

Crisis Chaplains ride in Harris County Sheriff patrol cars

You read correctly! February 18, 2010 marked the inauguration of the Harris County Sheriff's Office crisis chaplain ride-along program. Members gathered in Captain Richmond's office at Humble's Patrol Bureau District II office for a quick, last minute chat before going out on the program's first ride-along. The first shift was fairly calm but helped identify a few things that could be fine tuned before future ride-alongs.

We, at Crisis Chaplaincy Care (CCC) of Harris County, have always felt that the best way to have crisis chaplains involved effectively in major events was to have them involved on a day-to-day basis instead of sitting at home with their credentials waiting for "the big one".



By working closely with our first responders on a regular basis CCC can:

- 1) Be there when needed most and
- 2) Foster the relationships essential to working together under extreme duress and in major crises.

This is a Harris County Sheriff's Office program, not a CCC program. Any properly credentialed crisis chaplain in good standing with any recognized chaplain group can apply to ride. Crisis chaplains wishing to apply should contact Deputy Wayne Heintze at (713) 755-5903 or by email at Wayne.Heintze@sheriff.hctx.net.

In other news, a small group of crisis chaplains is on the ground in Haiti at the request of the North American Mission Board to help out wherever needed. The initial reports from these veteran disaster responders are that this is worse than anything they have previously experienced. The Haitians are a resilient people determined to resume a normal life despite their plight and ongoing aftershocks.

CCC is renewing its commitment to the Harris County Citizen Corps and its role of teaching disaster psychology to C.E.R.T classes.

In our continuing efforts to train both clergy and lay persons to be crisis chaplains, our next training will be on March 18 and 19 at the Harris County Fire and Sheriff's Academy in Humble. Further information can be obtained at www.HarrisCountyCitizenCorps.com under "Volunteer Training & Opportunities".

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