











FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION

2011 ANNUAL REPORT





THE FIRE SERVICE SURVIVORS NETWORK

A core group of family members of fallen fire-fighters make up the Fire Service Survivors Network. These dedicated individuals volunteer to assist newly bereaved families and help the Foundation with projects throughout the year and during the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend. There are now a total of 393 Network members from 44 states and the District of Columbia. Members of the Fire Service Survivors Network assisted with:

Contacting newly bereaved families and offering emotional support. Survivors of 2011 fallen firefighters were carefully matched with Network members. These matches took into account similarities between the newlybereaved survivor and Network member. For example, widows with young children are matched with widows from previous years whose children were young when their fire-

- fighter died. This outreach provided peer-topeer support for fire service survivors which is a key element in the healing process.
- Sending Remembrance cards to all survivors on the date of their firefighters' deaths. Personal messages from Network members let other survivors know that they were remembered on the anniversary date of their firefighter's death. In 2011, 141 Network members sent 3,187 cards.
- Activities in support of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend, such as sewing black bands for fire service badges, helping with family registration, greeting families being honored, making luminary bags, and other Family Day activities. More than 150 family members returned to assist, provide support, and network with families of fallen firefighters being honored.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Many children tell us that their fallen firefighter stressed the importance of getting an education, and our scholarship helps them attain that goal. Since 1997, the NFFF's scholarship program has given spouses, life partners, children and stepchildren of firefighters honored at the National Memorial the opportunity to pursue their personal, educational and career goals.

For the 2011-12 academic year

- A very generous donation from the Motorola Foundation enabled the Foundation to award \$205,000 to 78 recipients
- ICMA-RC awarded \$25,000 to 20 recipients and MasterGuard awarded 2 \$2,000 scholarships for a total of \$29,000.
- The Foundation and it partners combined awarded \$234,000
- Scholarships were awarded to 78 recipients.
- 74 children, 2 stepchildren, and 2 spouses
- 7 families had two members who received scholarships
- 40 are previous recipients
- 38 are new recipients
- 12 scholarship recipients are survivors of firefighters killed on 9/11
- recipients range in age from 18 to 37
- 53 are survivors of volunteer firefighters
- 25 are survivors of career firefighters
- Scholarship recipients hail from 26 different states
- New York has the greatest number of recipients with 19
- Missouri comes in second with 8 recipients

Recipients will attend institutions in 30 different states and are preparing for careers ranging from Culinary Arts to Criminal Justice. Two recipients are enrolled in a Fire Science program.



"We are so thankful for the support that you give families who have lost loved ones that helped others and the community. I know and feel that my father is proud of me, and he would be thankful to know that I have some help paying for my education."

GRIEF SUPPORT RESOURCES FOR SURVIVORS

A Lending Library of books dealing with the subject of grief and recovery is available for survivors. Brochures are also available free of charge.

• Provided 511 grief brochures to survivors in 11 states—Alabama, Arizona, California, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Mississippi,

New York, Ohio, Tennessee, and Texas-and the territory of Puerto Rico.

Staff often receives requests for grief resources or counseling from families and coworkers. These requests are fulfilled either by information available from the Foundation or by finding counseling services in the area where the family lives.

RESEARCH AND DISSEMINATE INFORMATION ON SURVIVOR BENEFITS

state, county, and local benefits for the families Benefits section of the Foundation's website: of fallen firefighters was undertaken. The www.firehero.org.

A comprehensive research project on Federal, updated information was posted in the State

SIXTH FIRE SERVICE SURVIVORS CONFERENCE

The 6th annual Fire Service Survivors Conference took place May 1-6, 2011, in San Antonio, Texas. The conference was held in conjunction with the Foundation's Local Assistance State Team (LAST) training, and an annual meeting of the Everyone Goes Home® State Advocates. It was beneficial for both survivors and fire service members to meet and learn about the Foundation's programs. There were 84 survivors and 76 members of the fire service in attendance.

Workshop topics for survivors included Advocacy, Fitness, Facing the Mourning, Forgiveness, Listening, Transition and Transformation, and the ever-popular Home Improvement. Survivors had an opportunity for local sightseeing to River Walk and the Alamo.

Survivors tell us that being able to relax in the company of others who know what it is like when a loved one dies in the line of duty is one of the most valuable experiences the conference offers.



"The time at the conference is so empowering. Each one has helped me get stronger, learn new ways to help me move forward, get to know other spouse survivors, and really boost my confidence when it's time to rejoin reality....It felt so good to laugh and have fun! It brings such lightness to my soul and the biggest smile to my face when I think about it."



