



SPRING 2010

# The Advocate

Hamilton County Sheriff's Chaplain's Division Community Newsletter

## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Chaplain's Division of the Hamilton County Sheriff's Department is to serve the personnel, the community and the inmates as a supportive volunteer group of qualified ministers or counselors, who will assist, by request, in matters of personal, marriage, job or spiritual counseling and to be available to assist in time of emergency, as needed.

SERVING OFFICERS      SERVING COMMUNITY      SERVING INMATES  
SERVING FAMILIES

### Nurse Dies Tragically in Castleton-Chaplains Respond

"We were all devastated. We had no answers to the "whys" people ask when a horrible accident like this takes place," explained a nurse employed at Regency Place of Castleton Nursing. Around 7:00 pm on a cold, winter night this past January, a young nurse from RPC walked across a very busy street to purchase an item for a new patient. She never returned. She was struck down by two cars and tragically killed.

"She was the "go-to-person" that everyone knew would know the answer, pitch in and help or work overtime. She gave 110% everyday with a smile on her face and passion in her heart to make sure her patients' needs were met."

The counselors who work with the residents of RPC tended to the needs of the morning shift workers. They offered words of condolence and allowed the staff to talk about their sadness. "But, the real comfort came when chaplains Tom Burton and Tom Kendall responded to the scene and

offered their support.

"The chaplains did not hesitate to come to Regency. They held a prayer vigil for those who wanted to be prayed for and for those who wished to pray for her family. They also handed out information regarding the grieving process so we could make sense of the various emotions we would be experiencing. They gave us information on how to cope with such feelings. The real peace came upon everyone when the chaplains walked the halls personally counseling the nurses, patients and managers individually. They came up to those working to make sure they knew they cared and prayed for them. Chaplain Burton even said a prayer for the residents in the main dining hall before our evening dinner."

"We were all touched by the chaplains' willingness to help us cope with our loss. We needed the hope that only God can give. The scriptures and prayers eased our heartaches. Only heroes can be so humble to sit with people who are broken and share God's love. People truly need the Lord. These men are his hands and his feet bringing good news and hope to our community." *RPC Nurse*

### What Do The Oprah Winfrey Show & Our Chaplains Have in Common?

They have taken time to listen to the stories of those incarcerated. In April 2009, the Oprah Winfrey show aired a program about a young woman named Kelly, mother of 3 who had spent most of the past seven years behind bars. Oprah announced to the nation that Kelly is just one of 2 million incarcerated Americans.



Unfortunately, Chaplains hear many stories similar to Kelly's everyday from women, young and old, incarcerated here in Hamilton County. Growing up, Kelly never imagined herself in the correctional system. "I had a good life growing up. I was a cheerleader in high school," she says. "I was on the honor roll." Then, Kelly says she started getting high and became addicted to heroin. This story is one that is all too common, even here in Hamilton County. The families suffer alongside the inmate, often in silence, most always in shame in search of help. The Chaplains; they listen.



**S E N T E N C E D**  
Set at Rockville Correctional Facility, a maximum-security women's prison in Rockville, Indiana, Oprah has another series scheduled to air that will track the personal journeys of real-life "women behind bars," including their ties to family and the lives they try to sustain on the outside. Whether they are in for a short term or in for life, this program will explore the ways in which this particular prison can be a source of rehabilitation and hope. Many women from the Hamilton County Jail are transferred to Rockville to do "hard time". One female Chaplain who has served at a different maximum security prison stated, "If an inmate doesn't find salvation here before going to prison, it will be very hard to do so in that environment." Please help us help them.

Did you know your Hamilton County Sheriff's Chaplaincy is a Charity? For nearly twenty years, Senior Chaplain Tom Burton and his eleven volunteer Chaplains continue to respond 24/7 by responding in a moments notice to the human side of tragedy.

All 269,785 citizens residing in Hamilton County can call for help. Will you, your church or business support this obscure charity today?

Chaplaincy Fund  
18100 Cumberland Road  
Noblesville, IN 46060



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### More Change on the Horizon?



"There are more efficient methods than bricks and mortar," states Hamilton County Sheriff Doug Carter. "We don't feel that long-term incarceration is always the answer. We need to make sure everyone in jail needs to be in jail."

Keeping the community safe while easing jail crowding is the goal. Hamilton County Prosecutor Sonia Leerkamp leads a Criminal Justice Task Force subcommittee to overhaul the justice system in the county. Leerkamp said the law-enforcement system needs changes in everything from how arrests and jailing are handled to how cases are prosecuted and sentenced.

In 2010, a pilot program seeks to evaluate some defendants with Class A misdemeanors or Class D felonies as well as establish a lesser level of monitoring and reporting than jailing before trial. It will also examine the option of giving police officers more discretion before deciding whether or not to make arrests.

HJC houses people either awaiting trial or those who have been sentenced to a year or less. The jail was built to hold 292 inmates. In 2009 it averaged 347 per day, while some days it reached 400+. People are sleeping on cots on the floor. With budget cuts it makes it difficult on the staff and officers to keep up with the pace.

