



COWLITZ CHAPLAINCY

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Chaplains Activity

During the months of July and August the Chaplains were called out 21 times to assist first responder agencies in our county. Through the month of August the Chaplains have been called out 125 times which is less than last year at this time. We also conducted 8 funeral services in connection with the times we were called out to assist households in crisis.

The month of July always brings the annual Go 4th community celebration around Lake Sacajawea. As Chaplains we have the opportunity to support the many first responders who are on duty to make sure everyone has a safe experience during that great event!

On August 4 the first responder agencies sponsored National Night Out. As Chaplains we made the rounds to all the events held in Castle Rock, Kelso, and Longview. This is a great way for the first responders to interact with the citizens of the county, display some of their equipment, and do demonstrations on how they work to keep our communities safe.

New Board Members

Over the summer we expanded our board of directors from 9 to 13 members. We welcome Woodland Police Chief Phillip Crochet, Kalama Police Chief Randy Gibson, Marin Fox-Hight, Director of Cowlitz County Corrections, and Seth Hart, City of Longview and 911 center I.T. We thank them for their willingness to serve!

We still need to add two members in the near future. If you have a passion for the Chaplaincy, are a member of the business community, and would like to be considered for the board, please contact Chaplain Tom.

New Volunteer Chaplain

We welcome Caliatra Riesterer as a new volunteer Chaplain. Caliatra lives in Woodland and will be a big help in the south part of the county. Caliatra is ordained through Oregon Gospel Ministries and is a member of the Renewed Hope Church of Vancouver, WA. Caliatra has a broad background of experience in ministry. She has worked as a CASA volunteer, served as a rape victim advocate, and has a passion to stop the human trafficking of women. Caliatra has also had some training with the Portland Police Chaplain program. Welcome Caliatra!

Disaster Relief

The following is a report from Chaplain Mario:

I was privileged to be called out to the Okanogan, North Star, and Tunk Block fires. I responded to the call-out from Northwest Baptist Disaster Relief. We deployed 36 feeding unit personnel and 6 chaplains into the area. We had three chaplains in the Okanogan fire ground supporting the 2000 fire fighters there. We also had three mobile chaplains working with the surrounding communities. Our feeding unit fed the EOC (Emergency Operations Center), The National Guard, The Conconully Fire Department, and many of the shelters for those displaced by the fires.

I was able to make contact with the local Police in Tonasket, Omak, Okanogan, and Twisp. They were appreciative of the support. Many of those contacted were familiar to me, due to last year's fires.

There is much work still to be done in the area to support the communities there. Many that were burned out this year had been burned out in 2014.

Please pray for this area, there are no quick fixes here! Pray for resources and manpower once the fires are out, and the restoration starts.

Thank you for your support that enabled me to deploy to these devastating fires.

Chaplains Training

Chaplain Mario and Nancy, and Chaplain Tom attended the International Conference of Police Chaplains' Convention in Sacramento, CA. July 13-17. It was a great week of training and networking with Chaplains from around the world.

One of the most interesting events was a plenary session with Chaplain Willie Parker from the Ferguson, MO area and Sheriff David Clarke from Milwaukee County Wisconsin. These two African-American men are working hard to proclaim the truth and the light during our dark and politically charged times.

Fundraisers

On Saturday, September 19, we held the 2015 Cowlitz Chaplaincy Golf Classic. This year's tournament was held at Three Rivers Golf Course in Kelso.



Our golf classic was a big success. We increased the number of golfers from 67 last year to 82 this year. Our financial profits from this year are a 50% increase from 2014. We want to thank all the golfers, many of whom have been in the tournament all three years we have had this fun event. We also want to thank all the sponsors of our tournament. All of their names can be found on our web page www.cowlitzchaplaincy.org. We want to give a special thank you to McCords Dodge, Chrysler and Jeep who sponsored the hole in one contest. Josh Randolph came 14 inches from winning a new Jeep!

We can not say THANK YOU enough to our fundraising committee and volunteers who put in many hours to make our golf classic a very special event!

Upcoming Events

Public Prayer for First Responder Safety

Join us on October 6 at 5:30 p.m. outside the Hall of Justice in Kelso. We will also be gathering for the Toutle/Castle Rock area on October 7 at 5:30 p.m. outside city hall in Castle Rock. We will have a third gathering for the Woodland/Kalama area on October 8 at 5:30 p.m. outside Woodland Police Department.

Shop with a Cop/Firefighter

Christmas is just around the corner and the 2015 Shop with a Cop/Firefighter is being organized for this year. Last year the program assisted over 60 students in the county, and involved first responders from the Cowlitz County Sheriff's Department, Castle Rock Police, Longview Police, Kelso Police, Cowlitz 2 Fire & Rescue, and the Department of Correction. We are excited to have Walmart again be a major sponsor for two of our locations. This year Kelso Police will also be sponsoring a shop program along with the Kelso Target store. There are still opportunities for additional sponsors to assist with providing financial support to provide needy kids with Christmas gifts this year. Send your donation to Cowlitz chaplaincy or email chaplain.doug@hotmail.com for more information.

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"Supporting those who support our communities' first responders"