

## From Our Chairman of the Board



This year we mark 30 years of service honoring our nation's fallen firefighters and supporting their families. Congress established the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) in 1992, and since then the Foundation has expanded its mission to reduce and prevent firefighter deaths and injuries.

I am proud to present our 2021 Annual Impact Report, which makes clear that our commitment to these causes has not wavered even in the face of a second year of the Covid-19 pandemic. The report demonstrates that we have remained resilient in overcoming challenges and achieving our goals.

Memorial Weekend brought together, at the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial, families of honored firefighters, including honorees from 2019 and 2020. Though in-person attendance was limited for health and safety reasons, Fire Hero Families were able to watch via a livestream broadcast, allowing them to hear tributes from a nation grateful for the sacrifice of their loved ones.

The Foundation relied on technology to keep our communities connected as the pandemic continued to limit in-person gatherings. Despite the disruptions, we remained undeterred in bringing high-quality programs and services to those who needed them.

We hosted virtual camps for Fire Hero Family members, including young adults and children. And when the Foundation could not host its annual Wellness Conference in person, the NFFF Family Programs team created a weeklong virtual event. This year marked a milestone – the 100th issue of our bi-monthly newsletter, "The Journey," and we also launched a new podcast, "Grief in Progress," which seeks to inspire listeners with stories of hope and healing.

All of these efforts are reminders that, though we may have been separated by conditions beyond our control, we remained together in our dedication to honor America's fallen firefighters and to assist their families.

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

I cannot write this message describing the Foundation's achievements in 2021 without thanking everyone involved. From staff members to volunteers, affiliates and partners, your extra efforts set a new level of excellence and dedication to the NFFF's mission. Thank you for all of your hard work, perseverance and belief in our mission.

As you read this Impact Report, remember that you are an integral part of our progress. I look forward to continuing to serve with you in the years to come.

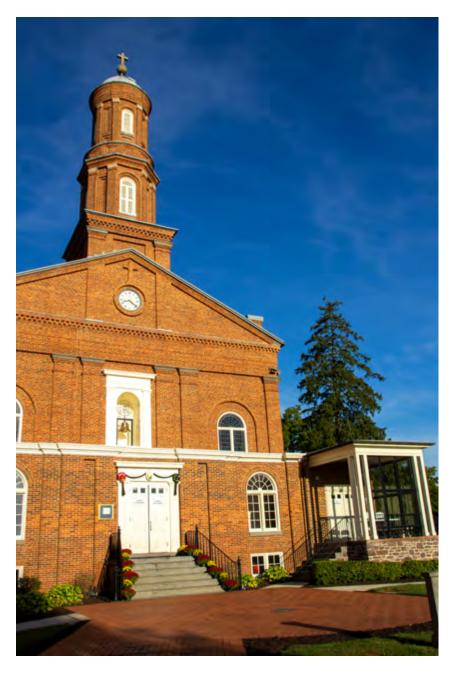
Sincerely,

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.

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.



"There are five words that make up the most important message we have for those who are grieving after the loss of a firefighter: We are here for you."



We created new ways to connect our community when we could not be together in person. As the pandemic continued in 2021, we expanded our virtual options to bridge the gaps and promote resilience and growth in our Fire Hero Families.

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## **Scholarship Programs**

In the 2021-2022 academic year, the Foundation and our partners awarded scholarships that covered 100% of the tuition, academic fees, and book expenses for 18 students, 50-59% of the tuition, academic fees, and book expenses for four students, and 40-49% of the tuition, academic fees, and book expenses of three students — each of whom demonstrated pressing financial need and stellar academic performance. Thirty-one other applicants also received meaningful support. In total, we awarded \$478,229 to the students in our Fire Hero Family!

These scholarship awards were made through generous donations from Motorola Solutions Foundation, Inc., the Alan Patrick Sondej Scholarship Fund, and partnerships with MissionSquare Retirement, Burton A. Zipser and Sandra D. Zipser Foundation, National Association of State Fire Marshals, Presto, Global Health & Safety, and the Steel Family's Engine Company 5 Foundation and countless other donations made to the NFFF Sarbanes Scholarship Program.



I am so excited to say that this year I will be taking the MCAT and applying to medical school. This scholarship means so much to me! I could say thank you 1,000 times. I deeply appreciate the support.



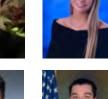
















































66 The scholarship helped to cover the majority of this year's tuition and fees and will do the same for the Spring of 2022. It has also given me the opportunity to focus on my academics and not have to worry about finding a job to be able to afford my college education. Without this scholarship I am uncertain where I would be in my education path, and I am very grateful to all who make this scholarship available.

2021-2022



Since 1997, the Foundation and its partners have awarded 1,546 scholarships totaling over \$5,269,223 to 686 family members of fallen firefighters from across the nation.