Gary DeWester serves as a Noblesville public defense attorney. He said, "The idea of releasing inmates before their trials is an important step. He said many of his clients simply don't have the money to post bail."



A best friend, sister, wife, daughter or mother... All types of woman, from all walks of life are behind bars at the Hamilton County Jail. One too many glasses of wine before driving have landed many behind bars. For most, this experience is life-changing.

#### Blood-Alcohol Concentration

In Indiana, any driver with a blood-alcohol concentration - or BAC - above .08 percent is considered "per se intoxicated" under the law. Under this statute, this confirmation is all that is needed for a driver to be convicted of Driving Under the Influence or Driving While Intoxicated.

#### Zero Tolerance Blood-Alcohol Concentration

In all states, "zero tolerance laws" focus on drivers not of legal drinking age. In Indiana, persons under the age of 21 operating a car with a .02 percent blood-alcohol level or above are subject to DUI penalties.



### Girls Night Out-New Meaning

"My husband still doesn't really grasp that there really are a lot of 'regular' folks incarcerated," explains a fifty-ish year old woman.

"They are not cast offs of society - unredeemable or unworthy.. nor can we as a society afford to let their input to our communities go to waste." Why does she speak with such conviction? She too was an inmate at the Hamilton County Jail last year.

Drinks while dining out lands thousands in jail each year in Indiana. Deciding to drive after drinking has changed many people lives.

This wife of a businessman also had a career and is a mother of three college students. A member of a local church. While incarcerated, she invested in those around her, who were mostly much younger and many not so fortunate. She learned of the challenges one faces upon discharge without a support net-

work. She was excited to hear about the new partnership between the Chaplaincy and Jehoshua House, which offers re-entry assistance for inmates.

"WOW! The Jehoshua House is awesome! It sounds as if its success will largely depend on having enough "advocates" to support the program." she stated.

"Having a mentor is a WONDERFUL idea for the incarcerated person AND for their family as they need help in learning to forgive and being supportive rather than ashamed of their loved one. The help with having a person believe in you alone is priceless~ and of course knowing that God adores each of us needs to be reiterated continually! I'll keep it in my prayers!!" she added.

Learn how you, your church or business can help make a difference at: [www.jehoshuahouse.org](http://www.jehoshuahouse.org)

### The Mayor Remembers the Chaplaincy On May 6th, The National Day of Prayer

White River Christian Church will host the 5th Annual Noblesville Prayer Breakfast at 1685 North Tenth in Noblesville from 7-9:00 a.m. Please join us to listen to the featured speaker Rev. John Davis of First Christian Church. The ecumenical, non-denominational prayer breakfast costs \$15 per person. Tables of 8 are \$125. Sponsors will be mentioned in the program and proceeds from the breakfast will be donated to the Hamilton County Sheriff Chaplaincy Charity. Please reserve your space by May 3. Mail payment to Noblesville City Hall, Attn. Mayor's Prayer Breakfast, 16 S. 10th St., Noblesville, IN 46060. Please make checks payable to "2010 Mayor's Prayer Breakfast." Those wishing to pay at the door should RSVP to Cindy Hawkins at [chawkins@noblesville.in.us](mailto:chawkins@noblesville.in.us) or 776-6324. "I invite you to join me and other members of our community at this prayer and worship event," said Noblesville Mayor Ditslear.



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### Jehoshua House- Truth Sets Us Free-John 8:32

On the heels of concluding the first Alpha Session at the Hamilton County Jail, Bob Irvin, president of Jehoshua House, hosted **A Poverty and Re-entry Forum** at the "Fighting for the Forgotten" Exhibition at East 91<sup>st</sup> Street Christian Church on April 14. Jehoshua House and the Chaplaincy are working together to create a bridge back to the community for inmates being released from the Hamilton County Jail. The forum addressed issues impacting the Indianapolis metro area.

The panel's objective was to identify and describe the top five issues related to ex-offender re-integration into the community and the impact of poverty on re-integration.

#### The Problem:

- The numbers...Indiana is one of the leading States in the Nation in the rate of increase in incarceration.
- The high number of State Prison Ex-Offenders coming back to Indy Metro each year.
- The high number of inmates cycling through Indy Metro area county jails.
- The real recidivism rate for State Prisons and County Jails combined.
- The economic cost of continuing to do what we've been doing.

#### What is the cost of failure?

- Current state of post-release transitional housing in Indy Metro.
- How many men and women cycling through our jails and prisons find themselves homeless?
- How many single mothers and children are rendered homeless as a by-product of incarceration?
- Current state of jobs for ex-offenders in Indy Metro along with the level of wages being paid to those who find employment.
- What percent of ex-offenders are living below the poverty line?
- Barriers to re-entry (exclusionary business hiring practices, exclusionary insurance underwriting practices, business and societal prejudices).
- What are we doing about it? Government? Business? Church? Citizens? Service Providers
- Who can they turn to for help?