DEVELOP AND/OR UPDATE PUBLICA-TIONS AND REFERENCE MATERIALS **FOR SURVIVORS**

Six issues of The Journey, a publication of articles written by survivors, were published and mailed exclusively to survivors. Each issue included a section authored by Department of Justice staff, "Did You Know," with information on the Public Safety Officers Benefits program. In their own words, survivors wrote about issues they faced after their loved ones died. Survivors

- The loss of their firefighter—written by
- Sticking points of grief
- Forgiveness
- Dreams completed
- Paying it forward
- Inspiration
- Coping with holidays Four issues of the Foundation newsletter, Facing Tomorrow Together, to over 6,000 survivors and members of the fire service. Articles contained information on:
- Annual Fire Service Survivors Conference
- Scholarships and Public Safety Officers Educational Assistance benefits
- 9-11 Remembrance
- Holiday concert
- Fundraisers—stair climbs, golf tournaments, softball tournament
- Fallen firefighter tributes and remembrances
- Tribute to Sparkles, The Fire Safety Dog
- NASCAR fundraisers
- Highlights of the 2011 Memorial Weekend
- **CFSI Dinner**
- Better Angels A Tribute to 9-11 FDNY fire-
- Remembering Hal Bruno
- Corporate sponsors and donors

Continued sponsorship of The Link, a special biweekly newsletter for the immediate next-ofkin of FDNY firefighters killed at the World Trade Center. The Link reaches 960 households and more than 2,400 FDNY survivors and members of the FDNY community. Foundation staff provided design, editorial support, printing and postage for the newsletter.



In 2011, the National Fallen Firefighters received a Fire Act Grant that allowed the Everyone Goes Home® to develop and refine programs aimed at reducing line-of-duty deaths and injuries.

TAKING CARE OF OUR OWN®

Taking Care of Our Own® training helps prepare fire service officers for a line-of-duty death, including how to make notification to the family. There were 14 deliveries of the training to 352 attendees in California, South Dakota, Kentucky, Oklahoma, Oregon, Wyoming, Pennsylvania, Colorado, Idaho, Ohio, Maryland and Montana.

LOCAL ASSISTANCE STATE TEAMS

"Great class - I learned a tremendous amount about LAST and PSOB."

The Local Assistance State Team (LAST) Program is a collaborative effort between the Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance and the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. The Foundation realized that, to best assist families and departments who had lost a firefighter in the line of duty, they needed to have trained personnel on the ground and available to help

"Definitely one of the better trainings the agency puts on. Real stories from those who have gone through incidents. Something all line officers in fire community should be taking."

when requested within six hours of a death. This could only be accomplished by developing a team of trained responders in each state who could be deployed immediately upon notification of a line-of-duty death. The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation began training personnel in these functions in October 2006 and has continued this training across the country wherever potential team members are available. Funds from the Department of Defense, Bureau of Justice Assistance grant make this vital program possible.

National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, the coordinator of the Local Assistance State Team (CAST), in that state is notified; and they immediately make contact with the chief of the affected department or his/her designee and offer the assistance of the Local Assistance State Team. That assistance can include operational support to ensure the continuance of service to the community, any and all needed support to the family of the fallen firefighter, planning and coordination of funeral activities, assistance in obtaining behavioral health counseling for family and department members, and the preparation of local, state and federal benefit claims. While these teams may perform many important functions,

When a line-of-duty death is reported to the their primary responsibility, when requested, is to assist with the preparation and submission of the Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) claim. The Local Assistance State Team will only assist after being requested and then will operate in a transparent manner behind the scenes to accomplish their tasks.

> During 2011, there were 17 LAST trainings in Kansas, Nebraska, South Carolina, New Hampshire, Montana, Oklahoma, Georgia, Ohio, Virginia, New Jersey, Wyoming, Iowa, Minnesota, New York, Maryland, Arizona and Oregon, attended by 525 fire service members.

> LAST teams assisted with 56 firefighter fatalities during 2011.

LAST AND ADVOCATE SUMMIT

Texas. The summit provided an opportunity for survivors and to sharpen their skills as LAST mem- havioral Health model developed by the NFFF. bers and advocates. All the participants learned

Coordinators of the Local Assistance State Teams valuable information about Public Safety Officers (LAST) and Advocates from across the country Benefits and information every public safety ofparticipated in a mini summit held in conjunction ficer should be aware of. Additionally, Advocates with the Survivors Conference held in San Antonio received a Train-the-Trainer on the Leadership Accountability, Culture and Knowledge course, the members of the fire programs to meet with and LAST members were briefed on the new Be-

ADVOCATE PROGRAM

This year the Advocate program added function community. Both these programs have proved to specific advocates for metro departments and to be key in developing better relationships within increase our outreach to the wildland firefighting those areas of the fire service.

