you are helping, then things are out of balance.
11. Remember that there is a high likelihood that the recipient not only has physical needs but also emotional, relational and spiritual needs to which you can minister.
12. We would like for people going to client's homes to go in pairs for safety.
13. Never make promises to clients, but reassure them that we rely on the provisions of God, through His people.