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**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 1:17 PM  
**To:** Alaina Hepworth  
**Subject:** MASH Ministries End of 2023 Year Recap



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## **MASH Ministries End of 2023 Recap**

As we all know, November and December can be busy months gathering with friends and family to celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas. November and December 2023 were just that for ministry. Paul was approached and given many opportunities to speak to different churches, veterans' organizations and other groups. Some of those include speaking in Wisconsin at a supporting church for the day, speaking to inner city kids in Indianapolis on military life during their after-school program, speaking to a local county veteran's coalition about what MASH is all about, presented MASH to the Legion Riders of Noblesville and to the American Legion Post 45 in Noblesville. Paul was also invited to speak at the Hamilton County Ladies Republican group.

In the last two weeks, Paul has received two phone calls from veterans that were contemplating suicide. Thankful that neither one of these veterans followed through and they are working towards a plan to work on their mental health. Paul also receives calls throughout the week asking him to sit down and talk with veterans who are struggling.

Paul has helped several groups start support groups since the start of our ministry. Over the last several weeks, he has had three re-dedicate their lives back to Christ. Currently, we have three support groups that meet each week with one more to start this year as soon as construction is complete for their location.

In the last week, we have received several emails or texts asking Paul to come speak at their church for 2024. We look forward to seeing the calendar fill up.

Last year, MASH Ministries was able to start a first responder snack drive. We are currently planning our second drive with our community. We look forward to being a blessing to those first responders who are working tirelessly to protect our community.

MASH also had its third fundraiser of the year--the Gala. MASH was invited to use the office space of our corporate sponsor to host its event and silent auction. Almost all of the silent auction baskets sold and Paul was able to share his story and heart for MASH during the dinner. What a great night for the gala. We have had multiple people approach us that they didn't realize all what Paul had been through and what MASH is doing with the veterans and first responder community. We look forward to the 5k, golf classic and gala in 2024.

## Phelps Family Update

It is hard to believe that the kids started the second half of the school year today. We did enjoy the time off of school, time spent with family and resting together in preparation for the new year. Christmas break was also looked a little different as a couple of the kids weren't feeling well. Thankful for the time to rest and heal without missing school.

Before Christmas, the girls (minus Alyssa as she was studying for exams) and Paul had an opportunity to pack boxes of food to give to needy veterans. They were able to help 38 families with a Christmas meal. The girls enjoyed being able to pack the boxes for the American Legion to pass out.

We were able to take a couple days to help Paul's aunt get settled in her new place in Michigan. The girls enjoyed reorganizing the pantry with their cousins and spending time together as a family. Sarah and Paul's cousin worked together on setting up the kitchen while Paul setup shelves in the pantry.

We look forward to more family time at the end of the month celebrating Anna (soon to be 11) and Alex and Ava's (soon to be 8) birthdays.

Sarah has signed up to run her first two 5ks this spring. Sarah just started getting into running this past November and is loving the challenge it brings.

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