LIFESAFETYINITIATIVES.COM

initiatives.com website. The website is dedicated to information and research directly supporting the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives. It should be the starting point for anyone, particularly fire service researchers, who requires up-to-date and accurate information. This site updates the bibliographic material which Everyone Goes Home®

In 2011, fire programs launched the lifesafety- has maintained for many years on its website. That information will now be accessed through lifeSafetyInitiatives.com.

> The new lifeSafetyInitiatives.com website will also contain special topics and research on emerging topics that fire service researchers and writers need to know more about.

HEART HEALTH PROJECT

a research study that will provide departments a means to determine a firefighters' "heart age." Through a medical assessment each participating

Heart attacks and strokes remain the leading firefighters' heart age will be determined and an cause of LODDs followed by motor vehicle crashes. individualized program will allow firefighters to EGH has partnered with Johns Hopkins to conduct reduce their heart age through a proper diet and exercise. The results of the study will be made available in 2012.



"I'm a firefighter and I admit I never wear my seatbelt...I'm an idiot. I'm gonna change that starting tomorrow."

INTERNATIONAL FIRST RESPONDERS SEATBELT PLEDGE PROGRAM

The Roll Out of the revamped Seatbelt Pledge took place in February 2011, at the Firehouse West Conference in California. In the past year, there have been 240 new departments participating in the Seatbelt Pledge Program. Several sizeable departments including the City of Atlanta; Omaha, Nebraska; Tampa and Gainesville, Florida, have committed to the Program.

the following three Life Safety Initiatives:

- #1 Define and advocate the need for a cultural change within the fire service relating to safety; incorporating leadership, management, supervision, accountability and personal responsibility.
- Enhance the personal and organizational accountability for health and safety throughout the fire service.
- #4 All firefighters must be empowered to stop unsafe practices.

In the last year, Everyone Goes Home® Fire Services Programs - Seatbelt Safety Program, has launched two Public Service Announcements, several magazine articles, preparation of a PowerPoint presentation given by a survivor, generated training materials, assisted in preparing press releases for departments receiving compliance certificates, conducted surveys for first respond-The Seatbelt Program supports and promotes ers at the Maryland State Firemen's Association and Firehouse Expo, formed liaisons/collaborative efforts with the Maryland State Firemen's Association Safety Committee and the National Volunteer Safety Council to reach First Responders with the message of seatbelt use as health and safety efforts.

> Worked with State Advocates to prepare presentations to the West Virginia Professional Fire Chiefs Association, Florida State Fire Chief's Association, Texas Southwest Fire/Rescue Conference and the Alabama Fire Chief's Conference.

In a recent PSA, NASCAR driver Joey Logano encouraged firefighters to wear seatbelts: "If I don't get to the finish line, I don't win. If you don't get to the scene, everybody loses





CHICAGO FIRE DEPARTMENT EVERYONE GOES HOME® VIDEO

In December of 2011, the Chicago Fire Department's Everyone Goes Home® video debuted. The video highlights the need to change the culture of safety within the fire service. The video has been highly successful and requests for copies of the video have come from as far as Australia and Great Britain.



SUICIDE AND DEPRESSION IN THE FIRE SERVICE

"Suicide is a complex phenomenon that is not well understood, even by many professionals called to deal with its prevention and intervention."

Over the past few years, the issues surrounding suicide among fire and EMS personnel have grown as death by suicide has appeared to increase. Some even called suicide an epidemic in the fire service. In July of 2011, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, as an extension of its ongoing efforts to improve the behavioral health and personal wellbeing of firefighters and their families as a critical element of its 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives (specifically, FLSI 13: Firefighters and their families must have access to counseling and psychological support), convened a summit that brought several of the

nation's leading researchers/practitioners in the area of suicide together with a wide sampling of fire service representatives to review the current "state of the science" with respect to understanding suicidal behavior and the current "state of the art" with respect to prevention and intervention. The findings of this Summit can be found in a white paper which provides an overview of the discussions and recommendations which will be utilized as starting points for strategic planning of action. The White Paper can be found on www.everyonegoeshome.com.



