

ABOUT THE NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION



The United States Congress created the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) in 1992 to lead a nationwide effort to honor the memories of all U.S. firefighters who died in the line of duty and to provide support to their loved ones. As part of this mission, each October the Foundation hosts the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend, the official national tribute, in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Through activities offered during the weekend the families of the fallen will find reassurance that their loved ones will not be forgotten, and they have a place to find comfort and compassion.

Beyond the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend, the NFFF helps families with similar experiences and interests find each other through the Fire Hero Family Network. We provide college scholarships for spouses and children, and coordinate conferences and workshops for parents, spouses, children and co-workers.

Furthermore, the NFFF established Local Assistance State Teams to support fire departments when a line-of-duty death occurs. These teams also help families who may be eligible to file paperwork for the Public Safety Officers' Benefits program administered by the Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance.

Over the years, the Foundation recognized that another way to honor the fallen and support their families is to work with all branches of the fire service to reduce line-of-duty deaths and injuries.

In 2004, the first Firefighter Life Safety Summit was held to address a need to reduce the number of preventable line-of-duty deaths. More than 200 fire service and industry leaders worked together to develop the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives. Out of those initiatives, the NFFF created Everyone Goes Home®. This program provides free resources and training opportunities to our nation's firefighters that underscore accepting responsibility for our health and safety.

In addition, the Foundation has provided funding for research that examines coronary heart disease, stroke, and diabetes prevention. The NFFF also sponsors meetings to address evolving needs of the fire service community such as cancer prevention and behavioral health issues.

These are just a few examples of the services and programs offered by the Foundation. A Board of Directors and Advisory Committee guide the Foundation's activities. Members represent the private sector, fire and emergency services, fire hero families, and government. With their input, the NFFF will always be ready to fulfill its mission to honor the fallen, assist their families, and prevent line-of-duty deaths.



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“*It’s an honor to work alongside of such dedicated and giving people. Without the understanding and support of our sponsors, it would be impossible to support our fallen firefighters’ families and co-workers.*”

— Chief Dennis Compton
Chairman of the Board, NFFF

About Us

Congress created the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation in 1992 to lead a nationwide effort to honor America's fallen firefighters. Our mission is to honor and remember America's fallen fire heroes, assist their families in re-building their lives, and reduce firefighter deaths and injuries.

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation is the only fire service organization that represents every facet of the American fire service—career, contractor, military, volunteer, and wildland.

The Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, located in Emmitsburg, Maryland. It is registered as a corporation in the State of Maryland. When Congress created the Foundation, it did not provide funding or financial assistance, so the Foundation relies on funding through private donations from caring individuals, organizations, corporations, federal grants, and other foundations.



Our Programs

■ Fire Hero Family Programs

- Fire Hero Family Network
- Grief Resources/Publications
- Wellness Conference
- Memorial Weekend
- Hal Bruno Camps for Children of Fallen Firefighters
- Young Adult Programs
- Scholarships

■ Fire Service Programs

- Everyone Goes Home®
- Local Assistance State Teams
- Vulnerability Assessment Program
- Fire Service Training/ Fire Hero Learning Network
- Taking Care of Our Own®
- Behavioral Health Support
- Chief-to-Chief Network



Family Programs

Fire Hero Family Network

Families of fallen firefighters can provide a unique kind of support to one another. Simply connecting with someone else who has lost a firefighter can offer a sense of hope and understanding.

Members of our Fire Hero Family Network volunteer to provide peer support to newly bereaved families. The Foundation matches members of the Network with family members who face similar circumstances.

Members of this special network of friends remind each other that they are not alone.



Family Programs

Grief Resources/Publications

The Journey is a bi-monthly publication for fire hero families that focuses on issues related to loss and healing and includes the reflections and memories of fire hero family members in their own words.

Our website, www.firehero.org, provides information for fire hero families, line-of-duty death related resources, benefits, and programs and events.

Grief brochures for families of fallen firefighters are provided for free. The Foundation also has a Lending Library for our fire hero families. Many of the books are written by family members who know firsthand what it is like to lose a loved one.



Family Programs

Fire Hero Family Wellness Conference

When a firefighter dies in the line of duty, his or her loved ones are left with unique challenges as they begin to rebuild their lives. Fortunately, families of fallen firefighters have a place to go to find the support, comfort, and resources they need. They also make connections and memories that last a lifetime.

This event gives spouses, parents, children, and siblings of fallen firefighters an opportunity to attend workshops related to grief and loss, physical and emotional wellness. The focus is on action steps and daily practices that increase quality of life after loss. Participants build support with others who have experienced similar losses.



Family Programs



Memorial Weekend

Every October, the Foundation sponsors the official national tribute to all firefighters who died in the line of duty during the previous year. The Memorial Weekend offers private activities for families of fallen firefighters and co-workers, along with public ceremonies. Thousands attend the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend in Emmitsburg, Maryland.





Family Programs

Hal Bruno Camps for Children of Fallen Firefighters



Hal Bruno served as Chairman of the NFFF Board of Directors and was dedicated to helping the families of fallen firefighters. In his memory, the Foundation offers camps for ages 4-6 and 7-17 for children and stepchildren of firefighters honored at the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial.

Structured camp activities give children from around the country a chance to meet others their own age with similar experiences. This interaction helps them feel less alone, talk with others who understand, and find ways to cope with their loss.

Camps provide a therapeutic component in combination with a dynamic camp setting, allowing

campers to process their grief in a fun and safe environment.

The camp is free, and the Foundation helps with travel/lodging expenses for campers and parents/guardians.



Family Programs

Programs for Young Adults

For a child, losing a parent changes life forever, even into adulthood. It shakes the foundation and sense of safety that every child relies on, and it changes the family structure. The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation has established a retreat for young adults, ages 18-24, whose firefighter parent died in the line of duty. Many did not receive counseling as children.

This retreat provides skills to deal with grief, developing increased independence, self-expression, and individual growth. Attendees have an opportunity to meet with others their age who have had similar experiences.



Family Programs

Outward Bound

The Foundation partners with Outward Bound for this exciting life-changing adventure, which is specifically designed for youth coping with the death of a loved one. Outward Bound encourages self-expression in a safe environment and helps participants find healing. It is a course that challenges you to discover your inner strength. Those who have completed the course have reported increased self-confidence, self-esteem, and teamwork skills.

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation and Outward Bound have partnered to provide tuition for the program. Lodging costs are covered, and Foundation assists with travel.



Family Programs

Scholarships

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation offers financial assistance for post-secondary education and training to spouses, life partners, children and stepchildren of firefighters honored at the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial. Scholarships are awarded for undergraduate, graduate studies, vocational-technical training, and certification and job training programs. They may be used at in-state, out-of-state public and private schools.

Since the program began in 1997, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation and its partners have awarded over \$3,741,000 to spouses, life partners, children, and stepchildren of fallen firefighters.





Fire Service Programs

Taking Care of Our Own®

Taking Care of Our Own® training provides senior fire officers specific information about being prepared for a line-of-duty death.

The course includes information about Public Safety Officer Benefits (PSOB) and gives guidance on the resources that should be made available when dealing with a line-of-duty death and what elements should be included when developing a LODD policy.

Each training team includes a chief, members of fallen firefighters' families, and a behavioral health professional.

Fire Service Programs

Local Assistance State Teams (LAST)

Everything that happens immediately after a line-of-duty death effects the way the family, the department, and the community recover from the loss. The Foundation thinks the best place for a department to turn for support is within its own state or region. The primary objective of the Local Assistance State Teams is to assist families and departments after a line-of-duty death and to help with filing for federal, state and local benefits.



Fire Service Programs

Everyone Goes Home®

The *Everyone Goes Home*® Program provides free training, resources, and programs to champion and implement the 16 *Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives*.

The 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives were jointly developed by representatives of major fire service constituencies during the 2004 Firefighter Life Safety Summit. The initiatives serve as a blueprint to reduce firefighter line-of-duty deaths and injuries.



Fire Service Programs

Fire Service Training

The Foundation offers training programs to departments to assist and to reduce risk of a fatality or serious injury, prepare for a potential LODD or serious injury, to assist firefighters with behavioral health support, and to reduce risks in the community.

Fire Hero Learning Network Online Training

The Fire Hero Learning Network serves as a central hub and allows registered users to access free, multimedia training modules that can all be done on your own time, at your convenience.

The following courses and more are available at www.fireherolearningnetwork.com:

- Courage to Be Safe®
- Leadership, Accountability, Culture and Knowledge
- After Action Review
- Creating Change in the Fire Service
- Curbside Manner—Stress First Aid for the Streets
- Stress First Aid for Fire and EMS Personnel
- Taking Care of Our Own®
- Communication & Mentoring for Company Officers
- Company Officer's Health & Safety Responsibilities
- Saving Lives: Inspiring Stories in Community Risk Reduction
- 3D Fire Attack Scenario
- Automatic Fire Sprinklers and Alarm Systems

A firefighter in a dark blue uniform with a peaked cap stands in profile, looking towards the right. Behind him is a large American flag and the white ladder of a fire truck against a clear blue sky.

Fire Service Programs

Vulnerability Assessment Program (VAP)

Now, every department has a free online tool to help assess their risk of losing or injuring a firefighter. The Vulnerability Assessment Program looks at everything from fireground operations to daily activities in the station such as assessing station organization, resource allocation and management. It begins with the chief or other department officials answering a series of questions based on the six root causes of firefighter line-of-duty deaths and injuries. Based on those answers, the program identifies potential risks within the department or individual stations. Guidance is provided to take corrective steps to reduce those risks.

This tool can also help department leaders justify budget requests, by offering the resources needed to address identified risks.

Fire Service Programs

Wildland Fire Service Initiative

NFFF has been honoring wildland firefighters since its inception. Through a series of listening sessions, we discovered many members of the wildland community did not consider themselves part of the fire service because of their primary function as land managers. This inspired the Foundation to develop a comprehensive plan to include the wildland fire service community.

The Foundation is forging relationships with the wildland firefighting community and identifying opportunities for program outreach. Existing Fire Service Programs are being reviewed and modified to include content relatable to wildland firefighters. Additionally, the NFFF has partnered with the Wildland Firefighter Foundation (WFF) in an effort to mutually support each other.

Fire Service Programs transcends whether a firefighter is a structural “blue shirt” or wildland “yellow shirt.” “Everyone Goes Home” is equally applicable to every firefighter regardless of what protective clothing they wear.

Fire Service Programs

Chief-to-Chief Network

The Chief-to-Chief Network grew out of a need expressed by chiefs who had lost firefighters in the line of duty. The Foundation has established a network of senior fire officers who have one thing in common: They have all experienced the death of a firefighter in the line of duty and understand what a department goes through. Network members share information on issues such as:



- Incident follow-up and investigations
- Support for the fallen firefighter's family and co-workers
- Funeral and memorial service arrangements
- Requests for information from media and community
- Personal feelings of loss

Fire Service Programs

Seatbelt Pledge

To help encourage more individuals and departments to use their seatbelts at all times, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation has revamped the International First Responder Seatbelt Pledge website, making it easier than ever to use. The system is completely automated for those who wish to begin a seatbelt campaign in their departments. You can take the pledge at www.seatbeltpledge.com.