32% ARE FIRST-TIME **RECIPIENTS** 

**RECIPIENTS** 



















































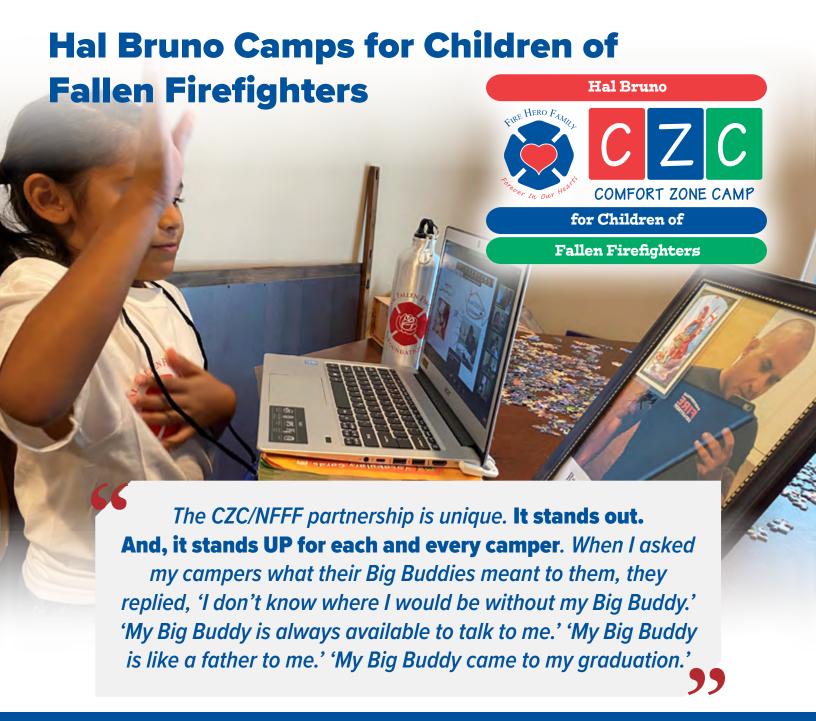












26
CAMPERS AGES 7-17
ZOOMED TO
COMFORT ZONE CAMP
WITH 26 BIG BUDDY VOLUNTEERS

**100**% OF THE CAMPERS
SAID THAT THIS CAMP HELPED
THEM WITH THEIR GRIEF

**95**% FELT THAT THEIR GRIEF FEELS MORE MANAGEABLE AND THEY HOPE TO HELP OTHERS WITH THEIR GRIEF



In 2021, Camp HAL went digital, connecting children from over 10 states. In mini-camp sessions, they made calming jars, participated in a scavenger hunt that memorialized their firefighter, and connected over shared experiences in their grief.



Amazing experience for younger kids. It helps them in so many ways to understand their feelings along with what is going on with the loss of their parent. Miss Stephanie and her helpers always bring something new and wonderful to the kids.

**17** 

CAMPERS AGES 4-6 ZOOMED TO CAMP HAL

**100**% OF PARENTS FELT THAT CAMP GAVE THEIR CHILDREN STRATEGIES AND TOOLS TO EXPRESS THEIR THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS



## Through a New Lens

**FAMILY MEMBERS** 

PARTICIPATED IN THROUGH A **NEW LENS** 

100%

**ATTENDEES** AGREED THAT THE EVENT HELPED THEM FEEL CONNECTED TO THE FIRE **HERO FAMILY COMMUNITY** 

Although the 2021 Wellness Conference could not be held in person, the NFFF created Through a New Lens—a weeklong virtual event provided a vision for the way forward and included sessions like:

> Grief Through The Years: What Changes and What Stays The Same

**Building Resilience Through Self-Care** 

The Impact of Trauma and Grief

Navigating the Circles of Life and Grief

Men, Grief, and a Checklist

Self-Care: It's Not Just a Theory

After Attending Through A New Lens Participants Felt

not alone

not the only one supported empowered

connected hopeful informed stronger in control reassure

better at mv arief differently



## **Grief in Progress Podcast**

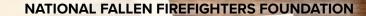
In December, we launched Season 1 of our new podcast. Created to inspire listeners with messages of hope and healing, *Grief in Progress* aims to help families gain coping skills by hearing from peers who have experienced tragic events.

Each monthly episode features members of our Fire Hero Family as we explore contemporary issues related to grief, healing, and perseverance—designed to spark new ways of seeing the world and connecting with others. In each podcast, the NFFF's grief specialist participates in the conversation and helps to facilitate the telling of each story.



This podcast was very helpful for me as the wife of a firefighter that passed away. I understood when Ms. Purdy talked about the anger—I have experienced that. I am always looking for help with coping with my husband's death.

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here is a pattern that often occurs in the wake of loss. Perhaps you are familiar with it. Some of the people who you thought would be there for you-close friends, family members, people from church, members of the fire department—seem to disappear just when you most need support. These additional losses can be incredibly hurtful and difficult to understand. It's hard to say why this happens, and the reasons may be different in each situation. Some people are terribly uncomfortable dealing with other people's sadness and grief. They don't know what to say or fear they will say or do the wrong thing. Perhaps your

On the other hand, people you never expected often show up in ways you never imagined. It might be an acquaintance you weren't that close to who ends up being your greatest source of support. In many cases, it's someone you meet only because of your loss, someone who has lived through something similar. An these are the people who walk with you through those darkest days. At NFFF family events, people often say, "If I hadn't lost my firefighter, I would never have met this wonderful group of friends who I now consider part of my family " Like se -----

## Celebrating 100th Issue of The Journey



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STAYING RESILIENT



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I love reading the stories. I laugh, cry, and smile with each edition. I look forward to receiving The Journey. I have kept almost every one.

The Journey is our bi-monthly publication written by and for the families of fallen heroes who have been honored at the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

This beloved publication in our Fire Hero Family community was named for the way many Fire Hero Families view their own life after the loss of their firefighter. In its nearly two-decade history, the pages of The Journey have covered myriad issues related to loss and healing, showcasing the reflections and memories of Fire Hero Families in their own words. Through the years, more than 260 family members and friends of firefighters honored at the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial have written pieces.

With every issue, the publication reaches thousands of Fire Hero Families. And for nearly two decades, readers have applauded its impact. Indeed, The Journey's quiet, longterm presence has made it a touchpoint for Fire Hero Family members across the country.

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Center in Warren

Firefighters Four

Here's what the

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young childr

## **Keeping Fire Hero Families Connected**



Even though I am not close to anyone geographically, I still have the option to talk to others who really understand what I am going through.