The Vulnerability Assessment Project (VAP) concluded its first phase in 2011. The VAP is a tool that, when deployed (free of charge) to fire departments across the country, will allow chief officers to determine where vulnerabilities for firefighter line-of-duty injuries and deaths exist in their departments. These gaps (or vulnerabilities) may include safety policies and practices, inadequate equipment, outdated and dangerous vehicles, etc. The results of the VAP will provide departments with the tools they need for improvements. Phase I was spent in the research and analysis of the kinds of

VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT PROJECT

"Consequently, fire departments will have results based on scientific analysis to develop operational and strategic plans to implement the risk reduction recommendations necessary to minimize or eliminate predictable causes of line-of-duty deaths and injuries."

risks firefighters encounter. Another goal of the research was to look for existing best practices, models and tools for risk and vulnerability assessment. In total, 3,373 academic journal articles were submitted for peer review. From those articles, 509 were selected with potential VAP implications. In addition to an audit of written material, consultants/researchers for the VAP have interviewed and attended meetings of the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA), the Public Entity Risk Institute (PERI), and the Public Risk Management Association (PRIMA). These are our nation's leading risk think-tanks. Phases Two and Three will be completed in 2012. Testing and deployment will occur over 2013. This project is being underwritten by Honeywell, Inc.

PUBLIC AWARENESS AND LINE-OF-DUTY DEATH PREVENTION INITIATIVES

The website was enhanced by including more resources and information for survivors. The site includes a special Family Programs section, online forms to request information and peer support, specialized grief materials, and links to other resources and organizations.

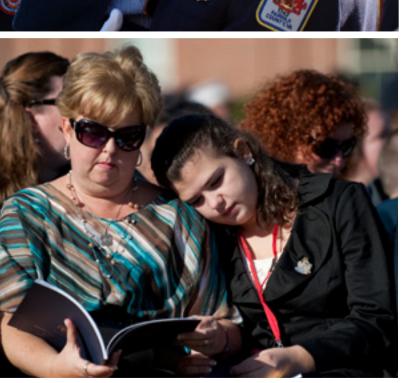
- There were 4,712,382 page views of the FireHero.org site
- There were 3,767,695 page views of the EveryoneGoesHome.com site
- A "widget" on the website featuring 2010 fallen firefighters changed each day to feature a new firefighter. It was accessed and downloaded by numerous fire service

organizations and publications. After the 2011 Memorial Weekend, the widget was revised to show information on firefighters honored in previous years.

Staff continued to promote initiatives to reduce line-of-duty deaths by focusing on the impact on the survivors and communities. Presentations at fire service conferences during which survivors told the audience how the loss of their firefighter impacted their lives and their communities provided a powerful tool to promote firefighter safety. This was combined with information on how to reduce line-of-duty deaths. Presentations were very well received by the audiences.

THE NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL WEEKEND











"We were extremely impressed with your organization of the Memorial Weekend. It made everyone in my family feel better. It was more like a celebration of life instead of a final goodbye."

The National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend on October 15-16, 2011, honored 72 firefighters who died in the line of duty during 2010 and 17 who died in previous years. During the weekend, families:

- Visited the National Memorial and made rubbings of their loved ones' names
- Visited the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Chapel where they lit candles and placed roses in a Maltese Cross vase in honor of their loved ones
- Visited the Walk of Honor® and made rubbings of bricks placed in honor of their loved ones
- Made luminaries for their loved ones for use in the Candlelight Service
- Attended small group sessions facilitated by mental health specialists with expertise in dealing with grief. Family members were able to share their experiences and were given information and resources to help them deal with their loss. A special session for chiefs allowed them to meet with other chiefs who experienced a line-of-duty death in their department.
- Were honored by more than 300 Red Helmet motorcyclists who rode to campus and placed a wreath in honor of firefighters being honored
- Attended the Saturday night Candlelight Service that honored their loved ones
- Attended the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service on Sunday where tribute was paid to their loved ones. Each family received a badge, rose, and American flag flown over the U.S. Capitol and the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial. More than 6,000 attended.

Both the Candlelight Service and the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service were televised and streamed live over the internet, and were viewed nationwide and around the world.







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NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION BALANCE SHEET

As of December 31, 2011

7.5 0) 50		
ASSETS		Amount
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents Grants receivable Net pledges receivable Inventory Prepaid expense Deposits	\$	333,878 1,201,840 703,768 171,165 74,392 2,843
Total Current Assets		2,487,886
Property and Equipment Furniture and equipment	\$	•
Walk of Honor Memorial park Chapel renovation		250,690 788,125 1,076,892
Less accumulated depreciation Total Property and Equipment	<u> </u>	(556,660) 5 1,631,255
Other Assets Investments at market value Total Other Assets TOTAL ASSETS	\(\frac{\cappa_{\text{\tin}\text{\tex{\tex	3,231,373 3,231,373 7,350,514
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS Liabilities Current Liabilities		244 445
Accounts payable Accrued expense Accrued employee bene Total Current Liabilities	\$ fits	211,415 21,964 161,675 395,054
Net Assets		
Unrestricted Board designated Temporarily restricted	\$	2,468,750 1,631,255 2,855,455
Total Net Assets TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS		6,955,460 7,350,514