First Responder Center for Excellence

First Responder Center for Excellence for Reducing Occupational Illness, Injuries and Deaths, Inc. (FRCE)

Our nation's first responders answer their call to duty without hesitation. While they train and prepare tactically for their daily responses, they must also be physically and mentally prepared for those calls.

In 2016, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation created the First Responder Center for Excellence to provide increased awareness, training and research to ensure that first responders have the correct tools and information to build and maintain a healthy foundation to reduce injuries and fatalities related to behavioral health, cardiac and cancer, as well as improve overall health and wellness. The First Responder Center for Excellence is committed to promoting quality educational awareness and research in five main programmatic areas: Cancer Prevention and Awareness, Behavioral Health, Firefighter Physical Initiative, Cardiac and Health and Wellness.



FIRST RESPONDER
Center for Excellence

First Responder Center for Excellence

Cancer Prevention and Awareness

- Firefighting is inherently dangerous work. There is an unseen, and less recognized, danger firefighter's face – the risk of developing cancer. Building materials introduced over the last 40 years, such as engineered thermoplastics and laminated veneer lumber, significantly contribute to the release of cancer-causing agents during structure fires.
- Firefighters have a greater number of certain types of cancer diagnoses than the general U.S. population.
- Cancer is a leading cause of firefighter deaths in the United States.
- Studies have shown that firefighters have increased risk of certain cancers the longer they spend working in the fire service.

Fire Service Occupational Cancer Alliance

THE FRCE manages the activities of the Fire Service Occupational Cancer Alliance and develops resources for cancer awareness and prevention, such as the Fire Service Occupational Cancer Toolkit. Alliance members include representatives from fire service organizations, government partners and other like-minded entities. The Alliance focuses on key topics including awareness and prevention, presumptive legislation, research, and recognition of firefighter cancer deaths as LODDs.



First Responder Center for Excellence

Behavioral Health Support for First Responders

First responders are faced with a myriad of stressors that go beyond what the general population may experience. The phrase “fit for duty” for first responders has historically only accounted for good physical health for the duties related to one’s job. However, recent evidence-based research indicates that maintaining one’s behavioral health is equally important. The effects of first responder stress events can factor into behavioral health issues such as post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse and depression. Resources available today, like Stress First Aid, address the unique stressors related to first responders and build on the strengths of first responders, including a sense of belonging, support from one another and a strong sense of purpose.

Fire Dynamics Boot Camp

Fire Dynamics Boot Camp is a train-the-trainer, intensive three day program designed to empower and prepare fire service leaders and instructors to incorporate the most current research findings about fire behavior and firefighting tactics into their training programs. Participants gain an improved understanding of fire dynamics and a digital tool kit to support their training efforts at home. Students also develop a network of instructional support from instructors who are implementing this material at their fire training academies.

First Responder Center for Excellence

Cardiac Awareness, Research, and Resources for First Responders

Cardiovascular disease is a leading cause of line-of-duty deaths among U.S. firefighters and an important and costly cause of morbidity. Firefighter cardiovascular events are largely due to Coronary Heart Disease (CHD), with Sudden Cardiac Death (SCD) accounting for most line-of-duty fatalities. The FRCE develops resources to educate first responders on the cardiac risks, as well as strategies to reduce the probability of a cardiac event.

Firefighter Physical Program Implementation Tools

The best way to diminish the effects of any diseases, illnesses or injuries is to detect them as early as possible. This is especially true for firefighters who, in many cases, are at greater risk for certain diseases, illnesses, and injuries than the general population. Annual physicals, based upon testing criteria for the increased health risks faced by firefighters, have proven to lead to early detection and prevention of long term illnesses. In conjunction with the International Association of Fire Chiefs the FRCE provides resources to firefighters and clinicians on the types of physicals and how to best implement a physical program.

National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Park

National Fallen Firefighters Memorial

Constructed in 1981, the seven-foot stone monument features a sculpted Maltese Cross, the traditional symbol of the fire service. At the base of the monument an eternal flame symbolizes the spirit of all firefighters—past, present and future. Plaques encircling the monument list the names of the men and women of the fire service who have died in the line of duty since 1981.

Each year, America honors its fallen fire heroes during a National Memorial Service at the monument site. The ceremony includes the placing of a Presidential Wreath at the monument and dedication of a plaque honoring those who died in the line-of-duty during the previous year.



National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Park

Walk of Honor®

The National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Park features a *Walk of Honor*® that connects the monument, the historic Fallen Firefighters Memorial Chapel, and memorial plazas. Each brick on the walkway bears a personal inscription. Separate sections in the crosswalks also recognize the Foundation's major donors. These special sections include corporations, organizations, and individuals for their support. Proceeds from the sale of these bricks help to finance construction of the Memorial Park.

Pre-1981 Section

Project Roll Call identifies and honors firefighters who died in the line of duty prior to the creation of



the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial in 1981. A special section of bricks on the Walk of Honor® has been created so that departments and loved ones can remember these firefighters.



National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Park

National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Chapel

The National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Chapel is special to America's firefighters and our fire hero families. A Chapel Vigil is held, during the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend, so families can light a candle and place a rose in honor of their loved ones. During the holidays, the Chapel is decorated with trees bearing ornaments sent by our families.

The Chapel was built in 1839 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In 1997, it was designated as the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Chapel and formally dedicated in 1998 in memory of Chief A. Marvin Gibbons. Chief Gibbons was instrumental in building the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial. In 2006, the Chapel was restored by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation and the offices of the Foundation are located there.

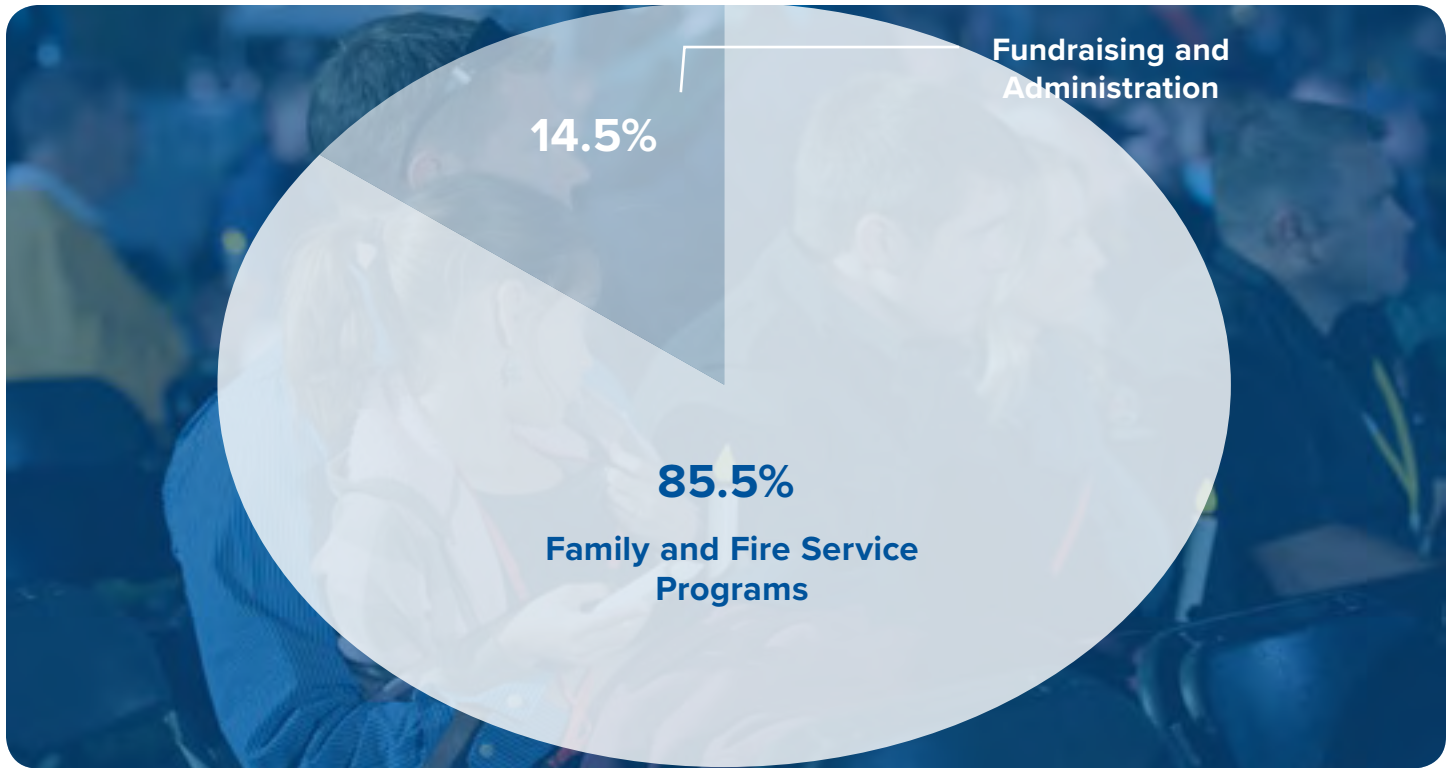
National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Park

To Lift a Nation 9/11 Memorial

This 40-foot-tall bronze monument recreates the famous photo taken by Bergen Record photographer, Thomas E. Franklin, of three FDNY firefighters raising the American flag at Ground Zero. The monument stands 40 feet high, six feet deep and eight feet wide. Each of the three firefighter's statues weigh more than 5,000 pounds and were formed from approximately 160 bronze sections weighing between 60 to 80 pounds each. The monument sits beside a brick plaza that connects it to the Walk of Honor® in the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Park.



Program Expenditures



“Caring for the families
of those who died
in the line of duty is the
least we can do
for those who have given
so much.”

— Chief Ron Siarnicki
Executive Director NFFF

Recognizing Those Who Care for the Fire Service Family

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation has established awards to honor individuals and organizations that support the mission of the Foundation and for those who show a commitment to the health and safety of firefighters throughout the country.

- **Senator Paul S. Sarbanes Fire Service Safety Leadership Award**
- **Arthur J. Glatfelter Distinguished Service Award**
- **Seal of Excellence Award**



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ADAPTING **TO CHANGE**

2020 Annual Impact Report

From Our Chairman of the Board



Nearly three decades ago, the United States Congress established the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) to honor the nation's fallen firefighters. Since that day in 1992, the Foundation has not only paid tribute to America's fire heroes but has worked tirelessly to ensure that the families of the fallen have the resources and support they need to carry on. In 2004, the Foundation expanded its mission to include the reduction and prevention of firefighter deaths and injuries.

As the NFFF enters its 30th year of service, we remain committed to our core mission and values. As you read our 2020 Annual Impact Report, you will see ample proof of the efforts made to achieve and exceed our goals, even with the disruption of a global pandemic.

I am proud to help lead the Foundation in paying tribute to our fallen fire heroes, ensure the families remain cared for, and furthering the efforts to make the profession as safe as possible for those on the front lines today.

