**The Love for Lochlin Foundation Inc.**

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Logo

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**OUR MISSION**

At the Love for Lochlin Foundation Inc our Mission is to help prevent, educate, and drive awareness to the deadly impacts of infectious disease such as Influenza ("the Flu"). We will work hard at providing our community with the resources, knowledge, and ability to help prevent these infectious diseases through proven and ethical practices.

**OUR PROGRESS**

**Flu Clinics**

The best way to reduce the spread of the influenza virus is prevention. That is why we work relentlessly on providing pop up flu clinics in areas where people do not have easy access to the flu vaccine. We conduct weekly flu clinics at multiple different locations ranging from schools in low-income areas to neighborhood parking lots in an effort to provide the flu vaccine to as many people as possible!

So far in the 2020-2021 flu season we have held 29 flu clinics over 13 weeks giving out 615 free flu vaccines to people in need. The Influenza virus has a transmission rate of 1.8, meaning that every person who contracts the flu virus spreads it, on average, to an additional 1.8 people. This is significant to us because that means for the 615 vaccines we have provided; we have prevented 1722 people from contracting the flu in a time where community health is an upmost priority.

Because our mission is centered around prevention, we also provide winter hats, gloves, and clothing at our flu clinics along with information on how to obtain health insurance so that our patrons can be fully equipped to battle infectious diseases!

**Working to Make a Change**

Throughout the year we have worked with multiple different organizations including the County Health Department and the Board of Education to help make our mission a success. We have been able to work with these organizations to help improve sanitation efforts in our school system by allowing hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes in the classrooms (previously only allowed to be used by the janitorial staff) along with providing educational programs on the spread of germs in school and proper handwashing techniques. We have also been able to work with them on making flu vaccines available in public schools for school nurses to be able to administer them (with parent consent) to make it easier for children to get vaccinated.

Working with the Health Department we have been able to have policies and procedures introduced to increase communication between the health department and private practices to help reduce vaccine shortages across the county. These procedures introduced by the health department will allow the health department to provide vaccines to private practices when their supply becomes depleted reducing the possibility of people not being able to get their vaccine due to shortages.

**Supporting the Homeless**

Throughout the course of the year, we have worked with the Rescue Mission and the Faith House to provide men’s, women’s, and children’s clothing, hot meals from local restaurants, hand sanitizer from local distilleries, and KN95 masks from our local Lowes to give to our patrons that have fallen on hard times. This continuous effort happens monthly and is another way for us to help fight the flu at the ground level and reduce community wide transmission.

We also worked with the Faith House over the holidays and supplied them with 11 Christmas Trees and boxes of decorations to help them provide a nice Christmas for their residents.

**Supporting our Community**

2020 has been a hard year for many people in our community and the rest of the world. That is why we worked hard to provide support for those in need to help keep their spirits high and hope alive! We find that often it is the simple little things that can make a big impact in someone's life. Therefore, we went to work this year and provided school supplies for over 100 families, gave out over 150 pumpkin painting kits for kids at Halloween, supplied 72 Christmas trees and 50 Christmas wreaths to families in need for the holidays, have held 2 large clothing drives giving out over 200 bags of clothing, and provided Toys for over 40 families at Christmas. On top of that we worked with the RISE organization and provided 25 bags of clothing and 150 first aid kits to send to Honduras after they were significantly impacted by hurricanes.

*Though these actions were not centered around our mission however* we felt compelled to do them to help our community and provide the support it deserves in an unprecedented time. This was our way of giving back to a community that supported us tremendously when we needed it the most!

We are extremely excited to see what 2021 will bring for us as this is just the beginning for our organization and we aim to take these same initiatives to the state and eventually national level.

-William and Brooke DeSantis

Executive Director and CEO

The Love for Lochlin Foundation Inc

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