

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NATIONAL NONPROFIT UNIQUELY ADDRESSES NEEDS OF THE
POOR BY FILLING THE GAP
Love INC Gap Ministries Innovative New Ways to Help Those in Need**

MINNEAPOLIS, (October 14, 2010) –While many organizations working in poverty relief strive to make a difference, typically the help comes in traditional ways such as through food shelves, clothing and temporary assistance. One organization, however, is addressing poverty in unique ways. Love INC, a national nonprofit organization that unites churches to meet the needs of the poor, has developed Gap Ministries, or ministries that fill in a “gap” in services to the poor, in the 156 communities it serves. The organization now has 100 different types of gap ministries serving the poor across the country in the areas of food, clothing, shelter, health care, life skills, and family support services.

Gap Ministries are created once available community services for the poor are assessed. Then the local Love INC affiliate steps in to create services for the poor that are not being offered. Love INC does not duplicate services that are adequate in a community, but instead looks for unique ways to serve the poor with a focus on building relationships that engage the poor so that lives can be transformed.

Gap Ministries vary by community. However, one example of Love INC’s Gap Ministry in food is F.A.R.M. (Feeding and Reaching Many) in Idaho which solicits and coordinates the donation of animals, transportation to slaughterhouses, cutting and packaging by meat packers, and shipment to pantry and shelter sites to provide quality meats to food shelves. Another is Road Kill Ministry in a community in Alaska that is working with the Fish and Wildlife Protection Agency. Volunteers are organized to respond to the scene of the road kill and butchers are identified to prepare and wrap the meat to provide meat for people in need. To meet needs around shelter, a Love INC in Illinois created a Gap Ministry called the Bunk Bed ministry in which church volunteers solicit supplies, build and deliver

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bunk beds to clients with children who are sleeping on the floor or sharing a bed. To meet needs in health care, a Gap Ministry in Michigan, is the Prescription Medication Advocacy which uses nurses to meet with clients who cannot afford medications to assist with the process of securing free prescriptions from pharmaceutical company patient assistance programs.

Founded in 1977, Love In the Name of Christ (Love INC) brings churches together across denominational lines to help the poor with immediate needs such as food and clothing, to longer-term responses such as transitional housing programs, health care and life skills training. Love INC meets more than one million needs each year through 156 affiliates in 30 states, representing a network of more than 9,000 churches, 7,000 community-based organizations, and 300,000 volunteers working to serve the poor. For more information about Love INC visit www.loveinc.org or call 1-800-777-5277.