



Greetings Love INC Affiliates,

We're looking forward to seeing you at the 2019 Love INC National Gathering this August.

Don't underestimate the value of connecting with other Love INC teams from across the country. We are keeping our content and approach fresh. This year, you'll dig deep into **one track of your choosing**, allowing for in-depth learning, and providing extended time to network.

This year's theme is, "Cultivate: Courage, Compassion and Connection". Cultivating is an on-going work with perennial impact. These three Cs are important to Love INC's work, and will be explored during our plenary sessions.

By the way, don't miss out on the new Love INC affiliate **database product demonstration** on Day-Zero (Wednesday afternoon). It'll be worth driving or flying in a few hours early.

Come to be encouraged and equipped. We are back in metro-Minneapolis at the **Westwood Community Church**.

Thank you for all you do. It is a privilege and blessing to be in this kingdom work together with you.



In Christ,

Kirk Vander Molen, Love INC National Executive Director

Table of Contents

Special Guests.....	3
Schedule.....	5
Tracks.....	7
Travel & Lodging.....	11
Register now!.....	12

<http://bit.ly/2019NationalGathering>

Special Guests

Mark Brown, Northwest Iowa Community College

Mark Brown graduated from the University of Iowa with a double major of accounting and finance. He is a Certified Public Accountant and is currently Vice President of Finance and Operations at Northwest Iowa Community College. Mark served as a Board Member during the formation of Love INC of O'Brien County in 2003. He is now a volunteer Faith and Finances facilitator in the O'Brien County transformational ministry program as well as the Love INC National Lead Trainer for Faith and Finances for Love INC communities across the country. Mark has three grown children and one grandchild, and lives in Sheldon, Iowa with his wife, Lori.

Dr. Christina H. Edmondson, Calvin College

Blessed by an array of academic, professional and lived experiences, Christina is committed to bringing diverse people together to promote personal and team flourishing. Christina holds a PhD in Counseling Psychology from Tennessee State University, a MS degree from the University of Rochester in Family Therapy, and a Bachelor's degree in Sociology from Hampton University. Christina serves as the Dean for Intercultural Student Development at Calvin College. A Certified Cultural Intelligence facilitator, public speaker, and mental health therapist, Christina consults churches on diversity and mental health issues.

Anne Bachle Fifer, Peacemaker Ministries

Anne Bachle Fifer is a mediator, facilitator, arbitrator, and mediation trainer based in Grand Rapids, Michigan. A licensed attorney, her mediation experience includes business, family, and workplace disputes, as well as church-based conflicts integrating Christian principles with the mediation process. She frequently conducts basic and advanced mediation training, and she has long been a mediator, trainer, and Certified Christian Conciliator with Peacemaker Ministries.

Mike Fredrick, WayCool Software Inc.

Mike is President and Founder of WayCool Software. He earned a B.S. in Computer Science, Cum Laude from the University of Alabama at Birmingham in 1986. He is married to Kelley, who is Center Director at a pro-life pregnancy center. They have two college age sons; Cayman and Kai. The family lives in rural Shelby County, Alabama and counts one dog, two cats, twenty chickens and a million bees. Mike works on old vehicles, maintains their property, and is a news talk radio host in Birmingham. He was also a National Spokesperson for FairTax, giving over 300 radio interviews and speeches across the country.

Virgil Gulker, Founder of Love INC

A social entrepreneur by nature, Virgil has dedicated his life to helping churches find innovative ways to engage their members – the laypeople – in the lives of at-risk children and families. This passion found expression in the creation of a number of faith-based ministries, including: Love INC, Love for Children, and Kids Hope USA. Virgil is currently involved at Hope College's Center for Leadership where he is the director of Generation Spark, an intergenerational mentoring ministry, funded by the Lilly Endowment, to help churches reduce the scary number of youth who leave each year.

Sean Landolt, The Chalmers Center, Volunteer

Sean Landolt is certified in both Faith & Finances and **Work Life**, Sean loves to connect and see transformation in the lives of others as they discover God's reconciling power. He has found both curricula to be great resources for building teams of people in the church that can reach out to its under-resourced community and begin the process of healing. He has taught Work Life at The Community House Outreach supported by Cross Central and is now actively working with the church leadership to start up the Faith & Finances curriculum having taught both curriculum in other church contexts for many years.

Jonathan Marbutt, WayCool Software Inc.

As the Vice President of Development for WayCool Software, Inc. He is passionate about building software that improves ministries by connecting them to their community. Outside the ministry world, Jonathan has consulted with many companies, ranging from Microsoft, Coca-cola, and Bridgestone Tire to RazorFish Interactive. Jonathan has written two technical books and edited many others. Jonathan is married to Jennifer and has a beautiful daughter, Kathryn, who just completed treatment for Pre-B ALL Leukemia. Through this, Jonathan's passion has grown for new ministries and impacting people going through a crisis in their own life.

