



BACKING the BADGE

"Serving those that serve us."

(800) 788-8630



BACKING the BADGE Newsletter Holiday Edition December 2017

It seems that it came in the blink of an eye, but the Holiday Season is here. Anyone who is a First Responder knows what that brings. The very best and the very worst of many people. Try to focus on the best, especially now. This is a time of friends, family, fellowship and giving thanks for all we have. Please enjoy this special holiday edition of our newsletter.

www.backingthebadge.com

BACKING the BADGE Recently Participates in the Michigan Sheriff's Association Fall Conference

BACKING the BADGE participated in the recent MSA Fall Conference that was held at the Grand Traverse Resort in Acme, MI. Team Members Alison Brown and Gary Bush represented BACKING the BADGE at the conference. There were many contacts made and some great conversations with the Sheriffs and their staff members. In our drawing we gave away a really neat metal plaque of crossed pistols with the slogan, "We don't call 9-1-1." This plaque was a real attention getter throughout the conference. After the drawing, Undersheriff James Vandyken of the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Office was the lucky winner. We hope that he enjoys it. This was a great conference with a huge turnout.



Holiday Messages From Your BACKING the BADGE, ENCOMPASS and COMPASS Staff



In our holiday edition, we like to send a message to all of our brave First Responders from the BACKING the BADGE and ENCOMPASS Staff members. Enjoy!

Mike Ohren - Professional Support Consultant

I would like to say a big thanks to the First Responders of this nation for doing everything they do to assist others and frequently are not offered the thanks they deserve. These are true heroes who are taken for granted until they are called upon to save a life, rescue a child from a fire or administer CPR at a critical traffic accident scene. Have a HAPPY Holiday season and THANKS for all you do for us.

Gary Bush - Executive Director and Co-Founder

As all First Responders know, the holidays can bring out the very best of humanity, Sadly, it can also bring out the very worst. The holiday season is a time for family, friends, and fellowship. As you are able, please try and slow down just a bit and spend some time with those that are most important to you. Try to enjoy the things this season has to offer. We at BACKING the BADGE thank you for your service and sacrifice, especially now. Be safe!

Maria Herrala - Professional Support Consultant

Thank you for all you do for everyone every day. We are grateful for your services and appreciative of you. May your holiday season bring you peace!

Dennis Potter - Professional Support Consultant

Thank you for your efforts to make our communities safe, our civilians healthier, and our homes smoke free. Have a great Holiday Season, and I hope you never have to see me, except for a cup of coffee.

Jim Bottenhorn - Professional Support Consultant

Friends, thank you for your service! Take care of yourselves, and take care of one another during this holiday season. All the best to you and your families in

2018!

Laura Blanchard - Professional Support Consultant

Thank you to EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU who work tirelessly and courageously to save lives and keep our communities safe. You are all greatly appreciated!

Jeff Baker - Professional Support Consultant

During the Holidays, families get together and remember their ancestors. Our "families" are more than blood relatives, but include the families we serve with. Fond remembrances for those that served before us and with us.

John Nickisson - Professional Support Consultant

This time of year, especially, can be both painful and joyous. Take a moment, as my family will, to remember the lives of those who have fallen. And equally important, remember; *Whatever is beautiful, whatever is meaningful, whatever brings you happiness, safety, and peace, may this be yours and you families' this holiday season and throughout the coming year.* Thank you for your service and sacrifice.

Sara Eklove - Professional Support Consultant

I'd like to take a moment to say "Thank You" to all members of our First Responder and Law Enforcement communities. It's because of you we are able to enjoy not just our holidays, but our everyday. Your sacrifice is appreciated!

Alison Brown - Senior Consultant and Co-Founder

It is at this time of year that many of us reflect on and express our appreciation for all the good things we have in life. The work done by law enforcement, firefighters and first responders is always evident. Whether it is dark and rainy, cold and snowy, or blistering hot - as I'm driving for work or personal, I see you. I'm constantly reminded that you are consistently there to serve and protect. The words "Thank You" are simple, but heartfelt and offered with a grateful heart. Happy holidays to you and yours and may God bless.

Steve Darling - Professional Support Consultant

BACKING the BADGE has recently added a support group for LEO's to discuss

issues not commonly talked about in other settings. The group allows officers to bring issues from behind the badge to the table and receive reinforcements from peers that they are not alone. During this upcoming season of peace and brotherhood, the best gift you could give a friend or colleague may be the following information;

LEO Support, by LEO's, for LEO's

180 Kent Street

Portland, MI

For further information, please contact Steve Darling at

sdarling@encompass.us.com.

Michele Kimmel-Fors - Executive Director of COMPASS

May you have a safe and healthy holiday season. Thank you for making the choice to help, rescue, protect and serve. Thank you for doing what many of us are not trained or brave enough to do.

Kate Lynn - Professional Support Consultant

Best wishes to all of you for a safe and happy holiday. With gratitude from a community member who has received your help.

Jessi Zielinski - Professional Support Consultant

Just wanted to wish you and your families a happy holiday and thank you for all the good work that you do. You are appreciated.

Kelly Houtman - Professional Support Consultant

Thank you all for your service. May you have a peaceful holiday season and a blessed New Year.



***Wishing a very Merry
Christmas to our
Country's outstanding
first responders and
all the great people
that support them!***

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