



~ From Phil and Angie Hyssong, Lija's parents and LLL Founders ~

Welcome to Tiffany Olson, our new Foundation Administrator



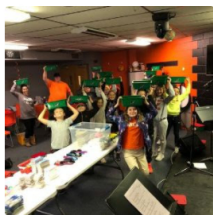
We are excited to welcome Tiffany Olson to the Love Like Lija team. Tiffany has been a longtime friend to our family. Angie taught two of Tiffany's children in preschool, and for one year Tiffany was Lija's junior high Sunday school teacher. One of Tiffany's great talents is recognizing when people in her large network of friends and colleagues would benefit from connecting, and helping that connection take place. So, this position at LLL is a perfect fit.

In her role as Foundation Administrator, Tiffany will reach out to individuals, groups and organizations all over the world, introducing them to Love Like Lija and finding ways to work together. Since coming on board in August, Tiffany has overseen the submission of a dozen project applications for funding. **In November alone, we funded eleven grants totaling over \$9000. Projects are being completed in Wisconsin, Northern Illinois, Central Illinois, Florida and as far away as Kenya.**

We are excited to have Tiffany further the work of the Foundation in a professional, caring way. Plans are being developed for more project funding, ways for community members to be involved in the foundation and overall improved efficiency and communication. With your support and Tiffany's hard work, Lija's love and compassion will have an ever-increasing, meaningful impact. I'm pleased to report as well that Tiffany's compensation is fully covered by a separate anonymous gift, allowing the Foundation to continue giving away 100% of what is donated for our grants. Welcome, Tiffany!



Latest funded projects extending compassion to others.



Relief Packages

A small group of seven children in Kenya will pack Relief Packages for about 140 children in their village who are in great need. Each package will contain underwear, bathing and laundry soap, toilet paper, body oil, a toothbrush and toothpaste and face masks. From the application, "Because of COVID-19, there are children who have found themselves heading their families due to loss of one or both parents; some orphanages have closed down due to lack of

funding and these children have been rendered homeless. During this time, social distancing has hampered physical contact and interaction that speaks volumes to children, but this won't stop children from sharing the little they have with other less fortunate children."

Plant a Hope Garden

A Key Club at a central Illinois high school will plant a Hope Garden at a local park. Hope gardens "help to destigmatize issues of mental health and provide awareness for suicide prevention. Hope gardens become a beautiful place for survivors and loved ones to post messages of hope and healing. We tragically lost a student at our school to suicide this year so this project is dear to our heart."

Survival Backpacks for Homeless Children

A Chicago-area seven-year-old will be using her grant to purchase supplies for Survival Backpacks for homeless children. These packs will include non-perishable food, personal hygiene products, socks, an emergency blanket and gift cards for fast food restaurants and drug stores. The seven-year-old grantee hopes that when children open the packs and see what's inside, they'll know that a lot of people, even people they've never met, care for them.

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Fundraising update

EXCITING NEWS! We have been gifted with an anonymous matching-funds offer to match dollar-for-dollar every donation we bring in from now until the end of 2021. So, for each dollar that you donate, our benefactor will match it!

This is an amazing opportunity for us to increase the number of projects we can fund in 2021.

Our 2021 goal is to fund 24 projects. We need to raise \$24,000 to make that happen and welcome your help. Please visit our website www.lovelikelija.com and click on "Donate." Every dollar raised goes directly to funding projects.

Thank you to our recurring and one-time donors for your generosity!



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Lija's Corner

When we met Lija in December of 1999, we stayed in a big hotel in Guangzhou, China called the White Swan. It was beautiful and had Koi fish ponds in it. New parents would take their children to the water's edge and feed the Koi fish crumbs from the restaurant table's bread basket. Angie gave Lija crumbs. Lija looked at Angie and looked at the fish and looked at Angie and looked at the crumbs. And put the crumbs in her mouth. We laughed. And tried again. The same thing happened. At 18 months, Lija held onto her crumbs! Fast forward 15 years and while standing beside our dear Lija at the funeral home, we were struck by the number of people who said, "Lija shared a pencil with me" and "Lija always smiled and said 'hi'" and "Lija always made time for me." and "Lija helped me with math because she liked math." Her friends said, "We will 'love like Lija' in her memory." It became clear to us that Lija had learned how to give away the crumbs. She no longer kept them for herself. Now we share in her memory.
