

## PROGRAM BENEFITS

- Prayer support
- Friendship mentoring
- Partnering with you to budget household expenses
- Trained caseworker to connect you with resources and support
- Guidance from volunteer experts (*i.e. accountants, bankers, counselors, business people and more*)
- Access to resources offered by local churches
- Becoming part of the Life Skills family
- Opportunities to grow in faith

The **L.I.F.E. Skills** Program  
meets year-round in these locations :

Pullman – Tuesday evening – 6:00 to 8:00 pm

Allegan – Tuesday evening – 5:30 to 7:30 pm

Hamilton – Thursday evening - 6:00 to 8:00 pm

Allegan Jail - Weekdays

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO JOIN  
THE PROGRAM

Call the office and speak to a L.I.F.E. Skills' staff.

**ALLEGAN/HAMILTON** :: 269.751.2533

**PULLMAN** :: 269.236.6295



## L.I.F.E. SKILLS

### LEARNING IN FINANCES & EVERYDAY

Meaningful, Relational Help:  
Connecting Short-Term Needs  
with a Long-Term Plan

## WHAT IS L.I.F.E. Skills?

The L.I.F.E. Skills Program (Learning in Finances and Everyday Skills) is a weekly class and mentoring program that runs year-round offered in Allegan and Pullman on Tuesdays and in Hamilton on Thursdays. Each night participants spend an hour in class and one hour in mentoring. By attending class and meeting weekly goals, participants earn vouchers for regular access to pantry resources while working on long-term goals. It is a relational program that provides support, financial guidance, opportunity for personal growth and weekly accountability to achieve goals.

### JODY



*"Love INC showed us we were not alone. They showed us how to manage our budget and taught us skills to help us in everyday life. They showed us there is a light at the end of the tunnel, there is hope. They are a caring family."*

### DEB

*"I came to Love INC looking for help to get my life back in order. In the L.I.F.E. Skills classes they offered,*



*I have been able to get a handle on my debt and am successfully budgeting my money. I have a renewed belief in God and a better understanding of what "In The Name of Christ" means. I still struggle from time to time, but I now have the tools and power to keep it under control within my budget."*



### Hamilton/Allegan

4621 135th Ave  
Hamilton, MI 49419  
269.751.2533 ph  
269.751.6423 fax

### Pullman

943 56th St.  
Pullman, MI 49450  
Ph/Fax: 269.236.6295

[www.loveincnwa.org](http://www.loveincnwa.org)

Getting beyond today....

...for a better tomorrow

Offering more than you expect...

...we're mobilizing the church to

**transform** lives and our

community in the Name of Christ...

### CASEWORKER SUPPORT

- Completes assessments with entering families
- Orientates families to the program
- Oversees/supports the participant/mentor relationship
- Develops a relationship of care, respect, dignity and trust
- Reviews financial situation and helps in areas of potential benefit (i.e. educational, spiritual, emotional)
- Resource Advocate



### MENTORING

Mentors:

- Are trained, resourced and supported by L.I.F.E Skills' staff
- Help participants achieve goals through an accountable relationship
- Are a friend; listen to the participant in a non-judgmental way
- Share their faith and life experiences
- Keep the office aware of any situation that might require additional assistance to the participant
- Offer prayer support

### CLASSES OFFERED

- Successful Living (managing time, stress, conflict, relationships and setting boundaries)
- Budget Class (*credit reports, best bang for your buck, relating with money, handling collection practices, financial goals*)
- Bible Study (various topics)
- Home Finances (*dumping debt and budgeting*)
- Parenting God's Way (*discipline, limits, consequences, listening, challenging behaviors, respect, attention*)
- Food and Nutrition (*sponsored by MSU extension*)
- Boundaries (*promotes healthy relationships*)
- Families Victorious (*Christ centered approach to addictions*)
- Putting Your Past In Its Place (discover how to deal with and grow from your past)
- Getting Organized (organize incoming mail, filing, and storage of home financial papers)



**Randy and Laurie**

*"We were sinking. Getting to the point we could lose our home. Now we're not so stressed out anymore. We know what path we have to take".*

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### Do I give up control of my finances?

No, you will still have total control of your check book and bank accounts. We will help you assess your financial situation, establish a budget and achieve weekly goals.

#### What is the time commitment?

Up to a year-long, sometimes longer or shorter. Typically, at least six months is needed to make significant progress in achieving goals. Once in the program, weekly attendance is expected. The year is divided into four sections; every six weeks there is a week off and often two weeks over the holidays. People can join anytime during the year.

#### Is it just finances and budgeting?

No. L.I.F.E. Skills participants experience a community of support and care that helps them cope and make improvements in many areas specific to their situation: education, employment, housing, relationships, emotional health, community connections and faith. Relationships become very significant - often people say it becomes "family".

#### Why do I need to start with the budget class?

While many people are able to stretch a dollar and live off a small income, everyone will benefit from this class. Our budget class covers the basics of obtaining and reading your credit report, how to negotiate service contracts, how to measure a need versus a want, and how to organize and pay bills on time.

#### Will I be looked down upon?

Absolutely not. You will be among people that are in the same situation. We will assign a caseworker and mentor to walk with you through your struggles and triumphs.

#### Robert

*"L.I.F.E. Skills is there to help me get back on my feet...someone to talk to, without judging me."*



### CHILDREN'S MINISTRY (Hamilton Only)

On Thursdays, children (*newborn - high school*) of participants in the program are welcome to join our Children's Program. They will gather for a structured evening of crafts, storytime, Bible lessons, outdoor play time and snacks! Children will be served supper at 6:00pm.

### RESOURCES AVAILABLE THROUGH L.I.F.E. SKILLS

The Love In the Name of Christ network offers the following to people in need in Northwest Allegan County (including Hamilton, the City of Allegan and Pullman areas):

FOOD	PERSONAL NEED ITEMS
CLOTHING	HOUSEHOLD GOODS
BEDDING	APPLIANCES
BABY SUPPLIES	HAIRCUTS
FURNITURE	BICYCLES
GAS CARDS	OIL CHANGES