"

Licensed psychologist Dr. Angela Moreland hosted weekly support groups via Zoom. These groups were helpful for those struggling with grief, isolation, or both—especially when there is no strong support system in place. Additional unfacilitated virtual sessions also enabled Fire Hero Family members to meet informally to share stories, struggles, and ideas.

Once again, the NFFF outdid themselves providing an opportunity for family members to just sit and share stories. No pressure...

Our *State Connections* program forges bonds between Fire Hero Families within each state/region. The monthly virtual meeting fosters conversation between families to help build local connections and find support "at home."

To help support family members around the anniversary of their firefighter's death, we host a virtual *Remembrance Group* each month for families whose firefighter died during that month. The group is facilitated by Vickie Taylor, a licensed clinical social worker who has served as a NFFF behavioral health consultant since 1992.

During the anniversary month of a firefighter's death, family members also receive special handwritten cards in honor of their firefighter. These cards are written by other Fire Hero Family members who truly understand the depth of that loss and volunteer their time to make sure families know they are not alone.

BY THE NUMBERS

**42** 

PEER SUPPORT PARTICIPANTS

9

FACILITATED SUPPORT
PARTICIPANTS

11

ONE-ON-ONE SUPPORT CONSULTATIONS

**54** 

REMEMBRANCE GROUP PARTICIPANTS

44

STATE CONNECTIONS
PARTICIPANTS

347

FAMILY MEMBERS SENT

4,470

REMEMBRANCE CARDS
TO FIRE HERO FAMILIES
NEAR THE ANNIVERSARY
DATE OF EACH
FIREFIGHTER'S DEATH

## **Men Forging Ahead**

This casual support group "for men only" continued in 2021. It's open to all husbands, male life partners, fathers, brothers, and adult sons whose firefighter has been honored (or approved to be honored) at that National Fallen Firefighters Memorial. The monthly virtual gatherings provide camaraderie among the men in our community, allowing them to connect with others who have experienced a similar loss, discuss shared experiences, and support one another.

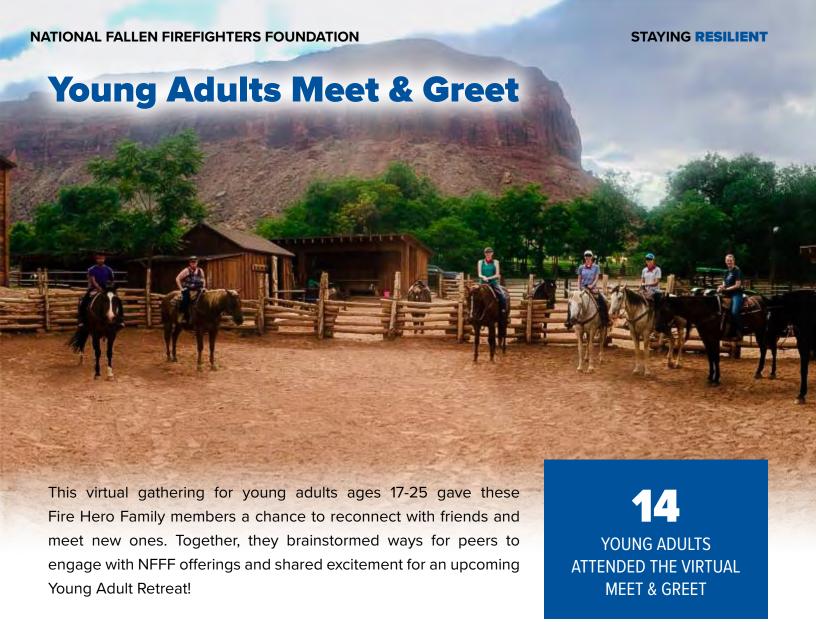
**15** 

MEN FROM THE
FIRE HERO FAMILY
COMMUNITY TOOK PART
IN THE MEN FORGING
AHEAD SESSIONS

Some of our 2021 sessions included:
Chili Bowl

It was so touching to hear the guys say that they felt so much more comfortable in this setting sharing their feelings, along with quite a few laughs. Please consider this effort a success.

Holiday Memories and New Traditions



## The Young Adult community discussion included:

Shared experiences at past retreats	Exploring texting as an alternative for outreach
Serving as a Big Buddy at the Hal Bruno Camps	Opportunities within the NFFF
Offering in-person opportunities to get to know peers	Leveraging social media (Instagram and Discord) as a messaging tool

## **Fire Hero Family Winter Retreat**

The holidays can be an especially challenging time of year. The Fire Hero Family Winter Retreat brought together family members of all ages for a three-day event focused on giving back to others at the holidays, self-care, reflection, and fellowship. Family members helped decorate the Fire Hero Family Trees for our annual tree lighting—and on Friday night, Santa Claus made a surprise visit!

The Winter Retreat is what my heart needed.

Getting to meet people who truly
understand my grief has been a life saver.

















## **Fire Hero Family Tree Lighting**



Each year the Memorial Chapel is decorated in memory of all fallen firefighters. Holiday trees are adorned with ornaments from families and departments around the country. This year's Holiday Tree Lighting was broadcast live and included music, remarks from U.S. Fire Administrator Dr. Lori Moore-Merrell, and a wreath laying ceremony at the National Memorial.



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## **Fire Service Programs**



"There is no end to our commitment to preventing every preventable line-of-duty death."



We continued to offer support and resources to the fire service in spite of pandemic-imposed limitations. We used virtual models to provide courses and seminars, including for incident commanders, to help 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 agencies and the families of the fallen when a tragedy occurs. In 2021, LAST assisted 271 agencies and families with filing for the Department of Justice's Public Safety Officers' Benefit. This critical assistance helps agencies and families deal with the physical and emotional impact of a fatality.