Unaudited

NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

For the Year Ended December 31, 2011

Revenue	<u>Unrestricted</u>	Temporarily Restricted	Total
Department of Justice:			
Network for Survivors	\$	\$	\$
	-	2,356,184	2,356,184
PSOB Research Project	-	27,744	27,744
Notification of Firefighter Deaths	-	38,524	38,524
Firefighter Awareness & Outreach	-	64,833	64,833
Firefighter Prerequisite Certification/	Benefits -	18,409	18,409
USFA		,	, _
Memorial Weekend	-	276,308	276,308
Vulnerability Assessment	-	143,494	143,494
Memorial Weekend	-	391,072	391,072
Vulnerability Assessment	_	125,100	125,100
LODD:		123,100	123,100
Department of Homeland			
Security -Fire Act		907,010	907,010
Into the Fire	_	20,997	20,997
	-	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	50,000
Fire Service Outreach	24.424	50,000	
Kids Camp	34,434	7,626	42,060
Scholarships	-	964,628	964,628
Site Expansion	-	75,272	75,272
Stair Climb		352,747	352,747
Other NFFF programs	1,841,544	159,803	2,001,347
Net realized gains	(166,217)		(166,217)
Net unrealized gains on			
trading securities	73,554		73,554
Released from			
restrictions	5,062,649	(5,062,649)	
TOTAL REVENUE	\$6,845,964	<u>\$ 917,102</u>	<u>\$7,763,066</u>
Expenses			
Program Services:			
Department of Justice - Fire Service S	Survivors Support		
Network for Survivors	\$ 2,356,184	\$ -	\$ 2,356,184
PSOB Research Project	27,935	-	27,935
Notification of Firefighter Deaths	38,524	-	38,524
Firefighter Awareness & Outreach	64,833	_	64,833
Firefighter Prerequisite Certification			18,409
USFA:	70,407		10,407
Memorial Weekend	282,955		282,955
Vulnerability Assessment	143,494		143,494
Memorial Weekend	203,004	-	203,004
	*	-	
Vulnerability Assessment	105,930	-	105,930
LODD			
LODD:			
Department of Homeland	01/ 017		01/ 017
Security - Fire Act	916,017	-	916,017
FDNY	0.45.005		0.45.225
Other - NYC	245,335		245,335
Into the Fire	541	-	541
Fire Service Outreach	16,377	-	16,377
Scholarships	217,241	•	217,241
Site Expansion	138,969	-	138,969
Stair Climb	192,417	-	192,417
Other NFFF programs	866,000		866,000
	\$ 5,834,165	\$ -	\$ 5,834,165
Management and administration	160,678	-	160,678
Fundraising	<u>495,381</u>		495,381
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 6,490,224	\$ -	\$ 6,490,224
		<u> </u>	
EXCESS REVENUE OVER EXPENSES			
(EXPENSES OVER REVENUE)	\$ 355,740	\$ 917,102	\$ 1,272,842
NET ASSETS AT	• • • •	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	. , ,
BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>3,744,265</u>	1,938,353	5,682,618
NET ASSETS AT			
END OF YEAR	\$ 4,100,005	\$ 2,855,455	\$ 6,955,460
		2,000,100	- 3,733,400

Unaudited



FUNDRAISERS

The Foundation greatly appreciates the support of the fire service community and sponsors who conduct fundraisers on its behalf. Events such as golf tournaments and stair climbs help with funding to provide programs for the families of our fallen firefighters and to prevent line-of-duty deaths.











Enacted in 1976, the Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) Program provides benefits including death, education assistance, and disability to those eligible for the program. The PSOB Office at the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice is responsible for implementing the PSOB Program. Under the PSOB Act, benefits are available to the survivors of public safety officers found to have died as the direct and proximate result of a personal injury, as well as certain eligible heart attacks and strokes, sustained in the line of duty. As defined by Congress, a public safety officer is an individual serving a public agency in an official capacity, with or without compensation, as a law enforcement officer, firefighter, member of a rescue squad or ambulance crew, and other first responders. For questions regarding this information, or for details regarding the PSOB Death, Disability or Educational Assistance Programs, please call the PSOB Call Center toll-free at 888-744-6513 or 202-307-0635, or visit PSOB online at: www.psob.gov.





National Fallen Firefighters Foundation

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