



Braveheart Chaplain Ministry



December 2014

Fundraiser Update

Read the summary below to see the results of the "Laura's Challenge" fundraiser.

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Feature Article

Read an article written by a local firefighter who was impacted by Braveheart's services.

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Outreach Update

Be sure to check out the update on the opportunity KFD had to help local kids!

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Laura's Challenge was a Success!

Many of you may remember a recent email explaining a fundraiser effort for Braveheart organized by Laura White, wife of a cop & rescue helicopter pilot. She expressed her goal of raising \$5,000 before the Thanksgiving holiday.

We are happy to report that not only was the goal attained; it was exceeded! As of the beginning of December, this fundraising "challenge" raised over \$15,000!!

Braveheart Chaplain Ministry cannot even find the words to express their thanks in the outpouring of love and support. We saw people from across the Flathead Valley and even into other states send in donations and/or participate in a silent auction held in Whitefish, MT. It was so encouraging to see people learn about Braveheart and also support our efforts!

If you didn't have the opportunity to participate in this fundraising effort, don't worry! We still have the GoFundMe site (<http://www.gofundme.com/fhsqkc>) set up for online donations. Please consider Braveheart with any end-of-the-year donations you may give.



KFD gives coats to kids!

The Kalispell Fire Department participated in a national program that provides coats to elementary children. KFD gave out 150 coats to Russell Elementary students. The coats are made specifically for fire departments to give to children. What a great opportunity to be a part of!

Aug 23, 2014 at 20:00, I was on shift when I received a phone call from my mother stating my 14 year old who was staying at her house was unconscious and having a seizure. 911 had been called and an ambulance was on the way. I was fortunate enough to arrive shortly after and was able to transport our son to the hospital. His diagnosis: Grand Mal seizure of unknown cause. When I was sitting in the emergency room I was reminded of what it feels like to be on the other end of the call, to be the parent of the injured/sick child. With butterflies in my stomach I realized how little control I actually had over this situation. How my child was really God's child and His will would be done. My job was to trust Him and provide support and love for "my" child, the child that God has entrusted me to take care of during our time on this earth. During this time I had a couple of Bible verses repeatedly running through my head: "Fear not, for I am with you, be not dismayed for I am your God, I will strengthen you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." [Isaiah 41:10] The second verse, perhaps one of the most quoted of all Bible verses, my son and I repeated together: "Trust in the lord with all thy heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all thy ways acknowledge him and he will direct thy path." [Proverbs 3:5-6] Even after the tests were completed we still did not have an explanation for our child's seizure, but we do know that God is in control and His will will be done and our faith, family and friends will carry us all through.

Life is precious. We all take it for granted. In one second an event can happen that can alter our lives forever: a birth, a wedding, a baptism, an accident, an injury, a death, a suicide or an illness. While some of these events will change our lives for the better, many will leave us hurting, angry, lonely, confused and broken.

Emergency responders are called to many of these events throughout their careers. The fire department's responsibility is to control the scene, mitigate the hazard (fire, accident, etc.), and attend to the emergent medical needs of the victim/patient. Sometimes we are able to spend a few minutes consoling/comforting the families and friends of those on scene. Mostly we as firefighter/paramedics are limited in the time that we spend with our patients and their families. In the last 8 years we have been blessed to have Drew and our other chaplains available for us to call to come to the scene or hospital and continue to care for the family and friends. During these situations, Drew acts as a listener, counselor and pastor as well as a liaison to the other resources that are deemed necessary like the Red Cross, police department, other pastors, shelter placement, grief counselors, etc. Drew's support on scene allows the paramedics to focus on their patients and give them the best care possible.

It is in times of crisis, when we are hurt, sad, or confused, that we are humbled and searching for something to fill the emptiness and pain inside. It is



during this time that Drew has the amazing opportunity to share the love of Jesus Christ. I believe that more people come to God when their hearts are heavy and full of pain, because only he can lift us up, heal our wounds and restore our soul. It is during this time that it is important to have someone listen, someone to care for, and someone with the training, knowledge and love of God to intervene and walk beside them through their lowest and saddest times. Drew has the unique opportunity and awing responsibility of being able to lead people to Christ.

Not only is a chaplain vital to the public we serve, they also have the responsibility of taking care of our own people so that we can take better care of others. Firefighters/paramedics sometimes respond to calls that are beyond the human realm of comprehension. Most often these involve abuse or death of a child. After these types of calls the human brain is working hard to deal with the thoughts and emotions and covering up of emotions that are going on inside the head. Critical Incident Stress Debriefing (CISD) is offered and led by Chaplain Drew and/or his team of chaplains. Along with providing support to the line crews, chaplains also provide a friendship and leadership throughout the department as well. Shift bible studies are led by request, teaching and providing encouragement for us to be better spouses, parents and coworkers. Drew's positive example, leadership, and dedication, along with his prayers, conversations and support, make our Fire Department a healthier place.

Written by Jessica Kinzer

Both Kinzer & her husband, Tim Gaston, are firefighters at KFD.