Many of the services that your Chico Police Department provides would not be possible without the very significant efforts of not just our paid employees, but our volunteers as well. Many in the community may be unaware of just how important that partnership with our volunteers really is. In an effort to acknowledge our volunteers and to communicate their accomplishments to our community, we intend to share periodic “spotlights” on different parts of your Police Department and its people. Our first installment will be regarding the Police Chaplaincy program.

**Spotlight on: Chico Police Chaplains**

The Chico Police Chaplains Association (CPCA) began its mission with the Chico Police Department in 1999 with ten ministers trained by the International Conference of Police Chaplains. Now in its 17th year, our Chaplains field 11 Police Chaplains who are on call 24 hours a day and ready to respond whenever the public is impacted by violence, death or disaster.

Chaplains are available to assist all department employees, citizen volunteers and their families and often respond to critical incidents, natural disasters and large scale deployments. Chaplains are frequently called to assist Officers making death notifications. This very difficult task is made easier with the assistance of a Police Chaplain who can provide comfort to the families even after the Officers have left the scene. The Chaplains have performed police weddings, funerals and memorial services and bring their knowledge of seldom experienced tragedies in order to fulfill the mission of the Chico Police Department, freeing up officers to concentrate on crime scene management and investigation.

For many years, our Chaplains have provided food and drink during special events such as St. Patrick’s Day, Cesar Chavez Day, Halloween and Labor Day. Whether it’s their famous Corn Beef and Cabbage during St. Patrick’s Day or the Tri Tip dinner provided at Halloween, their presence and support during these events is much appreciated and anticipated by the on duty personnel.

Your Police Department is grateful for the assistance of our Chaplains in our everyday work and very proud of their professionalism and dedication to our community.

For additional information about the Chico Police Chaplains, please contact Chico Police Chaplains Association president, Chaplain Peter Hansen at fatherhansen@gmail.com.

**Spotlight #1**

**Watch Commander:**

**Prepared By:** Lt. Rob Merrifield  **Date/Time:** 12/16/2015 0937
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