IN 2021, LAST PROVIDED ASSISTANCE TO AGENCIES WITH

78
FIREFIGHTER
FATALITIES

32 EMS FATALITIES

LAW ENFORCEMENT FATALITIES

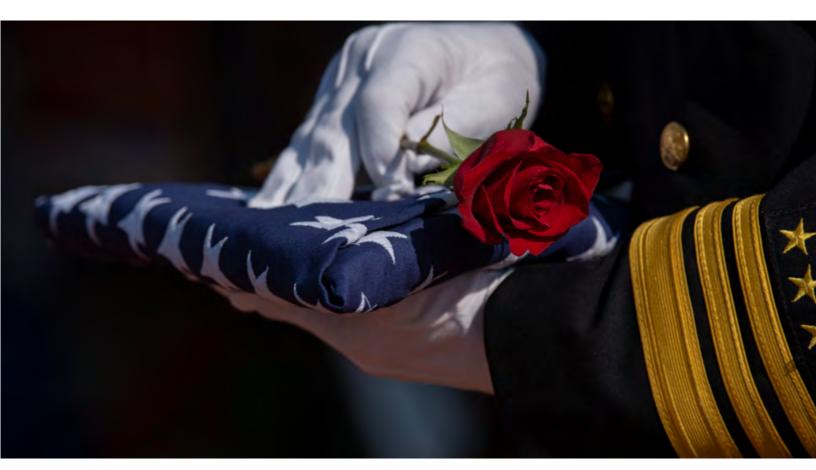
All the members of your team treated our department family and the family of (the deceased firefighter) with dignity and respect... With the help of your team, we gave (the deceased) the Hero's funeral that he deserved.

Written in a letter to the Nebraska LAST, signed by 19 members of the affected fire department.

## **Uniformed Support Programs**

Our Uniformed Support programs for chiefs, incident commanders (IC), and company officers (CO), who had experienced a line-of-duty death continued to grow in 2021.

Our IC-to-IC webinar series continues to be 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.



Here is what the fire service is saying about the IC-to-IC webinar series:

Thank you for sharing your experience with viewers on the NFFF IC-to-IC Discussion.
I appreciate the insight and vulnerability shared.

The IC-to-IC is such a great idea! Everyone of your folks is doing such great work, and we're all extremely

appreciative and proud.

"

## **Legacies in Leadership**



In 2021, the NFFF launched the Legacies in Leadership website, an inspiration for the next generation of leaders. This site contains a series of interviews capturing thoughts and advice from the past and present fire service leaders to the next generation of fire service influencers.

These trailblazers have shared their educational and entertaining "war stories" applicable to today's fire service, as well as any other industry. They are the front-runners of the American fire service that are paying it forward with what they have learned through their profession. Viewers will learn how these men and women began their careers and gain perspectives on how the fire service has changed, along with what they expect the future will hold.

Among the videos featured on the website are interviews with luminaries such as the late Chief Alan Brunacini, Chief Dennis Compton, Bill Webb, Executive Director of the Congressional Fire Service Institute, Chief Charles Hood, Dr. Denise Smith, and longtime friend of the fire service Congressman Steny Hoyer (D-MD), the Majority Leader of the United States House of Representatives. Video topics include segments on leadership, service, respect, and the best advice they received in their careers.



We hope that the insights that the viewers of the series will see will be helpful to current and future leaders in the fire service. Our goal is to share our advice and to talk about the lessons we learned as we advanced over the years.

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## **Everyone Goes Home® Program**

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I feel members of the fire service seeing diversity representing Everyone Goes Home® will open a great number of doors. Thanks for letting me help tell the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation and Everyone Goes Home® story.

"

Everyone Goes Home® is the NFFF's flagship effort to reduce preventable firefighter line-of-duty deaths. By fulfilling our primary mission of supporting families, co-workers, and fire service leaders after a firefighter dies, we have recognized that not every fire service death is avoidable. This drives us to do all we can to better prepare firefighters to face and manage the risks inherent to the job and return after every run.

We've designed curricula within fire service programs, Everyone Goes Home®, and the Taking Care of Our Own® program, to equip firefighters with critical thinking skills allowing them to approach firefighting with a clear-minded intent and focus befitting professionals engaging in such a high-risk endeavor.



## **Fire Hero Learning Network**

In 2021, the Fire Hero Learning Network (FHLN) experienced a **9% increase in new users over 2020**. This increase reflects a sustained, modest, but steady increase each year over the last several years and is the result of targeted efforts by the Everyone Goes Home® Advocate team to attract new users.

Each online class receives a follow-up survey. Over 19,300 course attendees responded and reported the following:

2,287 (12%)

reported authoring a new SOP/SOG because of taking a FHLN module

2,714 (14%)

reported revising an existing SOP/ SOG after taking a FHLN module

26%

were inspired to change how their department officially operates because they took a FHLN module 5,046 (26%)

reported making informal specific operating changes at the individual or company level after taking a FHLN module

**17,997** (93%)

reported that their safety knowledge increased after taking a FHLN module

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Thank you for sharing your experience with viewers on the NFFF ICto-IC Discussion. I appreciate the insight and vulnerability shared.

