



# Hamilton County Sheriff's Chaplaincy

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2016

*Serving Officers  
Serving Community  
Serving Families  
Serving Inmates*

## Former Inmate Thrives Upon Release

After spending time in the Hamilton County Jail and Community Corrections, the keys to an open door for a new life for Kelli came in the form of dedicating her life to Jesus Christ. When she first found herself in jail facing possibly a 6-month sentence, she was overwhelmed with shame and angry at everyone including God and herself. But she determined to change and found herself praying all the time and journaling. She put in a request to the Chaplaincy and one hour before her sentence re-modification hearing was to begin, Senior Chaplain Mark Fidler came to see her and prayed with her. She admitted her wrongdoing and felt immediately better. The re-modification came back for 20 days instead of the six months. She had humbled herself before God, confessed her sins, and felt certain God honored her prayers and her willingness to take responsibility for her actions.

After she completed her jail sentence, she went to Community Corrections (work release) and found herself struggling as an outsider because of her faith and desire to improve her life. Chaplain Gerry Griffith began visiting Kelli every Monday and



Kelli said she looked so forward to speaking with Chaplain Griffith who gave her encouragement in her spiritual growth. Chaplain Griffith said, "Kelli embodied what it is when those incarcerated in our jail or community corrections take the opportunities that our Chaplaincy has to offer them." She watched as Kelli began to own her part in her situation

and to focus on being a survivor in the system she would live in for several months. She saw Kelli identify the sources of positive support that allowed her to be the woman she chooses to be opposed to shrinking herself into the small box that others labeled her to be. Kelli's mother was also a tremendous support to her in encouraging her to be who she is. Kelli attended every Bible Study and Worship Service that she could and "the classes were more meaningful to others because of her participation," said Chaplain Griffith. Kelli also met Hannah, a like-minded friend, and they attended Bible Studies together and offered each other support.

As Kelli saw her release date nearing, she developed a plan that allowed the real Kelli to come forth and to find her own voice. She is now working and serving her community as a well-spoken, confident, and happy young woman.

*The Chaplaincy is a  
501(c)3 charity  
supported by several  
local churches and  
individuals.*

*How you can help:*

*Pray  
Volunteer  
Donate*

*If you would like to donate, please make your check out to the Hamilton County Sheriff's Chaplaincy and send to the address below. All donations are tax deductible.*

**For more information, please contact:**

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## The Chaplaincy in 2015

At the end of 2015, the Hamilton County Sheriff's Chaplaincy had overseen programming in the Hamilton County Jail serving 6,386 inmates and 1,561 residents attended chaplaincy programs at Community Corrections. There are 147 community volunteers for the Chaplaincy who conduct these programs, which include Bible studies, Christian Intervention, and AA classes. The Jail offers the Alpha Course, which also includes a mentoring program to help the inmates find employment, housing, and a church upon their release.

Our Jail Chaplains answered 3,043 inmate requests for spiritual services in the Jail. The Chaplaincy hosted the Sheriff's Chaplaincy Conference in October with 80 chaplains from 4 states and 21 departments attending the conference.

Sixty-two volunteers directed The Junior Law Enforcement Academy held in June for 126 children from law enforcement families and their friends. The Academy is a one-day Bible school program which applies the Word of God to the law enforcement experience. Deputy Officer Christopher Calhoun is shown right with a group of Cadets.



## 2016 Calendar

Mandatory Jail Volunteer

Training – January 11, June 6, August 15, and October 24 at the Christ Community Church of Hamilton County, 772 N. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Noblesville, IN 46060 from 7:00 – 9:00 pm – Volunteers are required to be trained once annually.

Open registration for the Junior Law Enforcement Academy – May 1

National Day of Prayer – May 5 – Chaplaincy hosts Prayer Gathering at noon on the Noblesville Town Square

Final registration for the Junior Law Enforcement Academy – June 1 or whenever the camp is full. Last year the camp was full by mid-May, so please apply early.

**Junior Law Enforcement Academy – June 17 – Junior Law Enforcement Academy date has been changed from previous date, June 24, which was released in the last newsletter.**

Sheriff's Chaplaincy Conference – October 10-11

## Mission Statement

The mission of the Hamilton County Sheriff's Chaplaincy is to serve public safety personnel, those who work or reside in public safety facilities, as well as all residents of Hamilton County. Our mission is to serve as a supportive group of qualified ministers and counselors, assisting in matters of personal, marriage, job, spiritual as needed, and to be available to assist during times of emergency.