



Monthly Newsletter
December 2015

**Fire Rescue Support exists to support fire rescue personnel
before, during and after the call**

#GIVING TUESDAY™

Today's the Day

We have a day for giving thanks. We have two for getting deals. Now, we have #GivingTuesday, a global day dedicated to giving back. On Tuesday, December 1, 2015, charities, families, businesses, community centers, and students around the world will come together for one common purpose: to celebrate generosity and to give.

Designed as a day for unselfish giving, the first Tuesday in December (this year it's December 1st), #GivingTuesday gives people an opportunity to refocus their giving after Black Friday and Cyber Monday.

Fire Rescue Support is excited to be part of #GivingTuesday 2015. You can learn more about the work we do among fire rescue personnel by going to our website (www.firerescuesupport.com) and Facebook page (be sure to "Like" us). Then, on December 1st, you'll be given the opportunity to financially give to support this work.

Black Friday. Cyber Monday. #GivingTuesday.



Become a Financial Partner

I am often asked how Fire Rescue Support is able to do the work it does. I serve as a volunteer with Marion County Fire Rescue and Ocala Fire Rescue. While both agencies have been very generous in providing resources for my training, I receive no salary from them for the chaplaincy.

The bottom line is that we are a faith-based ministry depending on God's provision. He has used foundations, businesses, churches and individuals to meet our needs.

Perhaps God wants to use you to support fire rescue personnel and the people they serve. Here's how your support can help:

- A gift of \$25 keeps the Dunkin' Donuts card charged for a month ready to buy a cup of coffee for a firefighter that needs to talk.
- A gift of \$100 helps a fire victim get the basic items they need so they can start their road to recovery.
- A gift of \$200 provides the resources needed to stay on the road with fire rescue personnel one more day.

Feel free to contact me to discuss becoming part of our financial support team, or [click here](#) to begin giving today.



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Fire Rescue Family Day



On Saturday, November 14, nearly 100 firefighters and their families along with volunteers from Hale Products and Church @ The Springs gathered for our first ever Family Day.

Sponsored by Hale and hosted by The Springs, this event gave fire families the opportunity to relax and play together, enjoy a great meal, and discuss some of the unique challenges facing fire families.





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Fire Rescue Cares

I walked through the single wide mobile home next to her. She had one child and another one on the way. In fact, items from a recent baby shower, some still in boxes, were in the corner of the living room.

Although our crews did a great job by holding the fire to one room, there was still a good amount of damage from water, smoke and heat. We walked through the home sorting out what was damaged and what could be salvaged.

Sadly, I've done this many times. In fact, over the past several years, I've been with over 50 families who have suffered loss as a result of a house fire. And while our mission is to support fire rescue personnel, we have the opportunity to support families facing this kind of loss, as well.

Through our Fire Rescue Cares initiative, Fire Rescue Support has given \$17,320 to 101 adults and 70 children from 52 families since March 2012. This financial assistance, given in the form of WalMart gift cards, allows families the opportunity to take a first step on their road to recovery.

Your financial support allows us to continue to care for those who are in great need.



Reading Day

On Wednesday, November 11, we celebrated Veteran's Day – a day set aside to honor those who have served in our armed forces. At Harbour View Elementary School in Summerfield, this day included local heroes reading about our military heroes.



With Marion County Fire Rescue Station 30



With Officer Christina LaCognata



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The First Words of Christmas

"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Luke 2:10-12

What are the first words that come to your mind when you think of Christmas? They may be single words such as joy, fun, mistletoe, or stress, debt, tired. They may be words linked together as a phrase such as Happy Holidays or Jesus is the Reason for the Season. Perhaps song titles come to your mind; "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas", "The First Noel", "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen."

But before any of these words were spoken there were the words of an angel. For four hundred years, God had not spoken to Israel. Not since the days of the prophets had any word been heard from God. But the silence was broken one evening in Bethlehem. This angel had been sent with an announcement that split history in two. All that Israel had been waiting for had arrived. These truly were words of great joy!

Can you imagine what this group of shepherds thought when their peaceful evening was interrupted by this heavenly visitor? No wonder the first words the angel spoke were "Do not be afraid." 2,000 years later, does this angelic announcement rattle you? Is it somewhat startling to know what God has done in sending His Son? Have you fully allowed Him to enter your world? What about the angel's promise of a sign? Do you find yourself searching to see evidence of God in your midst? Will you accept and follow Him by faith? Or are you struggling to hear God's voice during a season of silence where you haven't heard from Him?

The first words of Christmas were for all the people. That included shepherds and wise men. It also includes you and me.

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." Let these be the first words of Christmas for you this year.





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Amazon Donates to Charity



For eligible purchases at Amazon Smile, the Amazon Smile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the customer's selected charitable organization. You can make Fire Rescue Support your organization by [clicking here](#). Then every time you order through the Amazon Smile website you'll be helping Fire Rescue Support continue its mission of supporting fire rescue personnel before, during and after the call.



Thank you!

Thanks for your interest in and partnership with Fire Rescue Support. Because of you, we have the opportunity to support fire rescue personnel before, during and after the call. Visit www.firerescuesupport.com for more information or to donate. You can also find us on Facebook. And please don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance personally or professionally. You can reach me at 352-425-1643 or joe@firerescuesupport.com.