"

# Fire Hero LEARNING NETWORK

email address

password

130,000+

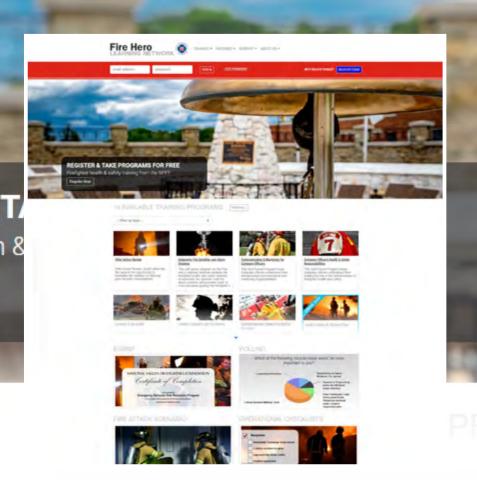
REGISTERED USERS OF THE FIRE HERO LEARNING NETWORK

REGISTER IMMEDIATELY TO ACCESS ANY OF THE

14 FREE, HIGH-QUALITY, ONLINE TRAINING MODULES

AND THE REST OF THE CONTENT AT

WWW.FIREHEROLEARNINGNETWORK.COM





## UPDATED IN 2021 RESPONDING TO VIOLENT INCIDENTS 2.0

With increasing and distressing frequency, high-profile violent incidents have put the spotlight on the need to train the fire service to render service in these situations while protecting firefighters to the best of our ability. The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation has been at the forefront of this effort for more than a decade, authoring and promoting Firefighter Life Safety Initiative 12, which states: "National protocols for response to violent incidents should be developed and championed." The NFFF has developed this selfpaced program on the Fire Hero Learning Network as an important piece of that national response to

violent incidents.

# Truman Fire Forum – Improving Firefighter and Community Safety

#### **FIVE AREAS OF FOCUS**

#### **COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION (CRR)**

- Add CRR knowledge/skills to NFPA professional standards.
- Add CRR programs to performance evaluations for firefighters and include them as part of officer job descriptions.
- Urge government officials to support CRR programs as policy.
- Determine the economic toll of fire to include insurance costs, fire department response, and environmental concerns.

#### DATA

- Every member of the fire service is able and responsible for data collection, but it should not be an undue burden.
- Leverage technology to secure scalable and relevant data for each community.
- Partner with organizations who can fund research on the data and develop partnerships to benefit the community.

#### **MARKETING**

- Marketing messages must go beyond fire prevention to include CRR programs and efforts.
- Reach an audience with narrower focus on some of the most important prevention messages, and be more effective in communicating those messages.
- Using visually engaging and realistic materials.

#### **SPRINKLERS**

- The public would be safer with adoption of codes and standards that include sprinkler systems in both commercial and residential buildings.
- Increase in improved education programs, both inside the fire service, and for stakeholders in government and industry.
- Leverage federal housing programs as an incentive to install sprinkler systems.

#### **TECHNOLOGY**

- Improvement of the use of tech, data collection and behavior to meet needs of internal and external stakeholders.
- Identify and partner with technology developers to stay current with technology. Suggested partners include: fire service groups, volunteer organizations like the Red Cross, and developers like Apple, Google, Facebook, and Waze.

In 1947, President Harry S. Truman brought together experts from the fire service and outside interests to find ways to stop the destruction and deaths from fires in this country.

More than 70 years later, Truman's legacy lives on in the form of the Truman Fire Forum Working Group. The group's members are dedicated to preventing fires, advocating for safe communities, and preventing firefighter line-of-duty deaths.

Following the 17th Annual President Harry S. Truman Legacy Symposium and the President Truman Fire Forum, the Truman Fire Forum Working Group, had two main goals: to plan for a future National Fire Service Research Agenda Symposium that carries forward the spirit of President Truman's original goal and to update and prioritize fire prevention strategies from previous Truman Fire Forum meetings.

This group is calling for the fire service and the nation to integrate fire prevention and education into regular fire department operations; use data, research, and science to tell the fire prevention story, and increase advocacy for sprinkler use through strategies with federal partners.

## National Fire Service Research Agenda Symposium

In 2021, the NFFF hosted the 4th National Fire Service Research Agenda Symposium, and UL's Fire Safety Research Institute (FSRI) was the exclusive sponsor.

During this Symposium, researchers and fire service practitioners met and worked in three facilitated working groups to create recommendations to have the most significant impact on firefighter health and safety. The facilitators then submitted the recommendations as worksheets to an expert jury of researchers and fire service representatives. After reviewing the recommendations, the jury was able to modify recommendations and move recommendations to other domains as needed. Their work resulted in the National Fire Service Research Agenda Report with nearly 300 recommendations.

A reoccurring theme in each of the working groups was the need for the fire service to approach research and complex issues by collaborating with other disciplines and industries outside of the fire service. Many of the working groups discussed overarching needs of the fire service and found that key research is not limited to one topic. Also in the Executive Summary are considerations for researchers on disseminating research into the fire service.

## Workgroup Focus

#### **Hiring/Retention/Advancement**

recruitment, effective leadership, diversity/equity/inclusion/belonging, and hiring, promotion, and retention.

#### **Effective Operations**

training, tactics, tools, equipment, apparatus, personal protective equipment, and community risk reduction.

#### **Health and Safety**

wellness, understudied populations, cardiovascular health, cancer, mental health, metabolic health, reproductive health, occupational medical evaluations, fatigue, injury prevention/assessment, violence prevention/risk assessment, and work environment.



Our commitment to create a fire service national research agenda is embedded in the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives through Initiative #7. But even more critical than that, is our commitment to take a multidisciplinary approach to firefighter health and safety by providing the opportunity for researchers and fire service representatives to map out the future needs of the fire service. The result of this consequential collaboration are the recommendations in this report.

"



## 9/11 20 Years Later

### Members of the FDNY Tell Their Stories of Resilience

On September 11, 2001, 343 FDNY firefighters were killed in the attacks on the World Trade Center. Since then, hundreds more have died from illnesses related to the response and recovery effort. Many more continue to face the physical and emotional toll exacted by the attack.

This documentary delivers a powerful and inspiring message of resilience through the words of those who were there, those who lived through and participated in the department's rebuilding, and those who carry on the department's highest tradition of commitment to service.

