



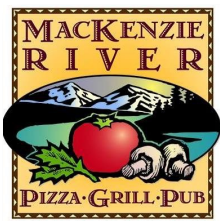
It is the season for giving **THANKS**. Please take the time to pause amidst this busy time of year to think about all that we each are grateful for in our lives.

We have a new website!!! Please drop in and check it out at:
www.BraveheartMinistry.com

*Give thanks to the
Lord, for He
is good; His love
endures forever.*

1 CHRONICLES 16:34

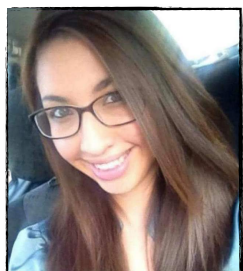
Braveheart Chaplain Ministry has had a very eventful summer:



Braveheart Chaplain Ministry held a fundraiser at MacKenzie River Pizza Company. This involved lunches and dinners served at both the Whitefish and North Kalispell restaurants. All those who participated were asked to show a coupon supporting Braveheart. Braveheart made a grand total of \$363.65! **THANK YOU** to everyone who participated in this great event!

Unfortunately, Braveheart responded to many serious incidents in the Valley throughout the summer. First responders and citizens were given aid for many varied reasons.

- In July, I experienced the worst motor vehicle accident that I have ever witnessed. As a result of a head-on collision causing both vehicles to explode into a burning inferno, there was the tragic and unexpected loss of two lives. This not only affected families, but many friends and responders were impacted as well. As I stood among the wreckage and worked alongside the dozen responders, witnesses, and other individuals, the weight of the situation's brutality was crashing in, as if it were a series of ocean waves. Many emotions and feelings were brought to the surface as the reality of death and tragedy struck each person on scene differently. Each individual witnessing this had to develop their own way of coping, in order to continue living in the healthiest manner possible.



- I know the Flathead Valley all became familiar with the missing young lady from Whitefish. It was only a few days after the accident that I posted above that I was called to help share the news that Alex Beltran, who had been missing for two weeks, had been located. She was found inside her automobile which had been pulled from a pond. I met with Fellow Sheriff's Office Chaplain, Randy Olson, in assisting in any way possible and to be present when the officers informed this young lady's family of this tragic news. This portion of the day was severely tense. Afterwards, we all went in different directions to continue providing help as needed. I went to the private property and met with the residents where the accident occurred. Naturally, they were shocked to discover the missing woman had been in their pond.

- In August, I was summoned by Glacier National Park to provide chaplain services to employees who had responded to another traumatic situation. I met with Glacier Park rangers and crew members to help them process a tragedy that involved a 15-year-old Idaho tourist who had fallen to his death. This debriefing process has proven effective in helping responders who are experiencing difficult events. Participating in discussions helps them to release emotions and thoughts that otherwise could remain and negatively affect them throughout their careers. This group discussion gave all involved the opportunity to express their feelings and to also help others who were struggling as well. All in all, results make happier and healthier responders who can continue in their vocations.

- Another tragedy occurred in mid-August involving a family house fire. One woman perished in the fire at a Hungry Horse residence. I was available to help three young firefighters to process their experiences. A meaningful discussion, ending with prayer, was beneficial to all involved.

These are just a few incidences that have occurred throughout the past few months. I am again reminded of how fragile life is and how important this ministry is that I am privileged to be a part of. This is a team effort and, again, I **THANK** each of you who so willingly have agreed to be a part of this important group.

"Drew has been present during many Search & Rescue incidents to provide support to families and also to responders. Braveheart Chaplain Ministry is an invaluable asset to our community."

- DEBRA SULLIVAN, SEARCH & RESCUE

"This summer, I experienced a cluster of critical incidents within a short period of time. Being relatively new to the first responder realm, I was not sure how I was going to react to these incidents. It turns out that they affected me quite heavily. Braveheart Chaplain Ministry helped me understand that what I was feeling was normal and that I was hardly alone feeling these emotions. Braveheart provided me with a new understanding and awareness, and thanks to their services, I now have a new toolset to take into the rest of my career as a first responder."

- FIRST RESPONDER, FLATHEAD COUNTY REGIONAL AREA



It is with regret that we wish Laura Johnson farewell. Laura has been a Braveheart volunteer and eventually becoming a member of Braveheart's Board of Directors for the past four years.



She has been an invaluable asset to our ministry. **THANK YOU, Laura!** You will be missed.

Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you.
1 THESSALONIANS 5:18

Plans are becoming a reality as we prepare for the **BRAVEHEART HERO GALA**. If you haven't already done so, please visit Braveheart's website for tickets.