Mark McCloskey, Bethel Seminary

Mark is a graduate of Miami University (B.A.) and Bethel Seminary (M. Div.). He earned his Ph.D. at the University of South Florida in the College of Education, Department of Leadership Development. His focus of study was organizational leadership, adult education, and research and measurement. Since 1998, Mark has served at Bethel Seminary. He is presently lead faculty for the Master of Arts in Transformational Leadership and Professor of Ministry Leadership. Additionally, Mark consults with businesses, churches, and non-profit organizations in the areas of leadership development, strategic planning, and team building. His newest book on leadership thought is entitled, *The Art of Virtue-Based Transformational Leadership* (2016).

Brian Noble, Peacemaker Ministries

Brian Noble is Executive Director/CEO of Peacemaker Ministries, and author of "The Path of a Peacemaker". He was a pastor for over 20 years, and is a certified Christian Conciliator with 1000+ hours of conflict coaching and mediation experience. His work is dedicated to helping Christians reconcile their differences in a way that glorifies God, bringing authentic peace that blends justice, mercy, and humility.

Schedule of Events

Tuesday Evening – Affirming Potential Track (only)

Tuesday evening attendance is required for those who choose to participate in the Affirming Potential Track. Don't make the mistake of flying or driving in on Tuesday – instead of Wednesday – unless this is your track of choice.

The AP Track will be held at the [Westwood Community Church](#).

6:30 – 8:00 PM – Affirming Potential Track (begins)

Wednesday Afternoon – Day Zero

A lot is happening on Day Zero this year. For some Gathering participants, Day Zero is optional. For others it's required. It really all depends on the tracks you choose to participate in during the conference.

Going to Day Zero? Meet us at the [Westwood Community Church](#).

9:00 AM – 4:45 PM – Affirming Potential Track

1:00 – 4:00 PM – WayCool Database Product Demonstration

1:00 – 4:00 PM – Faith & Finances Track (begins)

1:00 – 4:00 PM – Work Life Track (begins)

Wednesday Evening – Registration and Kickoff

The Gathering officially starts at the [Westwood Community Church](#) which is a short drive from the suggested hotels. There will be NO shuttle service this year. Please plan on renting a car or coordinating rides on your own. We created a thread on the [Message Board in the Affiliate Resource Center](#) to help you coordinate. Not interested in receiving messages regarding carpooling? Remove yourself from the thread while continuing to receive information regarding other pertinent Message Board topics.

4:30 – 5:30 PM – Gathering Registration

5:30 – 6:30 PM – Reception with Dinner

6:30 – 7:30 PM – Welcome, Praise & Worship, & Conference Kick-off

Thursday

Roll out of bed, enjoy breakfast at your hotel, and then grab your notebook and pen before heading over to the **Westwood Community Church** for your track of choice! Remember, you'll follow the same track throughout the entire conference.

- 8:00 - 8:30 AM** - Registration & Coffee
- 8:30 - 8:50 AM** - Praise & Worship
- 8:50 - 9:45 AM** - Plenary #1: Courage
- 9:45 - 10:00 AM** - Break
- 10:00 - 12:00 AM** - Tracks
- 12:00 - 12:45 PM** - Lunch
- 12:45 - 1:45 PM** - Plenary #2: Compassion
- 1:45 - 2:00 PM** - Break
- 2:00 - 5:00 PM** - Tracks
- 5:30 - 6:30 PM** - WayCool Database Q&A (optional)
- Free Evening** - Dinner on your own

Friday

By Friday morning you'll be completely immersed in your track and making great relational connections with people from across the Love INC Movement! Once again, we will meet at **Westwood Community Church**. We'll have the coffee on!

- 8:00 - 8:15 AM** - Coffee at the Church
- 8:15 - 8:30 AM** - Praise & Worship
- 8:30 - 9:30 AM** - Plenary #3: Connection
- 9:30 - 9:45 AM** - Break
- 9:45 - 11:45 AM** - Tracks
- 11:45 - 12:30 PM** - Lunch
- 12:30 - 1:15 PM** - Plenary #4: National Update
- 1:15 - 1:30 PM** - Break
- 1:30 - 4:30 PM** - Tracks
- 4:30 - 6:00 PM** - Free Time
- 6:00 - 8:00 PM** - Closing Banquet at the Church

Tracks

This year, we aren't offering individual workshops - we're offering tracks. Choose the track you want to take and stick with it throughout the entire conference. We're offering a wide variety of tracks to you and your team. Sign-up everyone on your team for a different track OR attend the same one. It's your choice!