Fire departments can take the insight and wisdom provided by the members of the FDNY. Rebuilding a department after a tragic loss is challenging, but possible. This documentary will better prepare departments to work on their rebuild when they are faced with seemingly insurmountable loss. The part of our leadership that survived, really were the epitome of the resiliency of the department...Although we were mourning the members that we lost, they never lost focus on the members we had. They continued to worry about the safety of our members, the well-being of our members.

#### **WATCH NOW**





#### TWO LESSONS LEARNED ON THE 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11

- 1. A peer component is important for trauma support of frontline workers. Those who are grieving relate best to those who have walked in similar shoes. It creates a safe zone and helps eliminate what we call negative celebrity status the idea that they're worthy of attention because something terrible has happened to them.
- 2. Everyone reacts differently to trauma, and they all reach out for help in their own time. Some need support right away. Others wait years even 20 years and some will never reach out for help at all. The responsibility of organizations like ours and others is to make sure that we continue to offer mental health support not just at the time of a major trauma but long afterward so whenever people are ready to ask for help, it's there for them.



"We are encouraged by all those who recognize the service of the brave men and women who protect their communities 24 hours a day 7 days a week."



The Foundation raised public awareness about its mission through social media. It also launched campaigns to gain wider news media coverage, particularly of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend.

The pandemic made keeping the community informed about programs and resources an even more critical part of what we do.

## **Building NFFF Awareness**

#### **OUR MEDIA REACH IN 2021**



470,402

RELEASES
SENT IN 2021



1,090
RADIO & TV
MENTIONS



2,290
PRINT
MENTIONS

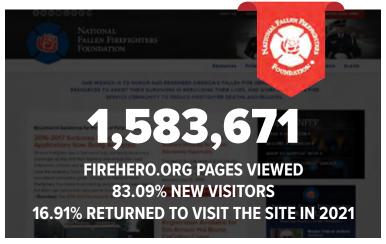
#### OUR OVERALL REACH INCREASED 30%

With the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of **9/11** and **Memorial Stair Climbs** in over 40 U.S. cities, Laura Evans Media (LEM) created a media strategy to amplify the mission of NFFF. The effort started with a **satellite media tour including 8 major market television hits in one morning**. That was followed by a **comprehensive media campaign resulting in dozens more local, national, and international media hits garnering millions of views**. Broadcast viewership alone is estimated at 32 million.\*

As the NFFF prepared for its annual **National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend**, which honors all firefighters who died in the line of duty, LEM developed a strategy to raise awareness about the Weekend and create opportunities for national and local media to pick up the live stream from Emmitsburg, Maryland. The effort resulted in dozens of media hits in broadcast and print reaching more than 1.25 billion\* viewers, listeners, and readers.

#### \*METRICS GATHERED VIA MELTWATER MEDIA MONITORING SERVICES

#### **OUR REACH ON THE WEB**

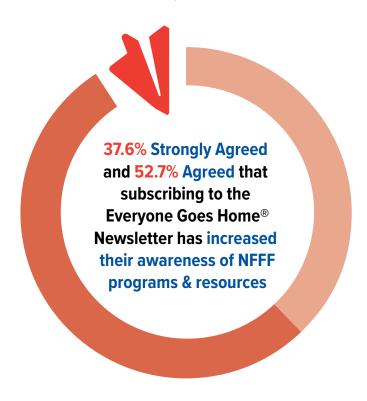




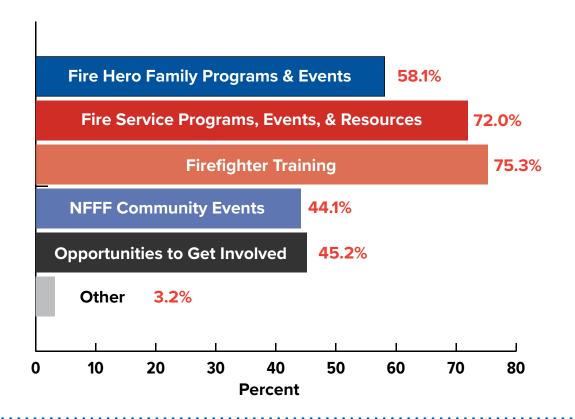
#### E-MAIL MARKETING, AUDIENCE SEGMENTATION, AND IMPACT

We continued to work to improve our user's E-mail experience and engagement. The NFFF deployed an impact survey, to our Everyone Goes Home® audience, which helped us understand their needs and further segment the audience to deliver more targeted and relavant content.

THERE WERE **168** E-MAIL
BLASTS SENT IN 2021,
THAT'S A TOTAL OF **1,693,310** E-MAILS! **1,451** NEW SUBSCRIBERS
JOINED US IN 2021.



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



2021 Annual Impact Report

## **Creating Buzz on Social Media**

Our Most Engaging Posts Across Social Media in 2021





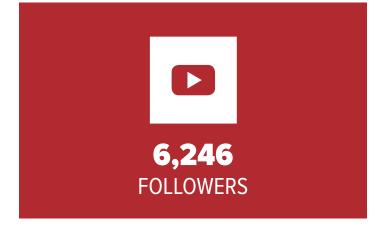




8:23 PM · Sep 28, 2021 · Twitter Web App









**372,403** FOLLOWERS



**1,137** PAGE POSTS

**516,177**REACTIONS,
COMMENTS,
SHARES, AND
LINK CLICKS



**24,235** FOLLOWERS



**867** PAGE POSTS

26,109
REACTIONS,
COMMENTS,
SHARES, AND
LINK CLICKS



**7,711** FOLLOWERS



**330** PAGE POSTS

18,277
REACTIONS,
COMMENTS,
SHARES, AND
LINK CLICKS



**12,591** FOLLOWERS



**119** PAGE POSTS

14,447
REACTIONS,
COMMENTS,
SHARES, AND
LINK CLICKS

## Global Day of Gratitude Honors Firefighters Past, Present, and Future

International Firefighters' Day is a time where the world recognizes and honors the sacrifices firefighters make to keep their communities safe.