Though COVID-19 hampered efforts to continue business as usual, the work of the Foundation continued through the "adapt, improvise and overcome" method. Virtual meetings took the place of in-person gatherings through the year. The annual Memorial Weekend in Emmitsburg was postponed, but an online tribute paid respects to the fallen and their families were able to hear first-hand how grateful the nation is for the sacrifice of their loved one.

The development of technology to assist the Foundation's mission was even more critical in 2020 because of the pandemic. Much of the NFFF's work has successfully moved to an online platform out of necessity.

The Foundation remains committed to the advocacy of health, safety and educational initiatives that support all members of the fire service today. Important research continues into the prevention of on-the-job and health issues faced by firefighters and other first responders.

I cannot write this message describing the Foundation's achievements in 2020 without thanking everyone involved. From staff to volunteers, affiliates and partners, your extra efforts and dedication to the NFFF's mission ensured that we would not just survive the time of COVID but surpass expectations. I want to thank all of you for your hard work, and your continued belief of our mission. As you read this Impact Report, remain assured that you are an integral part of our progress, which we celebrate. I look forward to continuing to serve with you in the years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Troy Markel". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Troy Markel

Chairman of the Board

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Our mission is to honor and remember America’s fallen firefighters, provide assistance to their families and co-workers, and work to prevent firefighter deaths and injuries.

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Since its creation by Congress in 1992, the non-profit National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) has developed many programs to fulfill its Congressional mandate. Federal grants and donations from individuals, organizations, corporations, and foundations fund the Foundation’s programs.

Fire Hero Family Programs



*“It is a very difficult time
being in isolation.”*



The COVID-19 pandemic brought collective loss and separation for the families of fallen firefighters. Despite this additional challenge, we worked to develop new approaches to help our Fire Hero Families. Indeed, the ability to adapt to new circumstances is at the core of resilience and post-traumatic growth, qualities we actively promote through our programs.

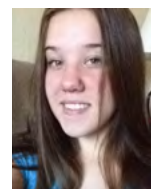
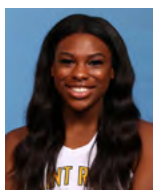
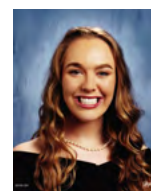
Scholarship Programs

In the 2020-2021 academic year, the Foundation and our partners awarded scholarships that covered 100% of the tuition and book expense for 22 students, 83% of the tuition and book expense for 1 student, and 75% of the tuition and book expenses of another student — each of whom demonstrated pressing financial need and stellar academic performance. Forty other applicants also received meaningful support. **In total, we awarded \$428,720 to the students in our Fire Hero Family!** This award money comes from a generous donation by the Motorola Solutions Foundation, the Alan Patrick Sondej Memorial Scholarship Fund, and a private donor, in addition to partnerships with ICMA-RC, the National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM), and the Steel Family Charitable Foundation. Additionally, many individuals and businesses have long contributed to the NFFF Sarbanes Scholarship Program.

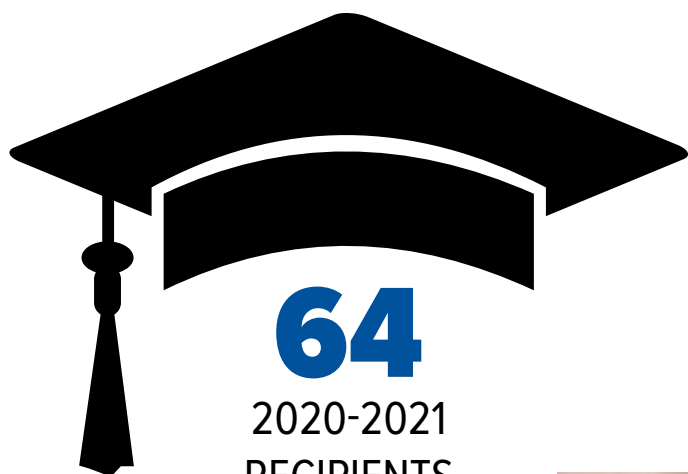
We also announced the Motorola Solutions Foundation Enhanced Scholarship Initiative in 2020. This new scholarship initiative provides for larger and, in certain cases, full scholarships. To be eligible for consideration of this scholarship, the applicant must be pursuing a major in a STEM subject or Public Safety. These awards are made on an annual basis and will be based upon assessment of financial need and academic performance using a composite scoring system.

“I cannot tell you how happy I am to have been chosen for this scholarship. It has greatly eased the financial burden that was facing our family. I am so appreciative of the opportunities you have opened for me and will work very hard to prove to the Foundation that they have made the right decision. I feel like my dad is smiling.”

Since 1997, the Foundation and its partners have awarded 1,490 scholarships totaling over \$4,790,994 to 668 family members of fallen firefighters from across the nation.



“It has not only lessened the financial burden aspect of my education, but it has also lessened stress and has allowed me to focus on my academics, especially during these difficult times of a pandemic when my mother’s work was almost nonexistent. Thank you to all who made it possible.”

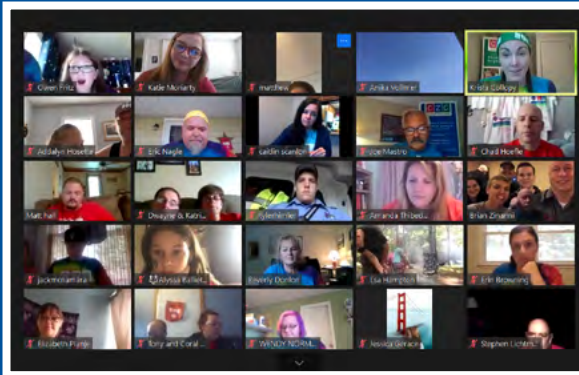


2020-2021
RECIPIENTS

56% ARE FIRST-
TIME RECIPIENTS



Hal Bruno Camps for Children of Fallen Firefighters



26

CAMPERS AGES 7-17
ZOOMED TO
COMFORT ZONE CAMP

100% OF THE CAMPERS
LEARNED THAT THEY ARE NOT
ALONE IN THEIR GRIEF

93% FELT THAT THEIR GRIEF
FEELS MORE MANAGEABLE
AND LEARNED COPING SKILLS



**HEALING
AFTER
LOSS**



15

CAMPERS AGES 4-6
ZOOMED TO
**CAMP HAL
(HEALING AFTER LOSS)**

100% OF PARTICIPANTS RATED
THE CAMP EXPERIENCE,
CAMP-IN-A-BOX, AND
INSTRUCTIONS AS EXCELLENT

“Thank you all, NFFF, for being so caring at the hardest time in our lives. My kids are very much enjoying their boxes!!”



“Thank you, guys, for the camp boxes! It was great to see these kids engaged.”

Grit, Growth, and Grace: A Series for Widowed People

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation thanks our donors and corporate partners whose incredible generosity helps us honor America's fallen firefighters, assist their families, and prevent firefighter injuries and deaths.

“I was a little embarrassed getting emotional during the breakout session but was reassured knowing these ladies really understood my feelings.”



80%

Felt a Connection
to Other Widows



83%

Learned Coping Skills
for Day-to-Day Life



100%

Felt Others Understood
What They Were
Going Through



Power of Resilience and Performance: Why ‘Take a Deep Breath?’

Diving into the science behind breathing practices, 20 participants learned techniques they could start using immediately to boost immunity and begin to actively practice regulating their stress response during these challenging times.

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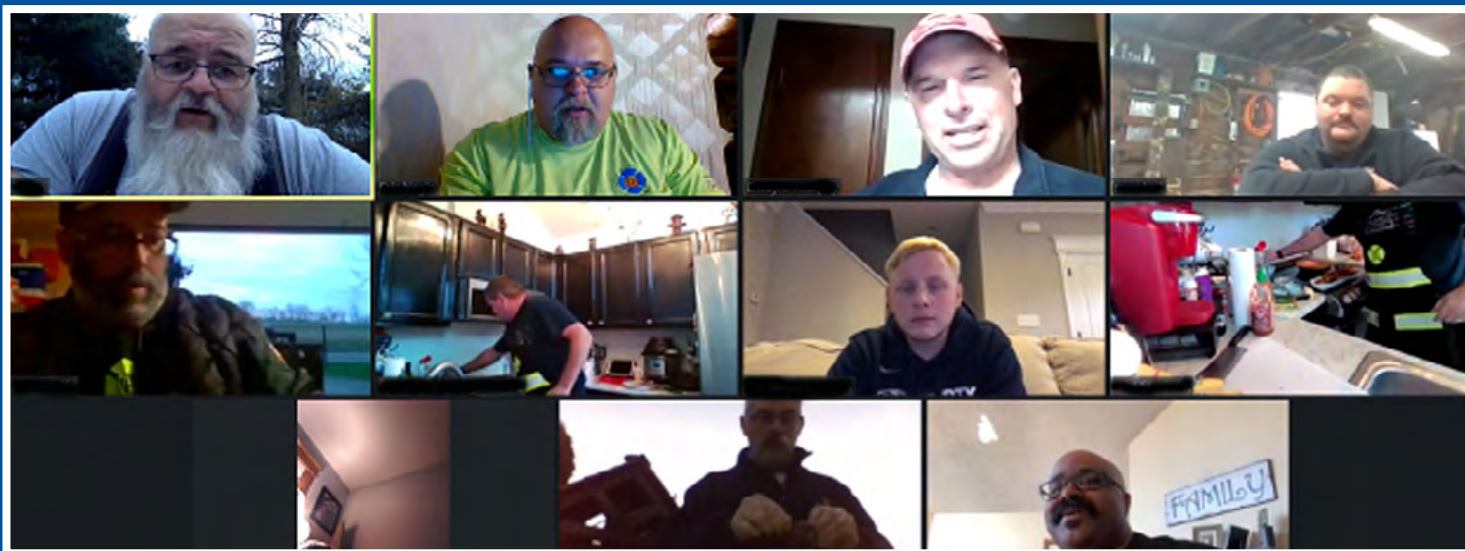
WHEN ASKED WHY THEY
DECIDED TO ATTEND THIS
WORKSHOP, **85%** RESPONDED
THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL
AND **15%** STATED THAT IT
WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL.

.....

“My struggle lately has been with my job. However, I find myself anxious and stressed at times - something that I have not had very good control of, since becoming widowed. The breathing techniques Rita shared with us will now be a part of my daily routine to help with my anxiety and stress.”

Men Forging Ahead

For men only, these monthly virtual sessions are to foster support and camaraderie between men in the Fire Hero Family community who often feel pressure to “be strong” for others or process feelings alone. Providing opportunities for men to gather with other men who have experienced a similar loss, discuss shared experiences, and support one another, we anticipate more participants in future sessions.



“As hard as it still is for me to talk about my son, I love to talk about him. Sounds crazy to most but not to those that understand and that is exactly what we have with all these guys.”

Building Fire Hero Family Connections

The ability to adapt to new circumstances is at the core of resilience and post-traumatic growth, qualities we actively promote through our programs. Weekly Virtual Peer Support enabled Fire Hero Families to meet informally with other families to provide support, share stories, struggles, and ideas in relation to grief. **Participants say the Peer Support Group “has been a lifeline” that they “look forward to each week.”** Fifty-five family members have participated in the virtual Peer Support Group meetings, many of whom have attended regularly. A total of 413 participants since July. Sixty-eight Fire Hero Families also attended the new virtual State Connections Group which connected families within each state/region.



