



Hamilton County Sheriff's Chaplaincy

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2019

*Serving Officers
Serving Community
Serving Families
Serving Inmates*

Angel Tree Program Serves Inmates' Children

In 1976, Chuck Colson founded Prison Fellowship as a Christian outreach to prisoners, former prisoners, and their families. One aspect of the ministry is the Angel Tree Program. PrisonFellowship.org mentions that the children of prisoners may be filled with the abandonment, loneliness, and shame that come from having a mom or dad in prison or jail. They may even wonder if their incarcerated parent loves them or even thinks about them.

For many, it may also include following their parents down the same destructive road to incarceration. The Program's purpose is to reach out to the children and families of prisoners with the love of Christ. The Angel Tree Program provides gifts through volunteers at Christmastime to these children on behalf of their incarcerated parent.

Eighteen years ago, Senior Chaplain Tom Burton contacted local

resident Barbara Gould to starting working on a program for the Hamilton County Jail. Barb agreed to coordinate volunteers and through word of mouth, approximately 30 churches have helped over the years. The number has dwindled down to a couple of faithful churches and a few individuals in recent years as many other demands on churches have caused the decline in participation. She has been blessed with a few faithful servants. Barb says the program has been a blessing more to her than to those we have served. She will never forget the year she went to deliver presents and this darling little girl met her at the door and said, "Mama, this special angel is here!" Many inmates share with us the excitement their child shares with them when they call home on Christmas Day.

Each year before we call Barb, we wonder if she will coordinate this program again for the Chaplaincy and each year she is always happily willing. This past Christmas she called in asking us about serving these "little angels" again. This year 87 local children of 45 inmates in the Hamilton County Jail received gifts of toys and clothing items for Christmas with a message from their incarcerated parent.



*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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2018 Was a Blessed Year for the Chaplaincy

The Hamilton County Sheriff's Chaplaincy was blessed with a great year in 2018. We oversaw 182 community volunteers who helped conduct programming in the Hamilton County Jail, Community Corrections, and the Juvenile Services Center. These volunteers conducted Bible studies, Alcoholics Anonymous, Alpha, and Christian Recovery classes. Inmates in the County Jail attended 5,479 classes last year. Community Corrections residents attended 1,041 Chaplaincy program classes.

In addition to the regular programming, the Chaplaincy served 3,181 inmate requests for Bibles, books, and other spiritual services during their incarceration.

The Chaplaincy directed its 12th annual Chaplain Tom Burton Junior Law Enforcement Academy in June. With the help of approximately 40 volunteers, 143 children from law enforcement families and their friends were able to attend the one-half day program, which combines Biblical and law enforcement principles. This was our largest Academy yet.

We hosted our annual Sheriff's Chaplaincy Conference in October training 77 chaplains and 21 departments from Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, and Ohio.



2019 Calendar

Mandatory Jail Volunteer Training – January 7, March 25, August 5, and October 21 from 7:00 – 9:00 pm – Training is held at the Hamilton County Sheriff's Department. All Hamilton County Jail, Community Corrections, and Juvenile Center volunteers are required to be trained once annually.

Open registration for the Junior Law Enforcement Academy – May 1

National Day of Prayer – May 2 – 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

Junior Law Enforcement Academy – June 21

Sheriff's Chaplaincy Conference – October 14-15

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.