

# County-Wide Chaplaincy

## Thanks you!

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2500 NE 78<sup>th</sup> St. Vancouver, WA 98665 ~ (360) 573-7127

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In our last month's letter, we addressed the question, "What is a Chaplain?" This month, we thought it might be helpful to present a more detailed description that specifies what a chaplain does.

At County-Wide Chaplaincy, our group of chaplains specifically serves alongside first responders, such as the Police and Fire and Sheriff Departments. We're called by a variety of names: street chaplains, trauma chaplains, 9-1-1 chaplains, fatality chaplains—all titles that help to differentiate between our duties and the role of perhaps a hospital, prison, or military chaplain. We serve alongside our law enforcement officers and are present to serve, when paged, the needs of those "on scene" immediately affected by a death.

The need for a chaplain to be present on scene is determined by the officer in charge, who requests the on-call chaplain through 9-1-1 (CRESA- Clark County Emergency Services Agency) to respond. Our intention as chaplains is to provide support, information, and care for those affected by the loss of a loved one.

To continue to address the question of what a chaplain does more specifically, please take a moment to read through the following "job description." Although it is not all inclusive, it provides an idea of the type of work we do.

### A 9-1-1 Chaplain

- **Remains** with family through their initial hours of trauma;
- **Assists** the family in gathering their support network;
- **Provides** a brochure with helpful information;
- **Helps** family make needed phone calls;
- **Offers** compassion, and if requested, prayer;
- **Tends** to the deceased on behalf of those needing to say their "good-byes";
- **Listens to and comforts** the family;
- **Frees-up** the first responder by remaining until the deceased is removed;
- **Serves** death notifications for local and out of state law agencies;

- **Checks-up** on families afterwards, as needed;
- **Freely provides** all services at no cost;
- **Serves** Clark County 24/7 on assigned shifts;
- **Shows care and concern** for the first responders they co-labor with;
- **Connects** those we serve with additional resources.

The defining thread that connects every call we respond to involves few similarities; rather each situation is unique, difficult, uncomfortable, often overwhelming, devastating, complex, and sometimes even volatile.

We are present—that's the main thing—and able to set aside our reaction and impressions in order to meet with people whose hearts are broken and lives are shattered; with the hope of offering the love of Christ, comfort, and clarity in the midst of one of the worst days of their lives.

That is the work we do, and for that work to be accomplished we humbly ask (and thank you) for your prayer support to sustain us as we offer our community God's love, care, and compassion.

Our Chaplaincy Team

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