295
FAMILY MEMBERS SENT
4,379
REMEMBRANCE CARDS TO
FIRE HERO FAMILIES NEAR
THE ANNIVERSARY DATE OF
EACH FIREFIGHTER'S DEATH

100% OF THE VOLUNTEERS WANTED FAMILY
MEMBERS TO KNOW THAT THEIR HEROES ARE
NOT FORGOTTEN

“I write the cards because it is important that the family members are never forgotten. I know how it makes me feel to receive one each year. It is a privilege to write these cards for the families of these forever heroes. I can think of no better way to volunteer my time.”

FAMILIES WERE
SURVEYED ABOUT
THEIR NEEDS

52%

WERE INTERESTED
IN TOPICS OF
GRIEF AND
WELLNESS

47%

WERE INTERESTED
IN PHYSICAL
FITNESS OR
RELAXATION
TECHNIQUES

47%

WERE INTERESTED
IN ONLINE PEER
SUPPORT GROUPS
AND CONNECTING
WITH OTHER
FAMILIES

Fire Service Programs



*“Very thankful for your guidance
and help during a difficult time.”*



While the global pandemic restricted the manner in which we delivered support and resources to the fire service, our dedicated team and instructors used virtual learning technologies to continue delivering support and working to reduce preventable line-of-duty deaths and injuries.



Local Assistance State Teams

The Local Assistance State Teams (LAST) are dedicated volunteers who are the first NFFF representatives to contact fire departments and the families of the fallen when a tragedy occurs. In 2020, LAST assisted 491 agencies and individuals with filing for the Department of Justice's Public Safety Officers' Benefit. This assistance is critical as agencies and families of the fallen deal with the physical and emotional impact of a fatality.

IN 2020, LAST PROVIDED ASSISTANCE TO AGENCIES WITH

92
FIREFIGHTER
FATALITIES

17
EMS
FATALITIES

13
LAW ENFORCEMENT
FATALITIES

“The planning and memorial service for my husband was thoughtful and respectful.”

Incident Commander Support, Training, and IC-to-IC Webinars



Support programs for incident commanders (IC) who had experienced a line-of-duty death continued in 2020. In addition to our support resources, we launched a new online training module on the Fire Hero Learning Network. This training gives incident commanders insight into what they could experience should they suffer a line-of-duty death on their watch.

Our IC-to-IC webinar series has been very well received. These webinars feature incident commanders who tell the story of how the fatality occurred and its effect on them. These presentations are another tool that fire departments can use to develop risk dominance on the emergency scene and unintended outcome messaging for their commanders.



“Very powerful and moving presentation, helped me understand what someone experiences when a firefighter dies in the line of duty.”



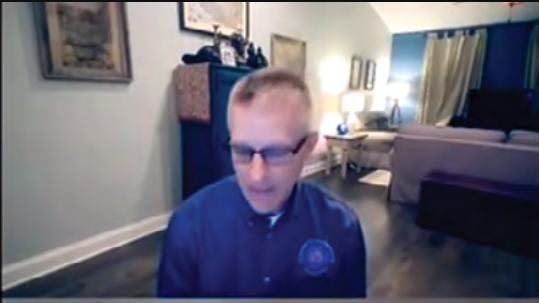
Go Down Swinging The Nathan Espinosa Story

We partnered with the Los Angeles City Fire Department (LAFD) and Full Vision Productions to produce a documentary chronicling the aftermath of a serious injury event captured on video. Firefighter Nathan Espinosa fell through a roof on his first working fire and sustained serious burn injuries.

Within days of the incident, LAFD Chief Ralph Terrazas invoked the “Everyone Goes Home” mantra and embarked the department on a plan to prevent a recurrence of such an event.

Our documentary tells the story of Firefighter Espinosa’s courageous recovery and return to full duty, the impact of the injury on his family, the LAFD’s efforts to determine what happened, and what steps they enacted to prevent a like event from happening again.

“Powerful. Watched the video with my officers. We will be looking at how we can incorporate some of the LAFD’s practices into our volunteer operations. Wishing Nathan a full recovery.”



“Every department should watch this one.”

Go Down Swinging The Nathan Espinosa Story

Discussion Support Tool Worksheet

1. This worksheet is designed to assist you with extracting lessons from *Go Down Swinging – The Nathan Espinosa Story*.
2. Read the questions that coincide with your current rank/position in your fire department.
3. Watch the documentary.
4. Jot down your observations based on your current rank/position in your fire department.
5. Be prepared to discuss your observations with other viewers.



Firefighter – Place yourself in Nathan's boots

- How well do you think you are prepared to handle a mayday situation like Nathan experienced?
- How in depth do you check your equipment at the beginning of each shift/turnout?
- If you are a volunteer firefighter, how confident are you the equipment you are using (SCBA, handlight, thermal imager, etc.) is ready for use when you come from home for a response?
- Nathan emphasizes several important actions regarding his survival. Which of these speaks to you and why?
- Do you think your department does an adequate job of preparing its members for a mayday operation? What is done well? What needs improvement?

Company Officer – Place yourself in Apparatus Operator Tavera's boots

- What are your first actions upon arrival at a similar incident per your department's SOPs/SOGs?
- If you lose a crew member, what are you going to do?
- How often do you practice (either informally or formally) the answer to the question above?
- Radio communications are frequently cited as problematic on incident scenes. What exercises do you employ to ensure you practice radio discipline?
- Do you truly believe your crew is prepared to handle an incident such as this and if not, what can you do to make them prepared?

Chief Officer – Place yourself in Chief Terrazas' boots

- How well do you believe your department is prepared to address an incident like LAFD experienced with the Espinosa near miss?
- What is your department's operational risk profile process?
- Do you have a system in place to objectively investigate significant injury and L000 events?
- How well prepared are the members of your command team prepared to handle a mayday event? What do you base your answer on?
- What procedures do you have in place to support firefighter families who experience an event like Nathan Espinosa and his family experienced?
- If you are chief of department, how do you ensure cultural change becomes a new department norm?



This project was made possible through funding from the Department of Homeland Security's Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program and was developed in cooperation with the Los Angeles City Fire Department and Full Vision Productions, LLC.



The documentary launched October 6, 2020, kicking off with an exclusive virtual “premiere” which included interviews with Nathan, his family, Chief Terrazas, Producer Rob Manciero, and other LAFD staff.

The *Go Down Swinging* documentary has been viewed 7,824 times on our Vimeo and YouTube pages. The premiere has been viewed 277 times on Vimeo.

“After The Fire” Podcasts

In support of our goal to recognize firefighters who died prior to the establishment of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial in 1981, we partnered with [firefighterskills.com](https://www.firefighterskills.com) to produce a series of podcasts. Four episodes of the podcast, based on two incidents, with accompanying human interest content, were released in late 2020. Additional content is being developed along with a plan for sustained funding.

230

PODCAST SUBSCRIBERS

960

SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS

.....

**THESE PODCASTS ARE AVAILABLE
ON ALL MAJOR PLATFORMS
INCLUDING: APPLE PODCASTS,
SPOTIFY, AND YOUTUBE.**

.....

“The After The Fire Podcast provides a great opportunity for current and future Incident Commanders to learn some good fireground procedures from some very experienced fire officers.”



Everyone Goes Home® Train-the-Trainer



The pandemic that gripped the country in 2020 severely restricted the Everyone Goes Home® training program's in-person delivery of its flagship courses, *Courage to Be Safe®*; *Leadership, Accountability, Culture, Knowledge (LACK)*; *Leadership So Everyone Goes Home*; and *Attributes of Leading*. To meet the challenge, program managers revisited the delivery model and developed a virtual model that preserved the spirit of the course, as well as met the demands from incumbent and newly interested departments.

New model offerings were coordinated through the NFFF's organizational liaison. State training directors, where the Foundation has a memorandum of understanding, agreed to pilot the deliveries. They indicated they were interested in continuing with NFFF training and messaging in their programs by a means that met with their individual mandates under the pandemic (i.e., limited to no outside entities allowed in departments, reductions in class sizes, etc.).

Virtual instructor development seminars were held in Kentucky, Ohio, and South Carolina to deliver train-the-trainer modules to experienced, well-respected senior instructors.

KENTUCKY

Before their training, **Kentucky had 11 instructors**. There were **45 instructors trained during the seminar**, and **28 of those instructors completed all of the necessary requirements** to become instructors of our flagship courses.

OHIO

Ohio increased their cadre of instructors from 77 to 84. The incumbent instructors had permissions updated to include the ability to deliver *Attributes of Leading*, expanding their ability to deliver each of the Foundation's flagship programs.

SOUTH CAROLINA

South Carolina had **14 instructors prior to the seminar**. There were **97 instructors trained**, and **39 instructors completed all of the requirements** to deliver the Foundation's flagship programs.

NFFF Marketing

MICAH GREEN/THE SUMTER ITEM



“A global crisis has transformed our communities. What hasn’t changed is our support for firefighters and their families.”



In spite of the challenges of the pandemic, we looked for new ways to deliver and amplify messages of hope to our audience and the broader community. We communicated about the impact the virus had on the fire service, worked to keep our community connected and resilient, and reassured them of our unflinching support during these uncertain times.

Building NFFF Awareness

OUR MEDIA REACH IN 2020



465,012

RELEASES
SENT IN 2020



1,477

RADIO & TV
MENTIONS



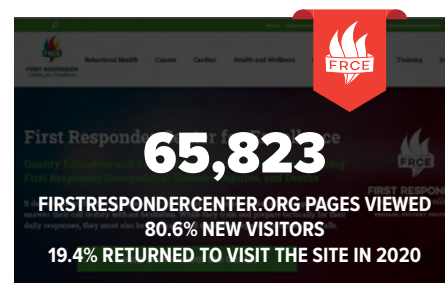
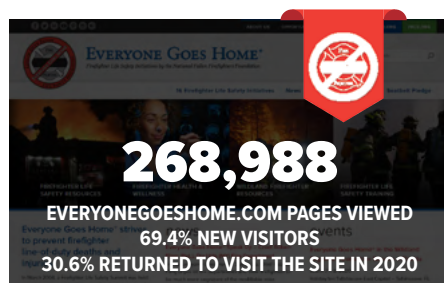
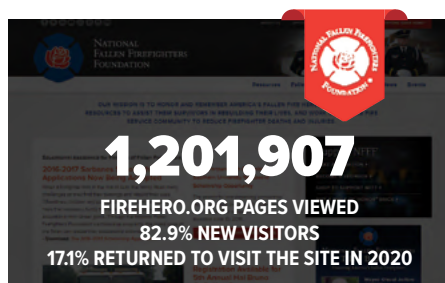
1,130

