



## Braveheart Chaplain Ministry

December 2017 Newsletter



**'Let the favor of the  
Lord our God be upon  
us; and confirm for us  
the work of our hands;  
yes, confirm the work  
of our hands.'  
Psalm 90:17**

### ***Making a Difference***

On a Wednesday afternoon in September, I was dispatched to a home east of Kalispell in a wooded area where houses are commonly tucked away among thick trees. These country homes are set back from the winding roads and are not always easy to find.



A retired age man had died and I was called to provide his wife, Linda, with emotional, logistical, and spiritual support as would be fitting. Upon arriving, I visited with her about what had happened, answered questions about what would occur next, clarified which decisions needed to be made that day and which ones could wait. My role was also to console her along with others who were there for her.

A Braveheart volunteer followed up with Linda in the days afterward to check on her, to help her process her situation, and to make sure her needs were being met.

Linda was soon 'liking' posts on our Facebook page, contributing to our income needs, and joining our newsletter mailing list.

In Linda's own words:

***"Both you and Braveheart Ministry have had a big impact on my life and have helped me through a very difficult time. I think of the day John passed and remember how kind and comforting you were. I also had the pleasure of having lunch with Susan. She is wonderful to talk to and a great listener. I enjoy being part of the Facebook family for Braveheart and seeing all the good you do in our community. Maybe next year I can volunteer at Braveheart and I will try to make another donation."***

### ***The Many Facets of Braveheart Chaplain Ministry***

Braveheart Chaplain Ministry is made up of numerous components. The major ones are:

- Chaplain
- Assisting chaplains
- Board of directors
- Volunteers
- Donors

All of these components have worked together to create another successful year. By working together, we continue to fulfill our mission statement:

***Braveheart Chaplain Ministry is committed to providing effective, relevant, and timely support services to emergency responders, their families, and citizens in crisis throughout Flathead County.***

**Thank you to all who make up each component. You have made significant and lasting contributions.**

A brief comment on each one will help to explain its role.

**Chaplain** – I am committed to serving citizens in crisis like Linda or a family whose loved one was killed in a three vehicle accident yesterday during a morning of accumulating, slick snow. Being with them and their friends in the hospital allowed me to provide comfort, answer questions, & help gather information they needed.



I am also given opportunities to work alongside of firefighters, law enforcement officers, and medics to provide a comprehensive emergency response. I assist them in processing the challenges of their jobs and resource them to help citizens, themselves, and their families.

**Assisting chaplains** – six ministers share the on-call rotating schedule with me so that a designated chaplain is available to meet citizens' crisis needs, 24/7. These co-laborers are also available to come alongside of responders in whatever needs they may have.

**Board of Directors** – these men and women are committed to the existence of Braveheart and to providing an ongoing chaplain ministry. They raise funds, establish policy & procedures, promote Braveheart among our community, stand in support of me, and provide guidance and counsel.

**Volunteers** – this aspect has grown exponentially this year. Susan Sharp volunteers as my ministry assistant, which engages her in several areas. Some of those are Board meetings, publicity, financial record keeping, public relations, coordination of volunteers, and reaching out to women who have experienced a traumatic situation.

**We presently have volunteers in the following categories:**

- |   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| 1. Follow up with those who have experienced trauma | 4. Clerical        |
| 2. Prayer   | 5. Social media    |
| 3. Fundraising                                      | 6. Event logistics |



**Donors** – individuals, families, businesses, and churches all make financial contributions that allow Braveheart to provide these comprehensive services. Braveheart is so thankful for those who selflessly give to make our financial existence a possibility.



Linda's traumatic situation represents how it takes all of the components of Braveheart to accomplish our comprehensive mission. The Lord has sustained and provided for us this year.

We foresee more growth in our volunteer ranks, new faces on our Board, bringing on an additional assisting chaplain for the Sheriff's Office, and establishing more financial solvency.

**If you are prompted to make a year-end contribution to Braveheart or to become a regular donor, you can do so by mailing your donation to [P. O. Box 1132, Kalispell, MT 59903](#) or by giving electronically at [easytithe.com/bcm](#)**

Our most pressing need is consistent monthly income. Aside from this, my next financial goal is to have two - four 'anchor' donors who will contribute larger sums of money each year in order to provide us a solid financial foundation.

The Lord bless you this holiday season,  
Drew