Once again in 2021, families lit their homes in red, created tokens of thanks, watched special Firefighters' Day content, and made donations to the NFFF, letting the world know how much firefighters mean to our communities.

New in 2021, the #ThisIsMyFirefighter campaign mobilized our Fire Hero Families and other fire service families, giving them the opportunity to brag about their firefighter(s) on social media. NFFF Board Member Chief Billy Goldfeder hosted discussions with fire chiefs from around the world. Our first NFFF Trivia Night live on Facebook brought people together to celebrate and test their NFFF and International Firefighters' Day knowledge.

During our second commemoration, we teamed up with the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation, and The Niagara Falls Illumination Board to have Niagara Falls lit in a spectacular display of red. Firefighters from the United States and Canada gathered at the falls to celebrate International Firefighters' Day with the rest of the globe.







### In-Person Memorial and Online Tribute Unites Communities

Following a year of reduced, postponed, and virtual events brought on by the COVID pandemic, the **National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend** marked its 40th anniversary on October 2-3 by returning to an in-person event in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

Of the 215 firefighters honored at the Memorial Weekend, 87 firefighters died in the line of duty in 2020, 82 firefighters died in the line of duty in 2019, and 46 firefighters died in the line of duty in previous years. COVID-related line-of-duty deaths were, for the first time, a factor in the weekend tribute.

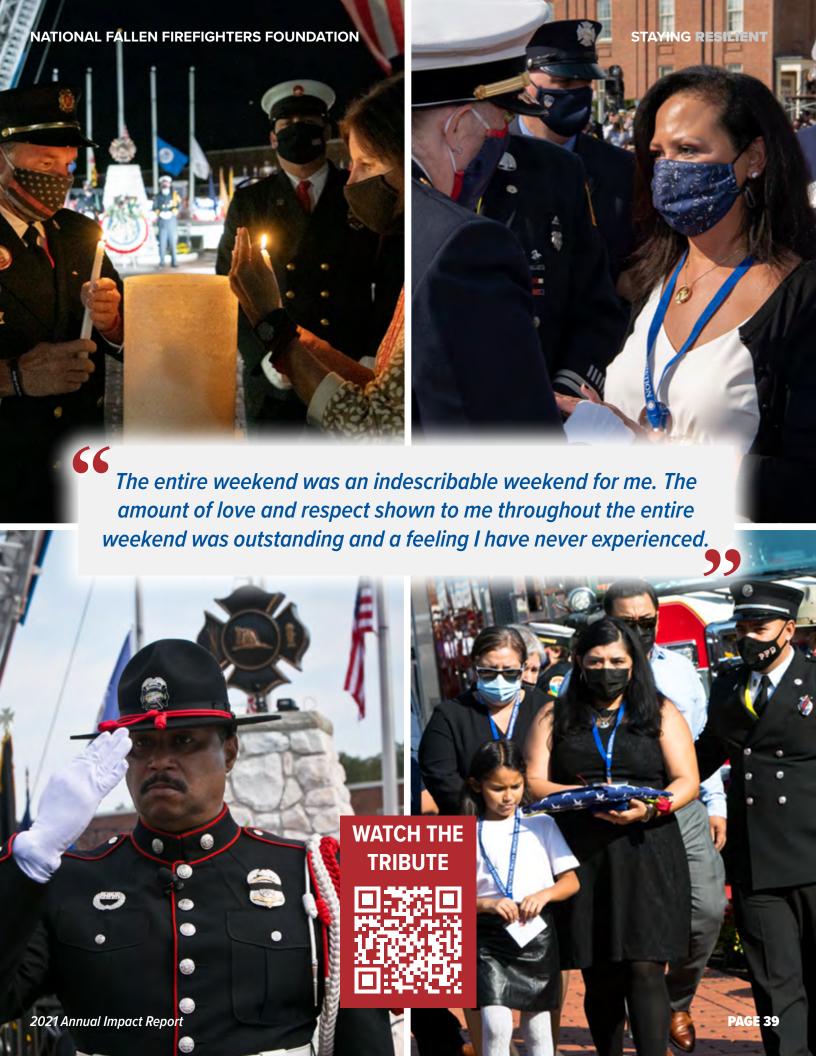
The pandemic created enormous challenges. During the planning, and as late as September, the National Memorial again faced the possibility of being postponed. At each of those moments, the hundreds of Memorial Weekend volunteers, NFFF staff, and our partners at the U.S. Fire Administration found ways to overcome the obstacles. This allowed the fallen to be appropriately honored and their families to see the gratitude of our nation.

Around the holidays, we invited the nation to remember with us

during **America's Tribute to Fallen Firefighters**.

This special online salute hosted by CBS News Anchor Norah O'Donnell, recognized firefighters who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty serving their communities.







"For many who have lost a firefighter, this is a deeply moving memorial. It acknowledges their loved one, acknowledges their commitment to public service, and their sacrifice."



Improvements and repairs were made to the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial, where an eternal flame symbolizes the spirit of all firefighters—past, present and future. Firefighting artifacts were added to the display at the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Chapel, a reminder of the long history of firefighting and the sacrifices made in its service.

### **Restoration of National Memorial Park**

In April 2021, renovations to the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial were completed. The stone Maltese Cross surrounding the Memorial was replaced with stamped and painted concrete. The walkway around the Maltese Cross was replaced to eliminate trip hazards and underground heating was also installed to keep the walkway clear during inclement weather. Additionally, the railing around the Memorial and eternal flame was renovated.

Through our partnership with the U.S. Fire Adminstration, several plaques on the National Memorial were carefully and reverently restored and replaced. Some were weathered and others were updated to include the names of added firefighters.