#1: Faith & Finances

led by: Mark Brown, National Lead Faith & Finances Trainer

- For operating affiliates only
- Attendance limited to 20
- Online training is required before the Gathering and begins on Monday, July 8th
- Live training will begin on Wednesday, August 14 at 1:00 PM
- Registration Required by Early Bird Deadline on May 30th
- Early Bird Pricing, plus \$35 for additional training

This curriculum is designed to help your affiliate work specifically with low-income adults. Add Faith & Finances to your Transformational Ministry Program to address the challenges the materially poor face and help them rediscover their God-given dignity.

This two-part facilitator training includes: four weeks of online training prior to the live training at the Gathering.

#2: Work Life

led by: Sean Landolt, The Chalmers Center

- For operating affiliates only
- Attendance limited to 15
- Online training required before the Gathering and begins on Monday, July 8th
- Live training will begin on Wednesday, August 14 at 1:00 PM
- Registration Required by Early Bird Deadline on May 30th
- Early Bird Pricing, plus \$35 for additional training

Helping people find and keep meaningful work is one of the best ways to address the root causes of poverty. Work Life is a soft job-skills training program for people who are unemployed or underemployed. The program empowers participants with the skills, character, and relationships to find work - and flourish in it. At the facilitator training course, you'll gain the skills and confidence to start a Work Life class in your affiliate!

The training begins with four weeks of online learning with other participants, three days of training integrated with Love INC's National Gathering, a copy of the Work Life Facilitator and Participant Guides, and hands-on practice using the curriculum with feedback from your peers.

#3: Affirming Potential

led by: Lois Tupy & Renee Howe, Love INC of Treasure Valley

- For operating affiliates only
- Attendance limited to 25
- Minimum of 2 participants from an affiliate, required
- Transformational Vision & Reality training is a prerequisite
- Training begins on Tuesday, August 13 at 6:30 PM
- Registration Required by Early Bird Deadline on May 30th
- Early Bird Pricing, plus \$35 for additional training
- Each affiliate participating in Affirming Potential must purchase an \$200 Toolkit. Love INC of Treasure Valley will bill affiliates separately.

This training will prepare your affiliate to provide Affirming Potential as a Transformational Ministry Class. Affirming Potential is a twelve-week class that explores the physical, emotional, relational, and spiritual areas of a person's life from a biblical perspective. The AP Dream Tool will help participants set and achieve goals and action steps to help them achieve their full potential. Affirming Potential is a unique offering by Love INC of Treasure Valley and endorsed by Love INC National.

#4: Leadership Development

led by: Dr. Christina Edmondson, Calvin College

led by: Mark McCloskey, Transformational Leadership Consultant

This track will explore the qualities and activities of a biblical transformational leader based on the ministry of Nehemiah and the example of Jesus. Sessions will include the difference between transactional leaders and transformational leaders, the critical importance of godly virtue, the power of godly transforming vision, aligning volunteers and leading as a faithful steward. This track will guide participants to evaluate and improve their own leadership, and offer practical suggestions for leading effectively in a uniquely Love INC context.

#5: Peacemaker

led by: Brian Noble and Anne Bachle Fifer, Peacemaker Ministries

The work of Love INC is not immune to conflict: Between staff, within boards, with volunteers, and relationships with churches. It is a matter of when not if, right?

Navigating through conflict is important to do well. It isn't everyone's favorite topic, but be proactive and equip yourself. In this track, you will learn a three-dimensional response to conflict that is biblical, practical, and effective.

Peacemaker Ministries has a proven track record in equipping people in conflict resolution, and will be delivering a new resource called, The Path of a Peacemaker. In this engaging, interactive two-day course, you

will not just study biblical principles and learn how to apply them, you'll discuss and practice them in role plays.

You will emerge with solid foundational skills to be a peacemaker.

#6: Redemptive Compassion®

led by: Shelley Zimmerman, Love INC of Newaygo

Redemptive Compassion® is a biblical philosophy on how we can offer holistic help to those we serve. It challenges many current and common ways of addressing need based on its six core principles.

- So how do we help our churches understand and embrace this philosophy?
- What might it look like to walk alongside our churches through this training process?

In this track, we will walk through the facilitation of the Redemptive Compassion study together and discuss ways to better engage our churches.

#7: Love INC Core for All

led by: Love INC National Staff

guest appearance by: Virgil Gulker

In the 1960 Super Bowl, the Green Bay Packers suffered a crushing loss to the Philadelphia Eagles. Green Bay's iconic coach, Vince Lombardi, started next year's training camp methodically covering the fundamentals of football to seasoned professional athletes and continued throughout training camp. Just one year later, the Packers won the Super Bowl.

