



Braveheart Chaplain Ministry



Fall 2016

“I have come as a light into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me would not remain in darkness.”

John 12:46



Darkness: it can scare, hide, surround, discourage, isolate, overwhelm. When life is challenging and heartache is felt, it can seem as if one's world is being swallowed up by a sense of darkness.

Montana consistently finishes either first or second for state suicide rate per capita. Flathead County is in the top 100 counties in the country for its suicide rate. This along with other societal issues such as drug use, crime, addictions, broken homes, severed relationships, and financial struggles all create havoc in people's lives. These issues along with the many types of accidents which can happen at any time, all work to darken lives on a daily basis.

Braveheart exists to help bring light to people's lives, especially in the moments when care and resources are needed to both sustain and to help move their lives forward. Light uplifts, brightens, warms, and provides hope.

Since August 1, I have observed shades of darkness as well as light in the form of:

- On scene of a 15-month old found deceased in her bed. Comforted mother & grandparents. Worked with the coroner in coordinating contact with family.
- Visited a friend whose adult daughter died unexpectedly without obvious cause. Attended funeral.
- Conducted training for Glacier National Park employees on work & home life balance, stress & fatigue.
- Followed up on suicide of young adult, providing resources to help the mother of the victim.
- Accompanied police officer in death notification attempt to mother whose daughter had died.
- Assisted family whose extensive shop had burned as well as counseled them on resources available to aid them in their lives. Followed up with one spouse.
- Counseled young adult dealing with a panic attack.
- Dispatched to scene of teen drowning. Consoled parents & grandparents. Followed up with family and responders.
- Attended to senior adult wife whose husband had a heart attack in their front yard. Accompanied family to ER and waited while futile efforts were made to resuscitate him. I had been to their home nine months before for a garage fire.

- Accompanied deputy on a death notification to parents of a college student. Did follow up with the dad.
- Helped hospital locate a Catholic priest for a family in need.
- Arranged debriefing for responders who dealt with a situation involving the rape of a teen daughter followed by the suicide of the perpetrator.
- Helped a teen after his father died at home of a drug overdose. Counseled family and friends.
- Responded to a two vehicle accident which resulted in the death of a 33-year old wife and mom. On scene with her husband, a relative & friend. Did follow up with them and a professional associate who witnessed the accident.
- Conducted four funeral services for families in the community.
- Assisted family on scene whose adult relative had committed suicide. I know the victim's mom and am doing follow up with she and her family.
- Followed up with dispatchers in relation to various above calls.

Why does Braveheart need to continue? Because darkness is a part of life but is dispelled when light shines forth.

How does Braveheart continue to exist? Because caring people like you invest money in this ministry so that light can shine where it is darkest.

Our **immediate financial goal** is to raise **\$25,000** for our fall campaign. Beginning now, our campaign consist of a cash donation challenge and a silent auction to be held on Friday, December 2, at Wheat Montana in downtown Kalispell. Our cash donations drive begins now and continues through December.

Our **near future financial goals** are to obtain **adequate, sustainable funding** so that we are stable and can focus more energies on the needs all around. Ultimately our desire is to establish an **endowment** which would provide Braveheart's operating budget while not spending the principle. Until then, our wish is to have **anchor donors** who would make larger donations each year, thus anchoring our budget and relieving some of the pressure of continual fundraising.

A second goal is secure the finances to employ a **second full-time chaplain** so that more effective services are provided to a wider range of responders, their families, and citizens experiencing a life changing incident.

Please consider helping us meet these goals so that more light can shine into the darkness. We now have an electronic donation site where you can conveniently become a regular donor which helps us with our ongoing operating needs: www.easytithe.com/bcm

To those of you who already support Braveheart, we greatly appreciate you and could not carry out this ministry without you.

May God bless each of you,

Drew