PRINT
MENTIONS

OUR OVERALL REACH INCREASED **53%**

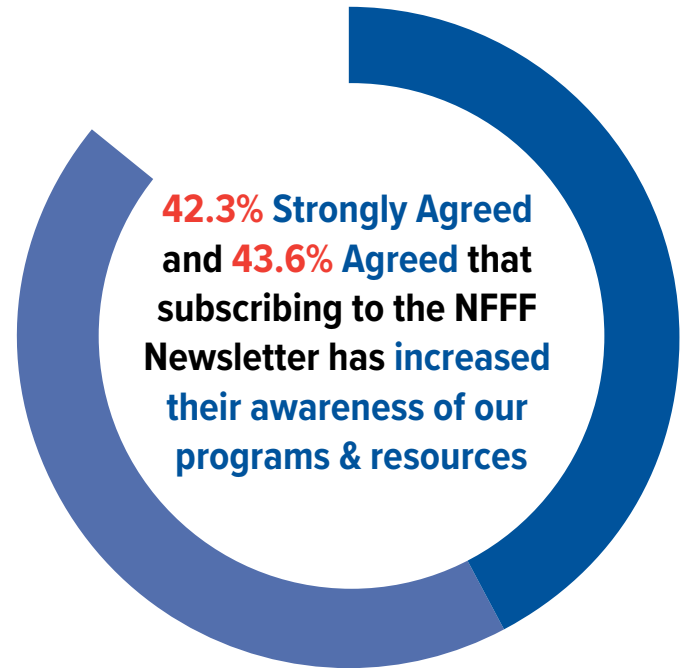
According to a 2020 report from The Nielsen Company, the percentage difference in time spent accessing current events and global news on mobile devices from March 2019 to March 2020 in the U.S. was 215%. As individuals sheltered in place, our consumption of information increased and there was greater attention paid to those on the front lines of the pandemic. Although there were challenges in 2020, we had the opportunity to try new ways of amplifying our message and extending our reach to the community outside our fire service. We distributed information to 17,000 fire departments nationwide about virtual training and other resources. The NFFF also distributed releases to the media, with increased attention to how we were adapting and overcoming the challenges presented by the global crisis. These alerts included information on the impact the virus was having on the fire service, the development of NFFF Connect which provided important resources, workshops, and timely information to help firefighters, Fire Hero Families, and the community to stay connected. ***America's Tribute to Fallen Firefighters*** was sent to over 10,500 media outlets, resulting in most nationwide media coverage for NFFF in 2020.

OUR REACH ON THE WEB

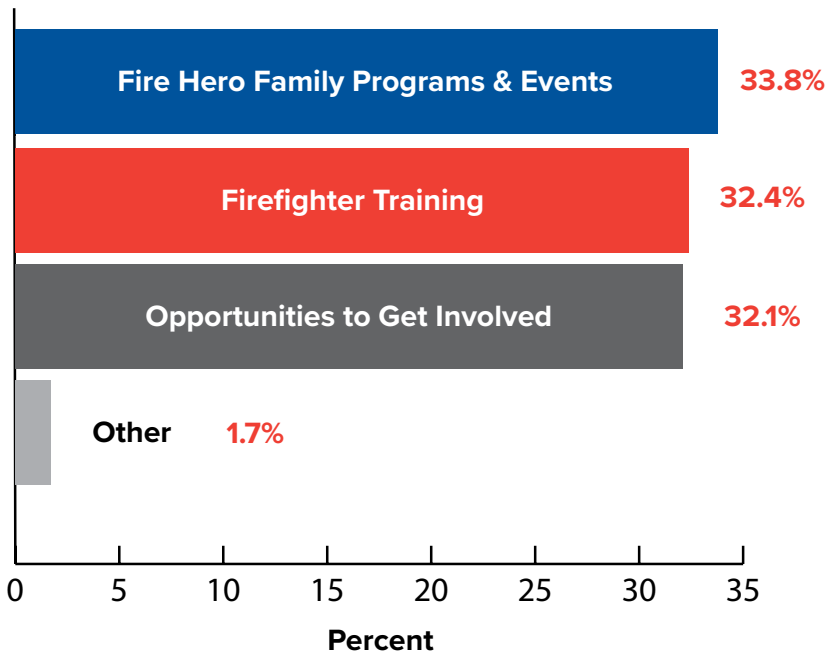


E-MAIL MARKETING, AUDIENCE SEGMENTATION, AND IMPACT

In 2020, the Foundation moved to a new E-mail marketing platform and worked to improve its delivery and overall audience experience. We began what will be a series of impact surveys, which will help us plan and deliver more relevant content to our audience. This effort not only helped us better understand their needs, but also helped us further segment our lists, so we can deliver targeted content that we hope will foster more engagement with the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation.

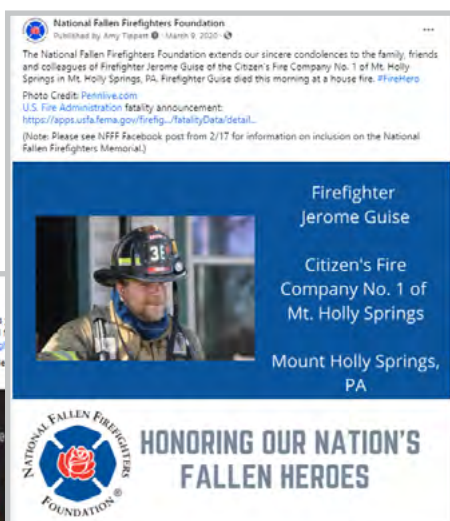
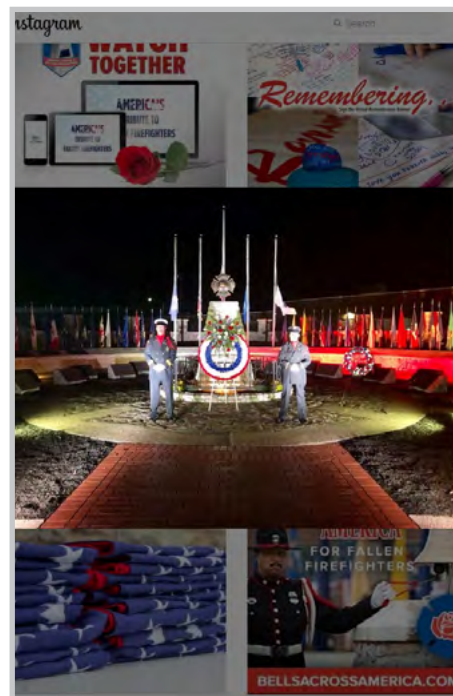


We asked:
What type of E-mail content is most valuable to you?



WE SENT **155** E-MAIL BLASTS IN 2020, THAT'S A TOTAL OF **1,633,067** E-MAILS! **1,440** NEW SUBSCRIBERS JOINED US IN 2020.

As Seen on Foundation Social Media



“Thank you so very much for this presentation. As for my father who was honored in 2009. This still gives me comfort today. Thank you.”

“Thank you for a beautiful tribute, hearts are sad we cannot be there, but look forward to the day we can.”



5,586
FOLLOWERS

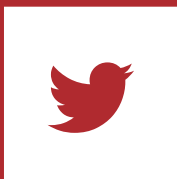


375,850
FOLLOWERS



1,054
PAGE POSTS

550,335
REACTIONS,
COMMENTS,
SHARES, AND
LINK CLICKS ↘



24,458
FOLLOWERS



790
PAGE POSTS

26,280
REACTIONS,
COMMENTS,
SHARES, AND
LINK CLICKS ↘



7,033
FOLLOWERS



216
PAGE POSTS

15,969
REACTIONS,
COMMENTS,
SHARES, AND
LINK CLICKS ↘



10,206
FOLLOWERS



80
PAGE POSTS

4,598
REACTIONS,
COMMENTS,
SHARES, AND
LINK CLICKS ↘

Community Involvement Celebrating Firefighters Worldwide

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation invited U.S. communities to celebrate International Firefighters' Day with special online NFFF events, including two Facebook live concerts, and the ***Share a Firefighter Thank You*** and ***Shine Your Light for Firefighters*** campaigns. This campaign reached over 22,000 media outlets and fire departments.

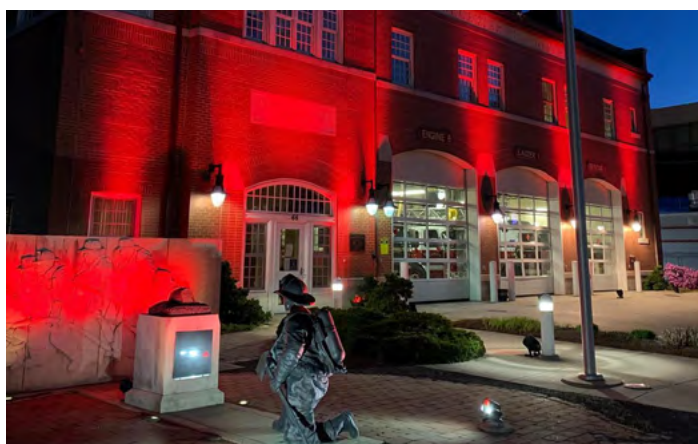
During the month-long build up, **53,646 new visitors** and **10,404 returning visitors accessed fire-hero.org**. From April 1 - May 6, there were **21,495 pageviews in the International Firefighters' Day section**, which ranked #2 behind the fallen firefighter section of the website during that time.

Our ***Shine Your Light for Firefighters*** campaign mobilized communities nationwide, giving them a positive way to connect with the fire service community while they sheltered in place. **Nearly 500 reported that they lit their homes in red in 47 of the 50 states** in addition to landmarks, and fire departments nationwide. This not only gathered new opt-in E-mail subscribers, but it also bolstered our efforts to bring our annual Memorial Weekend to a wider audience, encouraging these same individuals and families to participate in our ***Light the Night for Fallen Firefighters*** remembrance.





The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation celebrated its first International Firefighters' Day on May 4, 2020. Born out of a tragic loss of five firefighters in a wildfire in Victoria, Australia, it is a way to honor their lives and the sacrifice that firefighters are willing to make for us every day.



“Thank you for your time and passion in supporting our firefighters. Your efforts will be recognized worldwide as a result of your innovative campaign.”

— JJ Edmondston, Founder, International Firefighters' Day

Adapt, Improvise, Overcome – Honoring the Nation's Fallen Firefighters in 2020

The pandemic has forced many nationwide to adapt, improvise and overcome in 2020. The National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend was no different. Having to cancel on-site events was a painful decision, but a necessary one, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. “At the end of the day, no matter how we tried to work it, there was no other choice,” explained Chief Ron Siarnicki, Executive Director of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. “We just could not take the risk of potentially exposing our families and the hundreds of volunteers.”

While plans were made to postpone the honoring of the 2019 fallen heroes until 2021, something was needed to fill the void. Something the families could see, hear, and keep until they can hopefully meet at the Memorial next year.

Thus, the idea of ***America's Tribute to Fallen Firefighters*** was born and developed. The program would not replace the annual Memorial Weekend activities on the National Emergency Training Center (NETC) campus, but would provide something for the families of fallen heroes and the fire service to find some comfort in until their firefighters can be properly honored in 2021.

