



# Spokane County Sheriff Chaplaincy

## March 2026 Newsletter

### Lead Chaplain

Robert Kinnune

### Assistant Lead Chaplain

Ryan Stemkoski

### Senior Chaplains

Jake Burkholder

Rochelle Renninger

Garry Losey

### Chaplains

Joe Fruci

Jaylynn Lawrence

Steve Beck

Anthony Rogers

Cade Clarke \*

JR Stanley \*

Cliff Foster \*

### Reserve Chaplains

TJ Gaia

Kyle Knutsen \*

### Support Team

Yvonne Losey

Renee Townsley

Marilyn Van Tassel

\* Currently Probationary staff in training

## Support Your Chaplains

Because of generous supporters like you we're able to care for our law enforcement family and community.

How you can give:

- On Our Website

- Venmo

- By Check

- Payroll Deductions

- Visit us at our

Chaplain Office in the DEM Building



## Sheriff Chaplain's Corner

By Chaplain Anthony Rogers

### Serving Through Presence

*"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." --- Galatians 6:2 (NIV)*

Scripture reminds us that one of the clearest expressions of faith is the willingness to walk alongside others in their moments of need. Galatians 6:2 calls believers to carry one another's burdens—not from a distance, but through presence, compassion, and shared strength. In many ways, this verse reflects the heart of chaplaincy.

Chaplaincy is often described as a ministry of presence. It means showing up in moments when life is at its most fragile - standing beside Deputies on difficult calls, sitting with families who have just received devastating news, or quietly listening when someone needs a safe place to speak. These moments rarely come with easy answers. Often, what people need most is simply to know they are not alone and are heard.

Over the past year, serving as a Chaplain with the Spokane County Sheriff's Office has provided me with countless opportunities to witness both the hardships and the resilience present in our community. Whether assisting with death notifications, supporting Deputies after difficult incidents, or providing spiritual care, the work consistently reveals a powerful truth: hope matters. Even in the darkest moments, the presence of someone willing to care can make a profound difference.

Many who serve in law enforcement and public safety encounter situations that the average person rarely sees. The weight of tragedy, trauma, and responsibility can accumulate over time. Behind every badge and uniform is a person carrying experiences that do not always disappear when the shift ends. Chaplaincy exists in part to help shoulder that burden—offering encouragement, listening without judgment, and reminding those who serve that their work has meaning.

*"For who is God besides the Lord? And who is the Rock except our God? It is God who arms me with strength and keeps my way secure." --- Psalms 18:31-32 (NIV)*

# The Chaplain's Oath

On 2/11/2026, two of the Spokane County Sheriff Chaplains completed their chaplain training and took the Spokane County Sheriff's Chaplain's Oath as fully-endorsed SCSO Chaplains. Congratulations to Chaplain Anthony Rogers and Chaplain TJ Gaia. Here's the SCSO Chaplain's oath:

I, Chaplain "name" swear to serve diligently and honorably  
to meet the emotional, physical, and spiritual needs  
of the law enforcement family and the community  
when needed or requested.  
I will bring comfort, crisis-oriented counseling, and consoling nature  
to those who may be experiencing a crisis.  
I will not proselytize or otherwise attempt to force  
a particular religious faith on anyone.  
I will share my Faith with those who seek  
or ask for spiritual counsel during these times.  
I will provide these services to all  
regardless of race, religion, gender, or national origin.



## Support the Chaplaincy with Payroll Deductions

Are you a Spokane County employee? Did you know you can support the chaplaincy and our mission? Learn more and sign-up online:

<https://scsochaplains.org/payroll-deduction/>



## SCSO Chaplain Support Staff

Meet our Service Dog Hank and Chaplain Support Staff Marilyn Van Tassel



When you worked at the same place for 30 years, for me it was the Spokane County Jail, you can't wait to retire. My prayer before work used to be, "Okay God, what are we going to do today?" I enjoyed my job, at least until all the overtime started, but when facing retirement, then it became, "Okay God, what are we going to do?"

Eleven months before I retired, I got a 6-week-old goldendoodle puppy, and I named him "Hank!" What little fun monster – biting, zooming, and being constantly needy. What was I thinking!? He was so bad on a leash that I took him to training at the Unleashed Academy. It was a 2-week class, 1 day a week. He was so fun to train. We signed up for

a 4-week Puppy 101 class, 1 day a week. I worked with him every day between classes. The Training Instructor thought Hank would make a good service dog. So, six months later, we started a 3-month class, every other week, for Therapy and Service dog training. During training, there were 7 other dogs in Hank's class, and only 2 passed. Hank is one of them.

Now, I was retired with a service dog and nowhere to volunteer or serve. We tried convalescent homes, group homes, schools, retirement centers, and churches. Sad to say, we were bored. Then I thought to check out the SCSO Chaplaincy, and I like to think it was God's leading, so we applied. I would be serving and supporting the people and the department I was familiar with, serving God, and using Hank! Win-Win! After interviews, board approval, and a background check, Hank and I found our place. We are loved, and we have our purpose. Hank is now 5 years old, and I love the way God uses him.



## SCSO Chaplains -and- This Mission

This Mission and Their Mission Statement:

**FIGHTING SEX TRAFFICKING** - This Mission has been called to fight sex trafficking. We are actively working with multiple organizations around the world that rescue and provide aftercare support for survivors of sex trafficking.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT** - At This Mission, we are dedicated to fighting the trafficking of minors worldwide. Our unwavering commitment stems from the belief that every child deserves a safe and nurturing environment to thrive in. With firm resolve, we actively engage in the battle against this heinous crime. In 2023 we began deploying vital resources to support law enforcement agencies and writing grants to them.

**PARTNERING IMPACT** - Collaboration lies at the heart of our mission. We believe in the power of unity and work hand-in-hand with law enforcement agencies, non-governmental organizations, and advocacy groups. By pooling our resources and expertise, we amplify our impact, reaching more communities and rescuing more children from the horrors of trafficking.



### Talk to a Chaplain

Whether you're an officer, county employee, community member, or just need someone to talk to, our chaplain team is here for you.

- 24x7 Support Spiritual
- Guidance & Referrals
- Pastoral Counseling
- Conversation
- Crisis Intervention
- Weddings & Funerals

### Supporters of the Month



#### Turning Point Church

Thank you Turning Point Church for sponsoring chaplains and sharing your facilities with the Spokane County Sheriff Chaplains!