



# NEWSLETTER

SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1937



## Hearing the Call of Service

### Live-Ins Gain Friendship & the Experience of a Lifetime

By *Pvt. Dhananjay Anand*

Sirens wailing, Medic 741 flickers down Battery Lane on a recent Monday night. The slumbering Battery Park neighborhood is reminiscent of a less urban, more residential Bethesda that Firefighter/EMT Logan Dana grew up in. "There are a lot more high-rises and apartment buildings now than when I was growing up here." He is behind the wheel tonight, responding to an elderly resident just blocks away from the Squad. Sitting in the passenger seat is Paramedic Andy Goldstrom, a seven-year veteran and Logan's roommate.

Logan and Andy both live in a semi-private dormitory on the second floor of the Rescue Squad in return for sitting duty four nights a week. "I like to tell people I live in a 30,000 sq-ft place with an eight-car garage in Bethesda ... but I share a bathroom, a hallway, and a light switch," said Logan.

As a "live-in", he feels that he is able to build camaraderie with members across multiple crews and help them navigate the serpentine path of classes, check-offs, internships and training sessions required to become a Firefighter, Paramedic, or EMT.

"Living in" also means more calls, and more experience, a distinction illustrated on that recent Monday night as Medic 741 approached the nursing facility to which Andy and Logan had been dispatched. Andy recognizes that he had responded

to this patient just a few nights prior. He remembers having met her daughter at that time, who explained a condition that significantly obstructed the patient's airway.



**Close Quarters**

*continued ...*

... continued from front



**Andy grew up in northwest DC**, attending a small private school on 16th Street. Not too many friends from high school chose his path in life. Coming out of high school, Andy felt that his calling was to help make society more equitable. "At first, that meant seeking justice and order," Andy says. His pursuit led him to join the military and then seek a profession in law enforcement. He eventually concluded that his personal calling was to help through "soft contacts" rather than "catching bad guys." As a paramedic, the calls that stand out to him are the ones where he was able to make a change beyond the immediate emergency - from helping a father seek assistance in addressing a child's struggle with addiction, to advocating for a patient with limited access to health care.

**Logan's path to becoming a firefighter was more personal.** He attended a large public high school in Bethesda and then had to move to Texas for a couple of years, only to return in his senior year. "People said, 'that guy looks familiar' when I came back," Logan remembers, "but there were only one or two people that remained my friends." Now a transplant in the town he grew up in, Logan graduated from high school still unsure of his path, watching his peers pursue more "traditional" careers. "I considered the military," Logan says, "I was living with my older brother on Wisconsin Avenue, taking some college classes and working odd jobs." Tragedy then struck, as Logan's brother passed away from sudden cardiac arrest in bed in the room the two of them shared.

If you are interested in gaining the experience of a lifetime as a live-in member or a regular volunteer, please **contact the Rescue Squad to learn more today**, or visit us online, at <https://www.bccrs.org/join>.

"I was the last person to see him the previous night and I was the one who found him in the morning the next day," Logan says. "The rescue squad responded." Logan remembers the abject helplessness of the moments before help arrived, and the cadre of BCCRS responders working in their organized bustle to revive his brother.

A year later he came into the Rescue Squad for his first ride along, a reminder of his brother's life tattooed on his upper arm. Today, Logan is a Sergeant, in charge of Thursday Night

Crew; Logan's crew, when polled, almost universally describes his commitment to the people on the crew as an outstanding hallmark of his leadership.

Camaraderie is unavoidable in the fire service. Whether fostered during a physically grueling training session in the fire academy or receiving positive reinforcement from a preceptor after a particularly stressful call, both Logan and Andy eagerly recount moments where they were part of a team.

Tonight, as Andy and Logan rush upstairs to help the elderly patient, they will go through many technical skills to try and save a life. Technical competence has now supplanted helplessness for Logan as they initiate CPR. Andy realizes an opportunity for a 'soft touch' by working to ameliorate the patient's daughter's imminent grief. As they retell this story in training or after-action review, there will be versions where they talk about things they tried, things that could have gone better, but in all the retellings of this call on Battery Lane, it will always start the same way- "I ran this call with Andy," or "I was on this call once with Logan."

Roommates on the second floor of the Rescue Squad- who share a bathroom, a hallway, and a light switch.

Both Andy and Logan expect to be hired by fire departments in the coming months. Logan admits he will always think of Thursday Night Crew as home. Andy aspires to leadership opportunities to realize a more active role in community health and welfare. As for the light switch they share, "we talked about it, and we check with each other before turning off the lights."



**Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad, Inc.**  
**FIRE, RESCUE & EMS**

**SERVING:**  
Bethesda • Chevy Chase • NW Washington, D.C.

5020 Battery Lane  
Bethesda, Maryland 20814-2699  
301.652.0077  
[www.bccrs.org](http://www.bccrs.org)

**FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!**

@BCCRS:   