This 43 minute program featured a profile of the line-of-duty-death of Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services (MD) Lieutenant Nathan Flynn, including interviews with three chief officers with the department at that time. The Fire Hero Family of Chief Paul F. Price, of the Audubon Fire Department (NJ), also told their story of the support they received from the NFFF, and their subsequent volunteering as returning family members. The program also featured the reading of the names of the 82 firefighters who lost their lives in the line of duty in 2019, and 21 others who died in previous years. These firefighters will be honored during the 2021 Memorial Weekend, along with the fallen heroes who have died in 2020.

COVID-19 did not prevent some traditions from being carried out. The annual ***Bells Across America for Fallen Firefighters*** was carried out in cities and communities from coast to coast. Troy Markel, Chairman of the Board of the NFFF, said that the event united the nation “to salute those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for their communities. This annual tradition honors our nation's heroes and lets their families know that their beloved firefighter will always be remembered.”

Another tradition that continues to grow with each year is ***Light the Night for Fallen Firefighters***. This year, dozens of landmarks across the country were lit in red in honor of the fallen heroes. From One World Trade Center in New York City to the Woodburn Bridge in Oregon, Americans were once again reminded of the great sacrifices made by the nation's fire service in the name of protecting their communities.



National Memorial Park



“Another light burns brightly year-round, it’s the eternal flame here at the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial.”



Although the grounds of the National Emergency Training Center were closed during the pandemic, plans to maintain and expand the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Park continued. Families, firefighters, and the public were able to visit the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial virtually and see our light shining bright using the firehero.org webcam.

Expansion of National Memorial Park & Fire Service Artifacts Collection

In December 2020, 100 standard bricks and 28 logo bricks were added, expanding the Walk of Honor® in the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Park.

During 2020, 373 standard and 81 logo bricks were placed in the Walk of Honor® sections honoring firefighters who died in the line of duty prior to 1981. The logo bricks are the Sponsor and State Outline bricks which make up the headers for each state. To date, we have received the names of 8,824 pre-1981 fallen firefighters.

Following America's Tribute to Fallen Firefighters, the NFFF launched its "Honor a Hero" brick campaign encouraging donors to honor a hero by sponsoring bricks in memory of the 2020 honorees. Our goal is for each of the 2019, 2020, and previous year fallen firefighters being honored have a brick when their families are able to attend the in-person Memorial Weekend.

VISITOR INFORMATION KIOSK IN PRODUCTION

The Foundation finalized plans for an interactive Visitor Information Kiosk to be installed near the National Fallen Firefighters Monument in National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Park. The new kiosk features information about the NFFF, fallen firefighters honored at the Memorial, and the Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) Program. It will also allow visitors to search for Walk of Honor® bricks, with maps to Walk of Honor® sections and other campus locations using QR codes.



The Brainard-Griego Collection Comes to Emmitsburg

Chan Brainard began collecting firefighting memorabilia in the 1940s while growing up in Connecticut. Over the next 70 years, Chan and his husband Gil Griego amassed a collection of over 10,000 pieces including vintage helmets, equipment, alarms, photos, documents, toys, and other memorabilia. In 2020, the entire collection was donated to the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. Multiple pieces from the Brainard-Griego Collection have been placed in display cases in the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Chapel. This is the first in a series of rotating themes for the 10,000 pieces in the collection.



NFFF Development



“Thank you to our dedicated donors, corporate partners, and volunteers for your unwavering support during this difficult time.”



In today's seemingly complex America, the threat to life for firefighters caused by overexertion, stress, and medical issues arising from the call of duty is increasing. We rely on responsible citizens and corporations to champion our cause to honor our nation's fallen firefighters, support their families, and reduce firefighter deaths and injuries.

2020 Partners and Donors

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation thanks our donors and corporate partners whose incredible generosity helps us honor America's fallen firefighters, assist their families, and prevent firefighter injuries and deaths.

TRIBUTE SPONSORS

Gifts of \$250,000 or more

David and Doreen Levy
Motorola Solutions Foundation

LEGACY SPONSORS

Gifts of \$100,000 or more

LION Group, Inc.
State Farm Fire &
Casualty Company
Robert N. Whittemore

PLATINUM SPONSORS

Gifts of \$75,000 or more

Knox

GOLD SPONSORS

Gifts of \$50,000 or more

Department of Housing &
Community Assurance
Pierce Manufacturing, Inc.

SILVER SPONSORS

Gifts of \$25,000 or more

Affliction Holdings, LLC
AXIS Accident & Health
Cargill, Incorporated
FireRescue1.com
FOX Broadcasting Company
IamResponding.com
ICMA (RC) Retirement Corporation
Johnson Controls Foundation
National Fire Sprinkler
Association, Inc.
Paul Davis Restoration, Inc.
The Presto Foundation
VFIS

BRONZE SPONSORS

Gifts of \$10,000 or more

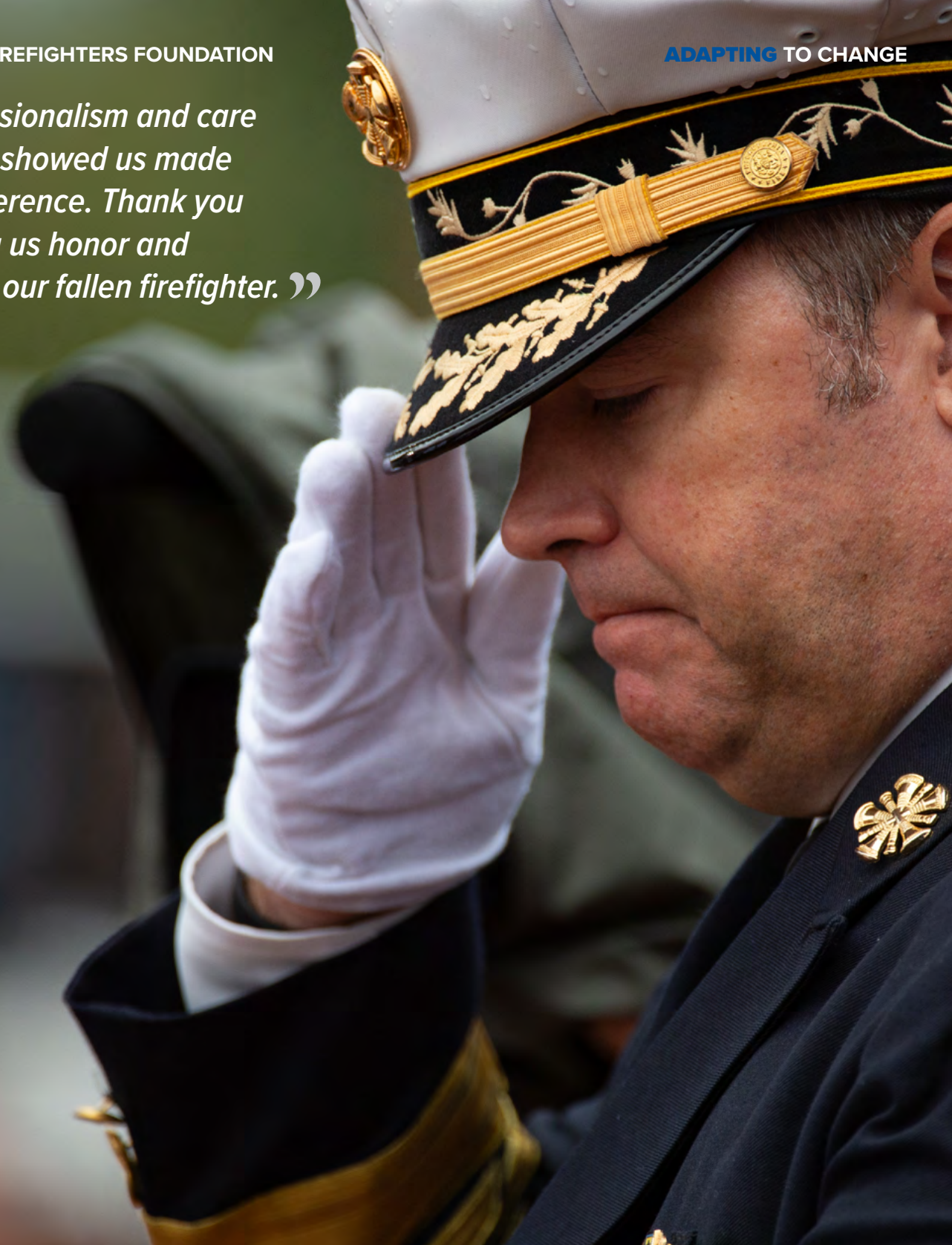
1-800-BOARDUP
Andy Boyt Memorial Fund
Marcelyn J. Boulton
Center for Public Safety
Excellence, Inc.
Cross Land & Cattle, LTD
Distant Cellars
Dyne Fire Protection Labs
FM Global Foundation
Framework Productions
Greater Tucson Fire Foundation
Ryan Hollingsworth
Mag Instrument, Inc.
Mission BBQ
National Fire Protection Association
Neersville Volunteer Fire and
Rescue
Oaktree Capital Management, LP
Ohio Chapter of American Fire
Sprinkler Association
Olympia Entertainment
Events Center, LLC
Provident Agency, Inc.
Ricochet Manufacturing Co., Inc.
Ring
Safety Components First
Responders 911 Foundation
Stanley Black & Decker
Streamlight, Inc.
Tennessee Fire Chiefs' Association
The Arthur J. and Lee R. Glatfelter
Foundation
The Edgerley Family Fund
Thirty One Gives
Turtle Plastics

PEWTER SPONSORS

Gifts of \$5,000 or more

5.11 Tactical
Anne Arundel Economic
Development Corporation
Auto Club Speedway
Brandon Little Memorial
California Casualty
Coolwater LLC
Dakota Baseball, LLC
Fire Rescue Fitness
Gamber Johnson
Harrison Hydragen, LTD
Hawaii Fire Chiefs Association
Thomas and Bonnie Hays
International Association of
Fire Chiefs, Inc.
Pamela Johnson
Melnor Incorporated USA
Milliken & Company
Municipal Emergency Services, Inc.
National Association of State
Fire Marshals
National Development Research
Institutes, Inc.
OSU Fire Protection Publications
Pelican Products, Inc.
Karl and Barbara Ristow
SERVPRO of Southwest
Waukesha County
Steel Family Charitable
Foundation, Inc.
The Reliable Automatic Sprinkler
Company, Inc.
Virtual Strides
Warringtonfire
Whitaker Farms
Barbara Wynns
Yard Card Supply LLC

“ *The professionalism and care your team showed us made all the difference. Thank you for helping us honor and remember our fallen firefighter.* ”



THANK YOU TO OUR FEDERAL PARTNERS FOR THEIR CONTINUING SUPPORT

Bureau of Justice Assistance
Department of Justice

Federal Emergency Management Agency
Department of Homeland Security

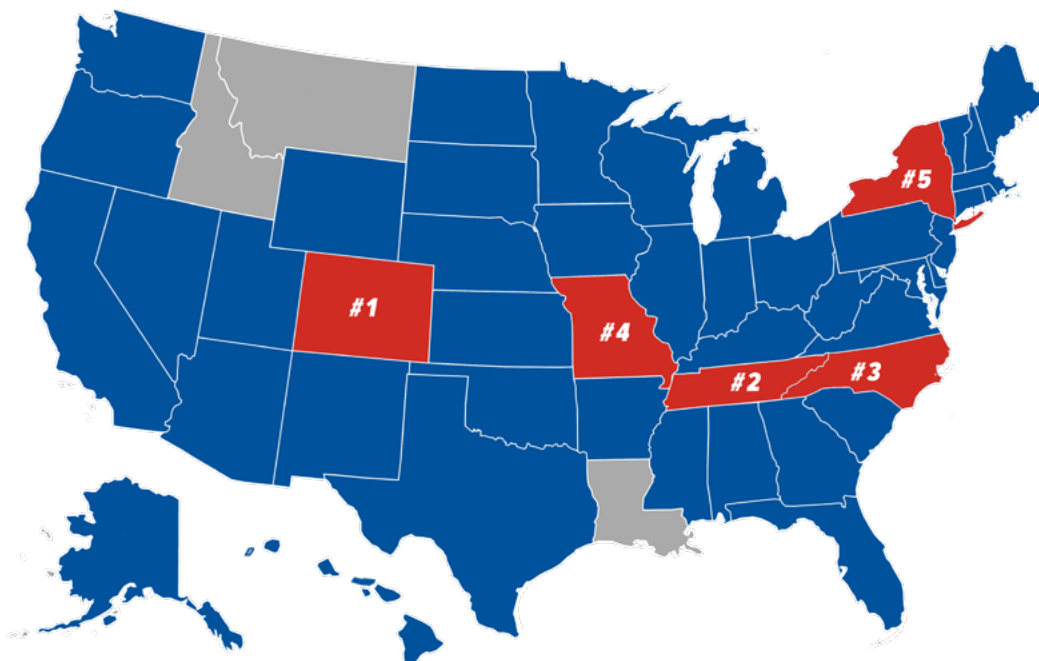
U.S. Fire Administration
Department of Homeland Security

2020 9/11 Memorial Stair Climbs

Virtual Stair Climbers in **47** of the **50** states, the District of Columbia, Guam, and Canada

**\$437,231
RAISED
FROM 2020
STAIR
CLIMBS**

**TOP 5 STAIR CLIMB
STATES IN RED**



VIRTUAL STAIR CLIMBS

Central Pennsylvania 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
Charlotte 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
Chicagoland 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
City of Black Hawk 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
Colorado 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
FDIC 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
Georgia 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
Highlands County FL 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
Illinois Fire Chief 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
Imperial Valley 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
National Capital Region 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
National Stair Climb for Fallen Firefighters
New Hampshire 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
NYS AFC FIRE 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
Premier Health Gem City 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
Rochester 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb & Walk
Salt River 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
Springfield Area 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

IN-PERSON STAIR CLIMBS

Binghamton Fire 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
Columbus 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb & Walk
Fayetteville 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
Grand Rapids 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
Greenville 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
Lancaster 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
Panama City Beach 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
Roanoke 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
Tri-Cities 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb





“Yesterday I had the privilege to honor a very special young man, Michael D. D’Auria. This 25-year-old had a dream to become a firefighter. Five months after his dream came true, his career and life came to an abrupt end. Brother, I do this for you and for all the rest that perished that day. You gave me strength when the climb was getting tough. All I had to do was look at your face. God Speed Michael.”

OUR 9/11 MEMORIAL STAIR CLIMBS SUPPORT NFFF PROGRAMS & THE FDNY COUNSELING SERVICES UNIT

These 9/11 Memorial Stair Climbs are a way to honor and remember the FDNY firefighters who selflessly gave their lives so that others might live on September 11, 2001. Each participant pays tribute to a FDNY firefighter by climbing the equivalent of the 110 stories of the World Trade Center. Individual tributes not only remember the sacrifice of a FDNY brother, but symbolically completes their heroic journey to save others. Through firefighter and community participation we ensure that each of the 343 firefighters is honored and that the world knows **we will never forget**. The Stair Climbs fund the programs provided by the NFFF to support the families of your local fallen firefighters and the FDNY Counseling Services Unit.

2020 Regional Golf Tournaments



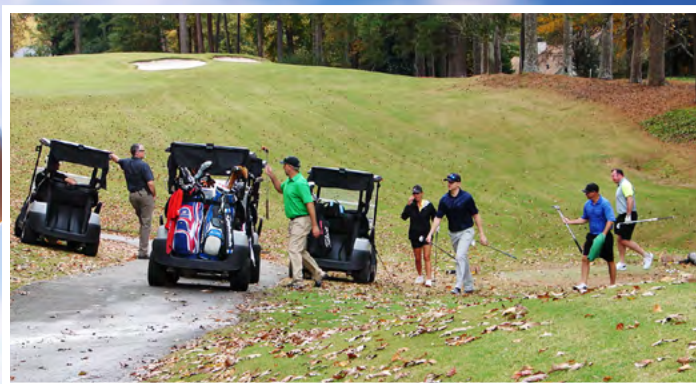
GOLF TOURNAMENTS HELD

.....

METRO ATLANTA
FIREFIGHTER CLASSIC

6TH ANNUAL GREATER
PITTSBURGH NATIONAL FALLEN
FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL GOLF
TOURNAMENT

.....



**\$67,662 RAISED
FROM 2020
GOLF TOURNAMENTS**

2020 Special Giving Campaigns

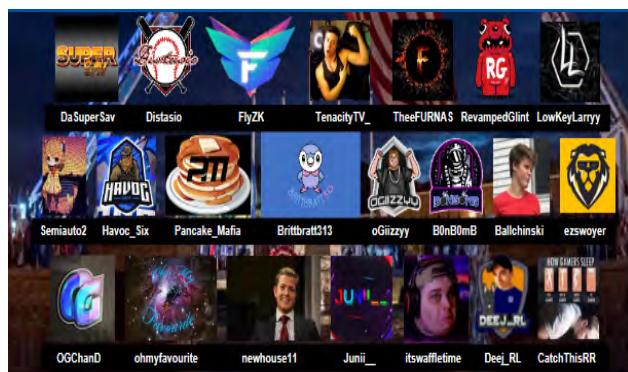
“ We have both dealt with a line-of-duty death (LODD) firsthand. We have seen the amount of planning, coordination and time that goes into handling a LODD. We want to make sure our brothers’ and sisters’ families have the resources needed to get them through the hardest part of their lives.”

TOTAL AMOUNT RAISED BY SPECIAL CAMPAIGNS

#FireHeroTuesday	\$90,049
COVID-19 Emergency Fund	\$28,347
Gamers for the Fallen	\$12,935
Custom Fender Guitar Sweepstakes	\$6,020

Spotlight – NFFF Event Coordinators Think Outside the Box

GAMERS FOR THE FALLEN CAMPAIGN



Unable to hold a golf tournament in 2020, our Golf Co-Coordinator Calvin Waters and Jordan Stoudt, of the NFFF Mississippi Golf Tournament, recruited seven gamers to start a series of events on Twitch to raise funds and awareness for the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. Gamers played to achieve special reward levels and spectators were encouraged to support their favorite players and the cause. In four hours, one gamer in Japan raised \$1,800!

CUSTOM FENDER GUITAR SWEEPSTAKES



Even though we were not able to hold many Stair Climbs in person in 2020, our Tri-Cities 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb Coordinator Andrew Catron secured a donation of a custom Fender Stratocaster. The guitar features the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation logo and custom firefighter mural on the back-side, with custom case. A special sweepstakes ran from October 5 - December 31, 2020 that gave our audience a chance to win this one-of-a-kind instrument.

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Volunteer Firemen's Insurance
Services, Inc. (VFIS)

VICE CHAIRMAN

William Webb
Congressional Fire Services Institute

TREASURER

Robert Jacobs
Maryland State Firemen's Association

INTERIM SECRETARY

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Executive Director
National Fallen Firefighters
Foundation

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Deputy Chief William Goldfeder
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Chief Charles Hood*
San Antonio Fire Department

Michael Leonard
Motorola Solutions, Inc.

Chief Ernest Mitchell, Jr.*
Fire Chief/U.S. Fire Administrator (Ret.)

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National Volunteer Fire Council

Chief Joanne R. Rund
Baltimore County Fire Department

Harold A. Schaitberger
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Motorola Solutions, Inc. (Ret.)

David Levy
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom
LLP

Michael Robertson
Military Firefighter Heritage Foundation

Faith Swan
Fire Hero Family Member

Terry Victor
Johnson Controls/Grinnell
Fire Protection Solutions

* Members of the Board of Directors of the First Responder Center for Excellence
for Reducing Occupational Illness, Injuries and Deaths, Inc.





Financial Stewardship

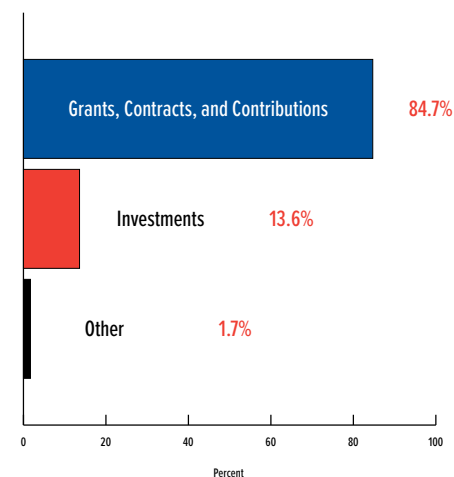
The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation strives to be a good steward, maximizing the impact of your gifts to help the fire service and their families. **Over 85% of our budget supports our Fire Hero Family and Fire Service Programs.** In 2020, we were proud to earn a Platinum Seal of Transparency rating from GuideStar and our fifth consecutive 4-star rating by Charity Navigator.

“We partnered with NFFF because this organization provides much needed services and is truly comprised of dedicated professionals with a clear and compassionate focus on the organization’s mission.”