Find Out More About the  
**Alpha Program**  
[www.jehoshuahouse.org](http://www.jehoshuahouse.org)

#### The A Poverty and Re-entry Forum Panel

Bob Irvin	President of Jehoshua House Offender Re-entry Ministries (Moderator)
Don Hawkins	Founder and Executive Director of Indy Helpers.com
Rhiannon Williams	Director of Re-entry Programs - Indianapolis
Michael Hurst	Executive Director of CHIP (Coalition of Homelessness Intervention & Prevention)
Mary Leffler	Community Liaison - Volunteers of America
DaAnna Hoskins	Program Director - Governor's Office of Faith Based Initiative
Jimmie Harrington	Director of Re-entry and

#### Mental Illness Training for Chaplains

50-70 % of inmates are estimated to have a serious mental illness. Two training sessions are being offered pro bono to support the Chaplaincy in serving people in crisis both in the community and in jail.

##### Session I - "Understanding Mental Illness"

April 26 @ 8 - 10:00 am facilitated by Carole Wills, Chair of NAMI National FaithNet, an educational outreach to clergy and chaplains of NAMI

##### Session II - "De-Escalation Techniques"

May 24 @ 8-10:00 am will be led by Julie Szumpruch of Midtown Community Mental Health Center. Thanks NAMI & Midtown.

Currently it costs an average of \$52.61 per day to keep an adult inmate incarcerated in Indiana

"We don't have to engage in grand, heroic actions to participate in the process of change. Small acts, when multiplied by millions of people, can transform the world."

Author Unknown

"And if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday."

Isaiah 58:10

Indiana DOC's Annual Budget for 2008-09 was \$635, 453, 905.00



Hamilton County Sheriff's Chaplaincy  
18100 Cumberland Road  
Noblesville, IN 46060

Please take a moment now to support this important mission.  
[www.hamiltoncountychaplains.com](http://www.hamiltoncountychaplains.com)

The less time I spend on that over which I am powerless, the more time and energy I have to do things that I can accomplish. Author Unknown

## Why Become Involved As a Chaplaincy Volunteer

**Economics** - It costs more to keep a person in jail than to place them on probation. If a court can safely order restitution, community service or electronic surveillance, this is a cost saving to the community. Most of Hamilton County inmates are incarcerated for non-violent offenses. Through active citizen participation, inmates may be reintegrated into the Hamilton County Community to become law-abiding members of society.

**Public Safety** - Through the Chaplaincy's volunteer programs and partnership with Jehoshua House rehabilitation is the focus. Pro-social behavior is fostered and promoted by individual citizens. Past feelings of bitterness may be reduced by offering a hand of friendship, understanding and acceptance.

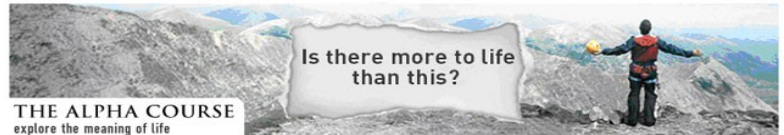
**Training and Experience** - Maybe you are unemployed or underemployed. Documented volunteer service can be used as partial fulfillment of training and experience requirements for state employment. You may request a letter to detail volunteer service.

**Personal Satisfaction** - A feeling of responsibility toward one's community leads concerned citizens to promote and assist in the rehabilitation of the inmate. Everyone wins.

**Personal Growth** - Volunteers give more than just time; volunteers give of themselves. Through established Chaplaincy programs volunteers guide the inmates toward stronger family ties and a clearer understanding of the responsibilities of a law-abiding citizen.

**Personal Relationships:** A chance to expand interpersonal relationships as you meet and serve the Hamilton County Jail staff and inmates. Volunteers have the opportunity to learn about jail operations, help to ease workloads of staff members and at the same time, offer a hand of friendship to an inmate.

**Public Awareness** - Volunteers serve as a liaison between the correctional facilities, their church and the community by opening channels of communication, and creating positive interaction between them.



### Alpha Jail Update

"The first Alpha session at the jail concluded with tears and conversions," reported one male volunteer. Volunteers were led by Bob Irvin of Jehoshua House to deliver customized curriculum to male and female inmates. They had the opportunity to attend a life-changing series that was offered for six consecutive weeks. The second Alpha offering began this month. To learn more, volunteer, and/or mentor, contact Bob (317) 331-9243.



### Kids Count—Junior Law Enforcement Academy

On July 23 at the Hamilton County 4-H grounds, Chaplains Christine Sawyer and George Cooper will be joined by NPD's Tony Craig to offer kids from kindergarten to age 15 a glimpse of law enforcement's role from a biblical perspective. To register and learn more about the full-day event sponsored by the HCSO & NPD. The community is welcome to register as space allows. Please visit [www.hamiltoncountychaplains.com](http://www.hamiltoncountychaplains.com)

"When the prison gates slam behind an inmate, he does not lose his human quality; his mind does not become closed to ideas; his intellect does not cease to feed on a free and open interchange of opinions; his yearning for self-respect does not end; nor is his quest for self-realization concluded. If anything, the needs for identity and self-respect are more compelling in the dehumanizing prison environment."

Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall wrote in his opinion for Procunier v Martinez [416 US 428 (1974)]: