

THE PULSE

REAL PEOPLE. REAL NEEDS. REAL IMPACT.

ISSUE 001 / OCTOBER 2026

WE KEEP TALKING ABOUT HELPING PEOPLE. BUT ARE WE REALLY CHANGING ANYTHING?

A community conversation about dignity, responsibility, and what happens after the good intentions.

FROM THE HEART / DR. GAIL M. PHOENIX

I've spent enough years working with people, leading organizations, and serving communities to recognize the difference between caring about something and being willing to do something about it.

We have organizations with beautiful mission statements. Community meetings where everyone agrees something needs to change. Programs designed to address problems we've been discussing for decades. And people who genuinely want to make a difference.

Yet families are still trying to figure out where to turn. Young people are being told to make better decisions without always having the guidance, exposure, or support to understand their options. Adults are being encouraged to become self-sufficient while navigating systems that can make even the simplest next step unnecessarily difficult.

And somewhere in the middle of all this, we keep measuring activity and calling it impact.

How many people attended? How many flyers went out? How many events did we host? Those numbers have their place. But they don't tell us whether someone left with a better understanding of their options, a useful connection, or the confidence to take the next step.

Being present in a community is not the same as being accountable to that community.

FROM THE HEART / CONTINUED

I founded LOVE IN ACTION because I believe service should be personal, practical, and rooted in dignity. People do not need another organization telling them everything that's wrong with their lives. They need people willing to listen, recognize their strengths, share useful knowledge, open doors, and follow through.

That doesn't mean every problem has an easy solution. It doesn't mean a workshop will undo years of disadvantage or that a care kit will resolve someone's larger circumstances.

But it does mean we can stop confusing good intentions with meaningful action. And we can start asking harder questions about what happens after the applause, after the program, and after the photographs have been posted.

That's where the real work begins.

— Dr. Gail M. Phoenix | Founder

LOVE IN MOTION

Small acts. Real dignity.

Recently, 67 Care & Confidence Kits were delivered to Healthcare Alternative Systems (HAS) in Broadview.

On paper, that's 67 kits. Behind that number is a simple belief: people deserve to be considered, especially during moments when life may already be difficult.

A kit cannot solve unemployment, housing instability, family challenges, or the barriers someone may face while seeking help. We shouldn't pretend otherwise.

What it can do is meet an immediate need, offer a measure of comfort, and remind someone that they haven't been overlooked.

The greater responsibility is to connect acts of care to lasting relationships, practical resources, and opportunities that support people beyond a single moment.

We don't want to be known simply for what we give away. We want to be known for how we show up.

What happens after the program?

Here's a question worth asking every organization that serves young people and families: What happens when your program ends?

Who does the young person call when they need guidance three weeks later? Who helps the parent who doesn't know which agency to contact? Who follows up with the adult who attended a workforce workshop but is still struggling to take the next step?

These aren't questions meant to dismiss the good work organizations are doing. They're questions meant to strengthen it.

Through The Trusted Adult™, OWN YOUR NEXT MOVE™, and READY FOR WHAT'S NEXT™, LOVE IN ACTION focuses on practical decision-making, accountability, confidence, and helping people identify meaningful next steps.

A successful event and a meaningful outcome are not automatically the same thing.

A TRUTH WORTH SHARING

Accountability goes both ways.

We often talk about holding people accountable for their choices. But how often do we hold institutions accountable for the conditions in which those choices are made?

We tell young people to make better decisions. Are we giving them opportunities to practice making them? We tell adults to take ownership of their futures. Are we making resources understandable and accessible? We tell employees that people come first. Do our leadership decisions support that claim when things get difficult?

Personal responsibility matters. So does institutional responsibility.

We cannot keep demanding accountability from the people we serve while excusing the systems responsible for serving them.

YOUR MOVE

There is room for you in this work.

LOVE IN ACTION is building relationships with schools, community organizations, businesses, educators, leaders, and individuals who believe meaningful change requires more than good intentions.

Maybe you have resources to share. Maybe your organization needs a practical workshop. Maybe you know a young person who could benefit from guidance or a community partner doing work that deserves greater visibility.

Whatever your capacity, there may be a place for you in this effort. We're not asking everyone to do everything. We're asking people to consider what they can do—and be willing to follow through.

Let's move beyond talking about what our communities need and begin taking responsibility for what we can contribute.

CONNECT WITH LOVE IN ACTION

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Love is not simply what we say. It's what people experience because we showed up.

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