This track is relevant to everyone; those just beginning or long-timers. Are we who we say we are to each other and the communities we serve?

Topics include: missional integrity, core values, ministry modes, church relationships, community connections, Redemptive Compassion®, board responsibilities, Love INC resources, and more.

#8: Marketing & Communications

led by: Love INC Metro Tampa Team

How high impact is your affiliate's messaging, media storytelling, and fundraising?

Love INC of Metro Tampa (www.loveinctampa.org) will share their "best practices" in two hands-on sessions presented by communications, training, and media expert, Darlene Coker (www.organiclearn.com) and co-founders, Ann and Michael Doyle.

Utilizing a two-track workshop format, Messaging, Media, and Promotion & Storytelling and Fundraising, allows participants to self-assess current practices, share best/most-effective practices, discover new

concepts, skills, and techniques, and develop initial products to take home. It is recommended that participants attend as an affiliate team to maximize workshop impact.

Travel & Lodging

Airport

Fly into the **Minneapolis Saint Paul Airport** and hail a taxi, rent a car, or carpool with friends. Plan on a 30-minute drive from the airport to your hotel. Love INC National **does not** coordinate transportation to and from the airport.

Hotel

This year there are **three hotel choices** for Gathering participants to choose from.

Each hotel is a short drive to the church facility. **Love INC National is not coordinating a shuttle service** to and from the hotel and church. Plan on renting a car or coordinating rides with others.

Please note at each hotel:

- Book a room in the **Love INC Block**.
- Non-booked rooms will be released on July 13, 2019.
- Complimentary continental breakfasts are included.

AmericInn by Wyndham

370 Pond Promenade
Chanhassen, MN 55317
612-293-6930
\$109.90/night for double queen

Holiday Inn Express & Suites

7855 Century Blvd
Chanhassen, MN 55317
952-401-8850
\$119.00/night for double queen; \$129.00/night for single king

Country Inn & Suites by Radisson

591 W 78th St
Chanhassen, MN 55317
952-937-2424
\$129.00/night for double queen; \$139.00/night for single king

Church

The **Westwood Community Church** is graciously hosting the Love INC Gathering. Their retreat like setting offers opportunities for short, rejuvenating walks between sessions or relaxing on expansive outdoor balconies.

Please give their staff and volunteers a warm Love INC greeting.

3121 Westwood Dr, Excelsior, MN 55331, 952-224-7300

Register now!

The Love INC National Board and Staff are eager to meet as a family, again. A year seems too long. As you prepare for the 2019 National Gathering, we want to encourage you to begin asking God to open your ears and heart to His will. What does He want you to learn? What areas of your heart or local Love INC need intensive cultivation? How does God want you - in this next season - to connect with others, show compassion, or demonstrate courage?

Whether you are a Love INC Executive Director, Board Member, Staff Person, Donor, Volunteer, or Church Partner - join us!

Attend the Gathering for the “ING” factor

- **NetworkING:** A highlight for many each year is networking – conversations in the hallway, at lunch or during a walk around the lake. Who knows? That “one” conversation about that “one” thing could be that “one” reason it was worth attending.
- **SharpenING:** A primary goal of this year's Gathering is to equip affiliates to cultivate: courage, compassion, and connection personally and in ministry.
- **EncouragING:** The work of ministry is demanding. We're torn in many directions and always giving. This year's retreat like atmosphere will refresh your spirit while the workshops will reignite your passion for the mission of Love INC. We hope and trust that God will meet you in a powerful way.
- **CelebratING:** Join us to thank and praise God for His faithfulness and hear an update and a vision for the future.

Included in Cost:

- Meet-and-greet with meal and opening session on Wednesday evening
- Inspiring plenary sessions on Thursday and Friday
- Two full days of training in the track you choose
- Dinner and program on Friday evening
- A wealth of training resources and handouts
- Network and fellowship with other Love INC staff/volunteers from around the country
- Lunch on Thursday and Friday
- Coffee, Soft Drinks, and Snacks each day (morning and afternoon breaks)

Register now!

<http://bit.ly/2019NationalGathering>

Event Dates:

August 14-16, 2019

Early Bird Pricing:

\$240 (ends May 30, 2019)

Please Note: Faith & Finances, Work Life, and Affirming Potential require participants to register on or before May 30th. An additional \$35 will be added to these tracks due to additional training received.

Regular Pricing:

\$265 (ends July 16, 2019)

Non-Participant:

\$25 (Friday Banquet and Program only)

Cancellation Policy:

Refund/cancellation date for all registrants is **July 23, 2019**.

However, if you are unable to attend the Gathering and have already registered, you may substitute someone in your place.

We strongly encourage as many people as possible from each affiliate to attend.