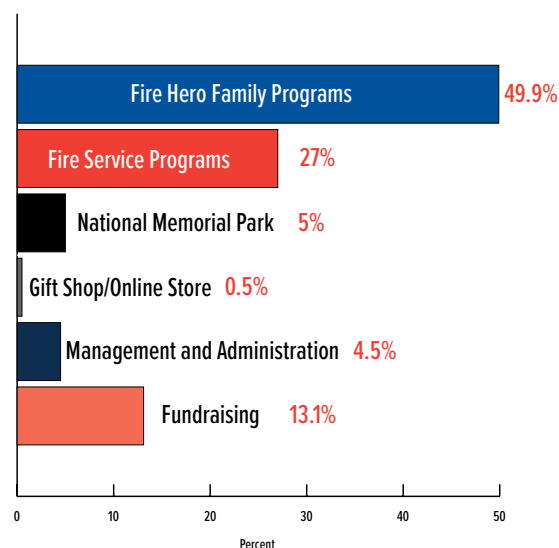
2020 REVENUE AND SUPPORT

Grants, Contracts, and Contributions	\$5,796,245
Investments	\$927,149
Other	\$115,982
Total	\$6,839,376



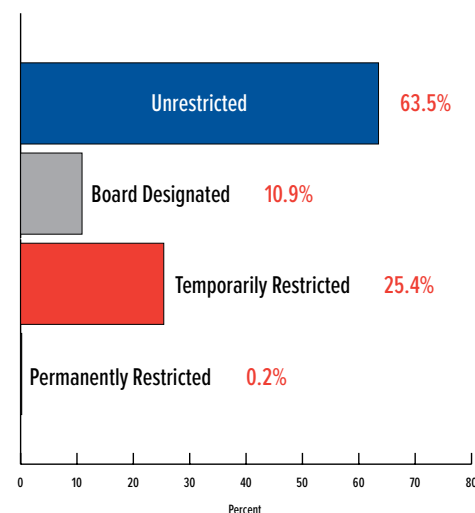
2020 PROGRAM EXPENSES

Fire Hero Family Programs	\$2,787,806
Fire Service Programs	\$1,511,110
National Memorial Park	\$278,991
Gift Shop/Online Store	\$28,940
Management and Administration	\$250,798
Fundraising	\$729,982
Total	\$5,587,626



2020 NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	\$7,712,761
Board Designated	\$1,320,789
Temporarily Restricted	\$3,079,320
Permanently Restricted	\$25,000
Total	\$12,137,870





NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION

WWW.FIREHERO.ORG

EMMITSBURG

PO DRAWER 498
EMMITSBURG, MD 21727
301-447-1365
301-447-1645 (FAX)

CROFTON

2130 PRIEST BRIDGE DRIVE, SUITE 6
CROFTON, MD 21114
410-721-6212
410-721-6213 (FAX)

ON SOCIAL MEDIA



*Become a year-round supporter of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation
by E-mailing donate@firehero.org or visiting www.firehero.org/donate.*

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation values our strategic alliances with our corporate sponsors to raise awareness and funds. Without your support and involvement we could not accomplish our mission to honor and remember America's fallen fire heroes, provide resources to assist their families in rebuilding their lives, and work within the fire service community to reduce firefighter deaths and injuries.

Potential new corporate partners are invited to join us in developing strategic alliances or cause-related marketing programs. Participating companies receive a portfolio of benefits that demonstrate our appreciation, create awareness, and highlight their commitment across multiple platforms.

Level of Support

What Your Donation Means to Our Families & Fire Service

Tribute Sponsorship \$250,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none">★ Annual Support of All Fire Hero Family Scholarships and Job Training★ Memorial for All Firefighters Who Died in the Line of Duty Prior to 1981
Legacy Sponsorship \$100,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none">★ National Memorial Park Visitors Center★ Memorial Weekend Travel for All Fire Hero Families
Platinum Sponsorship \$75,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none">★ Development of Foundation Programs★ Fire Hero Family Wellness Conference
Gold Sponsorship \$50,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none">★ National Memorial Park Expansion★ National Memorial Tribute Video and Satellite Broadcast
Silver Sponsorship \$25,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none">★ Retreat for Fire Hero Family Members by Relationship★ Line-of-Duty Death Prevention Course Development/Hosting
Bronze Sponsorship \$10,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none">★ Outreach to Fire Service Organizations and Departments★ Memorial Weekend Keepsakes for All Fire Hero Families
Pewter Sponsorship \$5,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none">★ Grief Publications and Educational Materials★ Fire Hero Family Scholarships and Job Training
Brass Sponsorship \$2,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none">★ Fire Hero Family Support Network★ Hal Bruno Bereavement Camp for One Child
Supporter Sponsorship \$1,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none">★ Chief-to-Chief Network★ Memorial Weekend Travel for One Family

** Funds may be directed to specific programs or wherever needed most*

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



FIRST RESPONDER
Center for Excellence

The First Responder Center for Excellence for Reducing Occupational Illness, Injuries and Deaths, Inc., (FRCE) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The FRCE receives funding through private donations from individuals, organizations, corporations and foundations. The FRCE is a National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) affiliate organization, created in 2016. Its mission is to promote quality educational awareness and research to reduce physical and psychological health and wellness issues for first responders.

FRCE is developing relationships with corporate partners to raise funds specifically supporting its work in cancer prevention and awareness, behavioral health, the Firefighter Physical Initiative, cardiac care and overall health and wellness. Corporate Partners can work with us in designing a portfolio of benefits that best meet their marketing goals. These strategic alliances will create a high return, distinguishing each company while supporting the first responders in local communities and nationwide.

Level of Support

What Your Donation Means to First Responders

Tribute Sponsorship \$250,000	<p>★ Program Development and Sustainment <i>Expansion of the FRCE's infrastructure to support new program development and the sustainability of the FRCE's existing programs related to first responder behavioral health, cancer, cardiac disease, physical fitness, and other health and wellness initiatives.</i></p>
Legacy Sponsorship \$100,000	<p>★ Delivery of Health & Wellness Seminars to First Responders <i>Seminars will review occupational health risks, occupational cancers, cardiovascular events and behavioral health injuries and discuss how to manage and reduce risks in the fire service and use the tools they need to implement within their fire department to address each of these threats.</i></p>
Platinum Sponsorship \$75,000	<p>★ Wellness Program Analysis and Strategic Planning <i>Evaluate current best practices and propose strategies for disseminating systematic approaches usable by various types and sizes of departments. Results will include guidance documents, program plans, workbooks, and evaluation mechanisms. (Cardiovascular Disease and Musculoskeletal objectives)</i></p>
Gold Sponsorship \$50,000	<p>★ Research to Practice Portal <i>The FRCE Research to Practice Portal is central to the mission of the FRCE. Priority was given to establishing a clearinghouse function to help departments understand, evaluate and apply research informing their efforts. Sponsorship for the Research to Practice Portal keeps the system operating on a monthly basis.</i></p>
Silver Sponsorship \$25,000	<p>★ Cardiac Program Support <i>FRCE continues work in improving firefighters' cardiac health, mitigating cardiac disease, preventing heart attacks and expands efforts to reach all first responders.</i></p>
Bronze Sponsorship \$10,000	<p>★ Outreach to First Responder Organizations and Departments <i>FRCE shares information through its website, social media, print and educational materials.</i></p>
Pewter Sponsorship \$5,000	<p>★ Advancement of the FRCE Health and Wellness Program <i>Providing evidence-based research and recommendations for nutrition and exercise programs specific to first responders.</i></p>
Brass Sponsorship \$2,500	<p>★ Advancement of Online Resources <i>Online toolkits provide on-demand training and education resources that can be modified and used by fire departments.</i></p>
Supporter Sponsorship \$1,000	<p>★ Awards Program Support <i>Seal of Excellence sponsorships will recognize fire departments' success in reducing injuries and fatalities through work in FRCE's programmatic areas.</i></p>

** Programs and anticipated expenses are subject to change*

FIRST RESPONDER CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE | SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

2130 PRIEST BRIDGE DRIVE, SUITE 11, CROFTON, MD 21114 | 443-302-2915 | WWW.FIRSTRESPONDERCENTER.ORG | LJACOBS@FRCEMAIL.ORG

National Fallen Firefighters Foundation

RESERVE YOUR SPOT ON THE WALK OF HONOR®



SPONSOR INFORMATION

Sponsor Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Donation Amount ☐ \$150 - Individual ☐ \$200 - Department ☐ \$250 - Fire Academy Class
 ☐ \$300 - Logo Brick ☐ \$300 - Inscribed Brick (6 lines)

GIFT INFORMATION

☐ In Honor of _____ ☐ In Memory of _____

☐ For a Pre-1981 LODD ☐ Other _____

When you order a brick, you will receive a letter and certificate thanking you for your donation. If the brick is a gift, we will prepare and send a letter and certificate to the person being honored or to the family of someone being remembered. Please include their address here:

Recipient Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION

☐ Check Please charge my: ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐ American Express ☐ Discover

Card number: _____ Expiration Date: _____ CVV: _____

Cardholder's Name: _____ Signature: _____

Billing Address (if different from above): _____

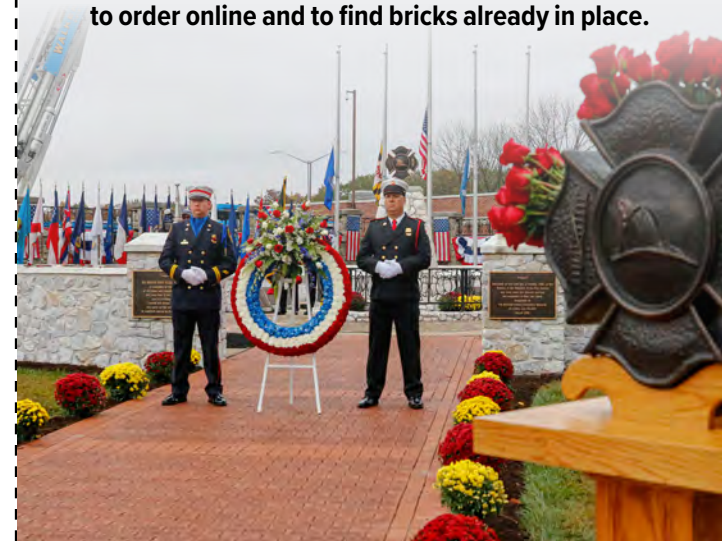
Please complete the brick inscription on the opposite side of this page.

Join thousands of others by sponsoring a brick on the Walk of Honor® in the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Park, located on the campus of the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. This brick walkway links the official National Fallen Firefighters Monument, honoring all fallen fire heroes, to the historic National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Chapel and the 9/11 Memorial Plaza.

Fire departments and organizations have purchased special sections to honor their members or those who have answered the final call. Bricks are a great way to say "thank you," celebrate a special occasion, or to remember a loved one. When you sponsor a brick, you will receive a customized certificate recognizing your support.

Help build a permanent Memorial Park to all firefighters — past, present, and future.

Please fill out this order form or go to firehero.org to order online and to find bricks already in place.





National Fallen Firefighters Foundation

RESERVE YOUR SPOT ON THE WALK OF HONOR®

INSCRIBE YOUR WALK OF HONOR® BRICK

INDIVIDUAL, DEPARTMENT, FIRE ACADEMY CLASS BRICKS

Please print up to 18 characters per line (including spaces and punctuation) on 3 lines.

INSCRIBED BRICK

Please print up to 18 characters per line (including spaces and punctuation) on 6 lines.

LOGO BRICK

Please send high-resolution artwork to Donna Clark at dclark@firehero.org.

MORE INFORMATION

For additional information or questions, please contact Donna Clark at dclark@firehero.org.

Please make checks payable to the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, detach and return to: National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, Post Office Drawer 498, Emmitsburg, MD 21727

All donations to the NFFF are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation was created to honor America's fallen firefighters, to assist their families, and prevent firefighter injuries and deaths. As part of our mission, we host the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend, the official national tribute to firefighters who have made the ultimate sacrifice. Through activities offered, our Fire Hero Families find reassurance that their loved ones will not be forgotten, and that they have a place to find comfort and compassion.

Beyond the Memorial Weekend, we connect family members with similar experiences and provide scholarships, camps, and retreats.

We also honor the fallen and support firefighters by providing free resources and training opportunities to help reduce line-of-duty injuries and deaths.

You can help us continue this important work by sponsoring a brick on the Walk of Honor®.

