

Braveheart



CHAPLAIN
MINISTRY™

Dear friends and supporters,

In the two and one half years that Braveheart has been in existence, much has been accomplished! Reflecting back on the scenes, situations, people, conversations, and needs, all remind me of the ongoing need for full-time emergency responder chaplains in Flathead County.

As I think back, I am reminded of all the people who have helped make this possible. I give thanks to God for you! While some can be specifically named, others fit in general categories for which I am just as thankful. These are:

- Jesus Christ for His clear calling to begin Braveheart because He is working in lives throughout Flathead County and allows me to be part of what He is accomplishing.
- My wife Brenda for her unending support, encouragement, insightful suggestions and concern for others.
- Faithful donors who sacrificially provide financial support month after month because they believe people and eternity matter.
- The untold number who diligently pray for me, the needs of Braveheart, the departments and community.
- The Braveheart board of directors who provide oversight and encouragement. A special word of thanks to Steve Stahlberg whose CPA firm takes care of payroll, taxes, IRS paper work and much more.
- Agency leaders who allow me to serve within their respective departments: Chief Dave Dedman, Kalispell Fire Department; Chief Roger Nasset, Kalispell Police Department; Sheriff Chuck Curry, Flathead County Sheriff's Office.
- The personnel who have allowed me to be a part of their lives, both professionally and personally. They have taught me much including: how various apparatus and equipment works; medical treatments; rescue methods; shooting firearms; tactics; as well as exemplified calmness, quick thinking and wisdom in stressful situations.
- Kristin Bay who edits and lays out each edition of the newsletter as well as provides invaluable help with other office related issues.
- Linda Halbur, who designed our logo that assists in establishing name recognition through printed materials and apparel.
- The vast number who have encouraged me along this journey with your words, notes, and friendships.
- Part-time, volunteer chaplains who bring their unique experiences and gifts to the chaplain ministry, thus making more human resources available.

Recent key ministry opportunities include:

- Providing counsel regarding work related choices, marriage improvement, benevolent resources, and addiction issues for a parent whose child is struggling.
- Arranging debriefing for responders in relation to a death in the backcountry.
- Officiating two funerals for community families.
- Attending the Kalispell Police Department's annual awards ceremony and dinner.
- Assisting on a suicide scene.
- Participating in fire department coldwater rescue training and self-defense tactics training with deputies. One of the many tasks that firefighters are prepared to perform is coldwater rescue. Whether it is an ice fisherman in trouble or a dog that has fallen through, responders must be equipped to accomplish the mission. I recently joined Kalispell's "A Shift" in an Evergreen creek where the two inches of ice was broken so "victims" (me!) and rescuers could slide into the icy cold water and practice the essential steps of getting out. The rescuer helped to position the backboard in front of the victim, arranged the ropes and guided the board, while the crew on land pulled the victim to a safe area. The big orange suits were amazingly warm and the only frigid feeling was from the water splashing on our exposed faces.



Kalispell Firefighter Tim Gaston and I practice coldwater rescue techniques. Brenda Ahearn/Daily Inter Lake

I am thankful for your particular contribution to Braveheart!

Bless you,
Drew