



## PRESS RELEASE

Contact: **Mark Miller**  
(916) 380.2090  
[markorlandomiller@yahoo.com](mailto:markorlandomiller@yahoo.com)

**Kerry Shearer**  
(916) 838-4775  
[kshearer@CitizenVoice.org](mailto:kshearer@CitizenVoice.org)

### **BAYSIDE CHURCH AND CITIZEN VOICE HONOR SACRAMENTO REGION'S FIRST RESPONDERS WITH WEEKEND CELEBRATION, PREPAREDNESS KITS**

#### **Event Includes Recognition and Inspiring Display, Distribution of Thousands of SAFELY OUT™ Preparedness Kits**

**ROSEVILLE, Calif., – May 18, 2013** – Thousands will gather at Bayside Church the weekend of May 18 and May 19 to celebrate the region's true heroes who regularly put their lives on the line during tragedies and disasters. The First Responders Weekend will consist of impressive demonstrations and displays from the area's emergency response teams including law enforcement, fire department, medical technicians and more.

In addition, thousands of SAFELY OUT™ disaster preparedness kits will be distributed to families at Bayside's First Responders Weekend and attendees will have an opportunity to further impact the region by sponsoring additional kits for distribution to the area's most vulnerable - frail seniors, the disabled, and families with young children.

"Over the last several years, we've learned as a nation that it's important to be prepared for any type of emergency," said John Volinsky, pastor at Bayside Church. "While it's important to honor and celebrate the heroes among us, it's also important we encourage people to act. We believe SAFELY OUT™ is one of the best programs there is to help get communities ready to have a plan before an emergency strikes."

At the Bayside Granite Bay campus, several first responder leaders will participate during the services, including former Sacramento Sheriff John McGinness, Law Enforcement Chaplaincy Sr. Chaplain Mindi Russell, Citizen Voice President Gary Dietrich, Bayside Pastor Ray Johnston, and others.

Citizen Voice President Gary Dietrich spearheaded creation of the SAFELY OUT™ program here in the Sacramento region to help protect the vulnerable after he witnessed the monumental evacuation challenge rescuers faced in Hurricane Katrina. "SAFELY OUT™ is a neighbor-helping-neighbor approach that takes some of the burden off first responders, acting as a valuable force multiplier," Dietrich said. "The SAFELY OUT™ door hanger lets rescuers know if a resident needs

help or is safely evacuated, and other elements in the kit organize vital information, manage medications, and help family members find each other again once they are evacuated."

The groundbreaking SAFELY OUT™ project is now expanding nationwide, and was featured in a RAND report to state and local governments as a recommended best practice nationally.

"The SAFELY OUT™ program helps ensure that first responders in a disaster will not be spending unnecessary resources at a home where the occupants have already gotten out safely," said former Sacramento County Sheriff John McGinness.

While the First Responders Weekend was being planned well before the Boston Marathon bombings occurred, the tragedy has again highlighted the often-dangerous work our first responders perform every day to protect and serve our communities.

For more information about Bayside's First Responders Weekend, please visit <http://www.baysideonline.com> or call (916) 791-1244.

### **Citizen Voice SAFELY OUT™ Project**

The groundbreaking Citizen Voice SAFELY OUT™ Project is designed specifically to help ensure that our most vulnerable - frail elderly, people with disabilities, families with young children - are evacuated safely during a natural or man-made disaster. Developed with technical assistance from the Red Cross, the project's key component is the SAFELY OUT™ evacuation kit, a unique neighbor-helping-neighbor alert and helper system that enables the vulnerable to know at least three others nearby have agreed prior to a disaster to assist them to safety.

The SAFELY OUT™ Kit also allows easy access to critical emergency information along with an alert system that allows the person to request help and then notifies relatives where they have evacuated to. The SAFELY OUT™ Project thus serves as a vital "force multiplier," greatly assisting emergency responders with carrying out their difficult and often dangerous duties. Supported by the California Emergency Management Agency and many others, and cited in a national RAND Corporation report to state and local governments as a best practice in enhancing emergency preparedness for special needs populations, the SAFELY OUT™ Project has become a valuable tool in preparing the vulnerable for disasters. More information is available at [CitizenVoice.org](http://CitizenVoice.org).

### **At-A-Glance:**

What: Bayside Church/Citizen Voice First Responders Weekend  
When\*: Saturday, May 18, 2013; 4:15 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.  
Sunday, May 19, 2013; 8:15 a.m., 9:45 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 7:00 p.m.  
Cost: No charge  
Locations: Granite Bay Campus: 8191 Sierra College Blvd., Roseville, Calif.  
Lincoln Campus\*\*: 2800 Nicolaus Rd., Lincoln, Calif. 95648  
Folsom Campus\*\*: 500 Blue Ravine Rd., Folsom, Calif. 95630

\* Granite Bay Campus times only.

\*\* Folsom and Lincoln times: 9:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.