

# One Life



Janelle is just one example of a life changed by the love of Christ. Love INC meets more than one million needs each year.



# One Life

## CHANGED

*“Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” Isaiah 40:31*

“I can’t even begin to describe the emotions we went through in those first months after Sean’s diagnosis.” In June 2006, Janelle’s son was diagnosed with acute myelogenous leukemia just two weeks after his third birthday. From that time on, Janelle was engaged in an around-the-clock battle for his life. In order for Sean to receive treatment from a specialist, Janelle brought him to a hospital in Hershey, Pennsylvania, fifty miles from home. “We eventually had to give up our house because no one was ever home; we were at the hospital 24/7. My other children bounced around between grandparents,” Janelle said.

Over the next several months, Sean underwent two rounds of chemotherapy and a stem cell transplant. Janelle finally received the news that Sean was cancer-free, but the battle was far from over. Sean was now suffering from severe side effects of the treatments, including osteoporosis, multiple infections, and chronic lung disease.

Janelle and her family moved into an apartment in Hershey to be near the medical center where Sean would receive ongoing care once he was released from the hospital. He was scheduled for treatment at least three times a week, but Janelle didn’t know how she could get him to his appointments. She couldn’t drive, and Sean couldn’t use public transportation because his immune system was so weak. A social worker at the hospital suggested she call Love INC of Greater Hershey.

Through Love INC, church volunteers provided Janelle and Sean with rides to and from his appointments. As the volunteers spent time with Janelle and

her family, special relationships began to form. Janelle remembers the first time she met a volunteer named Christine. “When she came walking up to our place, my youngest daughter ran up to her and gave her the biggest hug. She was a stranger, but instantly there was a connection.”

Christine sensed the connection, too. “Janelle was a stranger who became a friend, and a friend who became family.” Christine and other Love INC volunteers came alongside Janelle and her family to provide them with the help they needed just to go about their daily lives. “Many people don’t know what childhood cancer looks like—how it debilitates an entire family spiritually, emotionally, physically, and financially,” Christine said. Love INC volunteers organized meals, housecleaning, and childcare for Janelle’s other children when she was at the clinic with Sean all day. They tutored Janelle on her driver’s test, provided financial counseling, and assisted with providing groceries.

The loving support and encouragement Janelle received from Love INC staff and volunteers helped her find strength and hope in God. “There was a point during Sean’s treatment where I gave up hope in my faith,” Janelle said. “Love INC has helped me have faith again.”

“We were able to witness to Janelle about God’s love in the darkest times,” Christine said. “Love INC has given Janelle a lifeline, a place to go when things get desperately dark to show her there’s still hope. She has people involved in her life who care about her. She was taken away from everything she knew—her home, her family. Love INC has become an extension of her family.”