

C4C First Responder Care (FRC)

03/20/25

FRC is a passive program that will be maintained and updated with information annually. It is a place where members can learn about the C4C ministry to the First Responder (FR) community and access posted resources.

There are two focuses in this program; 1. Helping you become more than a casual visitor to FRs in your community. 2. If after you are a regular, respected, trustworthy provider, and the Lord has laid on your heart to minister in a deeper way and the opportunity is presented you can utilize the resources in Tools 2 and 3 below.

FRs: Police, Sheriff, Structural and Wildland Fire Departments, EMS, Air Evac, School Security, 911 centers, and wherever we find the above, gathered, working, or honored.

1Cor. 3: 6-9a (...some will plant...some will water...God will harvest...)

FRs are one of the most neglected groups in our society, even by support groups. We see them almost every day doing their jobs and, if convenient, most of us will say, “thank you for your service, would you like to pet on our dogs.” If God has laid this group of hurting people on your heart, and you are asked to provide deeper support to a FR group then Canines for Christ (C4C) wants to help you find a way to achieve that God called mission.

The information you find in this document is for the general use of our members only and not to be used in conversations with FRs.

Why is this ministry needed?

Police officers and Firefighters are first on the scene of some of the most dangerous and demanding situations imaginable, providing immediate care and support. Although these heroic duties are essential to society, they can be very strenuous and emotionally draining to those in the profession. Police officers are at a higher risk of mental health issues than any other profession due to the intense stress and human devastation that they are exposed to daily. Firefighters, while not exposed to as many of the same types of violence, they too are also vulnerable to higher rates of mental health issues.

Divorce rates for these groups are hard to pin down but they are all trending up. One of the major reasons this segment of the population is hard to get good data on is the “Code of Silence” within the FR community. It’s this close-knit attitude that makes it hard to gain access to them as a community and to reach a point where individual needs can be met.

We as believing Christians, know that there is only one way to maintain good mental health, a productive life, a happy marriage, or recover from the ravages of these problems, and that’s a committed life to God through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ our Lord, and the willingness to be controlled by the Holy Spirit.

How can C4C help?

This ministry is designed to provide C4C members with three basic tools to aid them in following 1Cor. 3 to the extent each has a calling in the FRC ministry.

1. Provide members with ideas to gain access into the FR community. This section will be an ongoing compilation of individuals that are willing to share about their professional, personal, and social experiences of working in this area.
2. Provide a go-to source of members names and numbers who are currently working in this ministry that can provide support, direction, and act as a prayer partner throughout your journey.

3. Provide members with a place to dig deeper into opportunities to become a certified, accredited, or ordained Public Safety Chaplain, if they so choose.
Public Safety Chaplains is a category of Chaplains that is accepted across the FR disciplines. You will see below that you can earn credentials specifically in the discipline of choice.

Tool #1 Gaining access into your local, state, or regional FR facilities.

No matter which way you gain access, don't expect it to happen fast.

If you don't happen to find a soft heart that invites you in, try the following options. Seek out whether the department has a Public Service Chaplain. If so get to know them, see if assisting them on a regular schedule. C4C is currently using this method with Emergency Chaplains in North Carolina. Their contact information and members involved are listed in Tool #3. You can contact them directly.

Although open to the public your goal is getting passed the front door. Just so there is no question about it, these are closed communities, and you need to have, or to have earned, the right to get in. By this we mean, you have been in an FR profession, have a relative who is or was FR, you have a business that works closely with FRs in the community, or you have a sponsor who is willing to take you in. If you have a FR background, you should not be shy talking about it. If you are going on your own merit you need to make it clear you have earned the right to be part of their community, (Not in those exact words). If you have a relative or close friend who was or is a FR have them introduce you. If you don't have those options, then ask around your church or the local association your church is affiliated with to see if there is a FR person willing to help you. If you run out of options, don't quit trying. Give God a chance to work. Most of us are known in our local areas, or should I say our dogs are known. Capitalize on every opportunity God gives you to talk to and visit with FRs as you see them and give a soft-hearted FR a chance to fall in love with your dog.

Tool #2 Is an active growing list with C4C members names and numbers who are currently working in this ministry that will provide support, firsthand experiences, contact information, and direction.

Donald Askew, NC. 252-531-2257, Fred Wetzel, AR. 208-830-3002, Ross Powell, TX. 210-639-7227, Cheryl Timmons, CA. 714-402-8719, Jim Kidwell, TN. 615-879-5716,

Tool #3 Lists advanced training opportunities to meet your long-term goals of becoming certified, accredited, or ordained as a Public Safety Chaplain. C4C does not require any member to take advanced Chaplaincy training to visit FRs. We do acknowledge that once you are "through the door" you could at any time be asked to minister to an individual who needs more than your dog. This is a complex area of ministry, and **it is recommended that if you desire more than just casual contact with FRs** you have at least completed the C4C requirements to be a C4C chaplain. God will let you know if you need more based on your calling.

Opportunities for advanced Chaplain training:

Several important issues to consider when deciding on advanced training.

1. **Be sure you know what is required by your State and local units to serve as a chaplain where you are needed.** Before you sign up for any training make sure it meets those requirements. **Note: You may be required to take training that is NOT Christian based.** We may include some of these but only after a member has attended and believe it is appropriate for listing. All non-Christian training will be clearly marked as such and found in a separate list. Recommending Graduates of those courses will be listed for contact by other members if needed.

2. Christian or non-Christian, training usually comes in two forms.
 - a. Conducted by an organization where membership in that organization is required, and certification is only achieved through the completion of pre-determined multiple courses. EChap is an example of this form of training. There could be a vetting process to join the organization, and they offer continued support for members.
 - b. Training conducted by groups that results in a standalone certificate, or unrelated certificates that may add to a core Chaplain certification. Billy Graham and Serving Heros are in this group.
3. When you begin praying about moving into the FR Chaplaincy ministry, remember FRs need a committed chaplain, day or night, long or short periods. **Commitment is the optimum word**, make sure you have the time and clear direction from the Lord before you get too far down the road.

The following list of training opportunities is member driven. All inclusions will be reviewed by C4C before posting.

Emergency Chaplains (EChap), echap.org
PO Box 14762, RTP, NC.
27709919-280-8908
Ralph@echap.org

Membership required.

International Conference of Police Chaplains (ICPC), icpc4cops.org
PO Box 5590, Destin, FL. 32540
850-654-9736
ICPC@icpc4cops.org

Membership required.

International Fellowship of Chaplains (IFOC), ifoc.org
PO Box 1004, Temple, Tx. 76503
254-314-2159
chaplains@ifoc.org

Membership required.

Billy Graham National Law Enforcement Ministry rrt.billygraham/chaplain.org
Law Enforcement Chaplain Training Program (LECTP)
This ministry is a part of their Rapid Response Team ministry.
All information can be found at rrt.billygraham.org

Serving Heroes servingheroes.net
643 NW 110 th. St. Kansas City, MO 64155
816-808-0789
Barrymichaelyoung@yahoo.com

More options will be added as members forward to C4C for inclusion.