Although supply-chain issues have impacted the production and placement of bricks on the Walk of Honor® during the global pandemic, over 150 bricks were placed before the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial in October. The Foundation continues to work with our vendors to ensure that bricks purchased will be added in Memorial Park.



#### VISITOR INFORMATION KIOSK ADDED TO MEMORIAL PARK

In August, the Foundation installed the new Visitor Information Kiosk 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, the Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) Program, and Walk of Honor® bricks. Notices of firefighter fatalities from the U.S. Fire Administration are also posted at the Memorial.



## National Fire Academy Students Learn More About the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation and the Brainard-Griego Collection

support from the U.S. With Fire Administration, memorabilia from the Brainard-Griego Collection have been placed in display cases in the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Chapel and in E Building. Items include: 20 high eagle helmets, two Cairns War Baby helmets, Chan Brainard's helmet, dress cap, and a childhood photo on one of New Haven's engines. Other items include a firefighting study guide from early 1960, speaking trumpets, fire buckets, lanterns, box alarm cards, books, and firefighter toys. The collection in E Building features a wildland firefighting collection.

In 2021, U.S. Fire Academy Superintendent Eriks Gabliks was an integral part of getting students to visit the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Chapel to learn more about the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation and this special collection. Special open houses were developed to welcome students and raise awareness of the Foundation and its programs.



The chapel also houses the Brainard-Griego Collection of thousands of items of international fire service memorabilia which is proudly displayed and shared with those attending classes and during various open house events offered throughout the year.



"Thank you to our amazing donors, corporate partners, event participants, and volunteers for your support in 2021."



Thanks to generous individual donors, sponsors and corporations, the Foundation has remained strong and resilient through another year of the pandemic. These contributions have helped the Foundation to memorialize our nation's fallen firefighters, support their families and reduce firefighter deaths and injuries.

2021 Annual Impact Report PAGE 45

### **2021 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

Cintas Fire Protection

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#### **PLATINUM SPONSORS**

Gifts of \$75,000 or more

3M Scott Fire & Safety LION Group, Inc.

#### **GOLD SPONSORS**

Gifts of \$50,000 or more

Kidde Safety

Motorola Solutions, Inc.

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#### **SILVER SPONSORS**

Gifts of \$25,000 or more

**Charles Foster\*** 

lamResponding.com

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Johnson Controls Foundation

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Safety Components First

Responders 911 Foundation

The Presto Foundation

**Turtle Plastics** 

VFIS

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#### **BRONZE SPONSORS**

Gifts of \$10,000 or more

1-800-BOARDUP

Andy Boyt Memorial Fund

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**Brookfield Properties** 

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**Greater Tucson Fire Foundation** 

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Foundation

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The Honor Network

The LumiStella Company

Thomas Tardo DBA The Climb

**Woodstock Fire Department** 

#### **PEWTER SPONSORS**

Gifts of \$5,000 or more

**AMITA Health** 

#### **Adrienne Andrulis\***

Baltimore Gas and Electric Company

Basin Coordinated Health Care, Inc.

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**CNY Memorial Stair Climb** 

#### Paul Conlon\*

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International Association of

Fire Chiefs, Inc.

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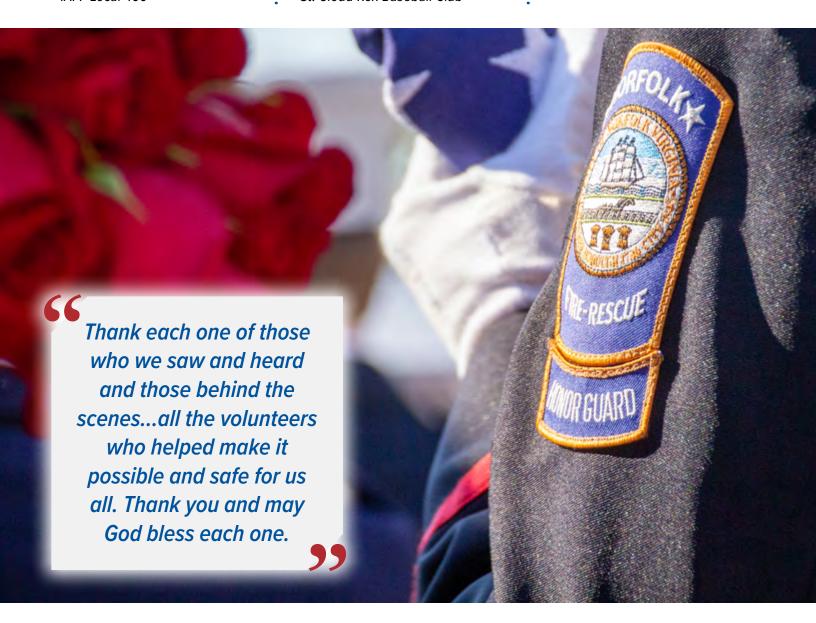
Liberty Art Works, Inc.

<sup>\*</sup>Denotes NFFF Giving Circle Members. To learn more about this prestigious group for individual donors, please visit FireHero.org/nfff-giving-circle.

Liberty Mutual Insurance
Nutter, McClennen & Fish, LLP
Oaktree Capital Management, LP
OSU Fire Protection Publications
Pelican Products, Inc.
Poughkeepsie Professional Fire
Fighters Local 596
Princeton Fire Fighters
IAFF Local 466

Protectowire Fire Systems
QALO Inc.
Red Hat
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St. Cloud Rox Baseball Club

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The Mariner Foundation
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Company, Inc.
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#### 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

### 2021 9/11 Memorial Stair Climbs

Stair Climbers in **50** states, the District of Columbia, Brazil, Canada, Ireland, Germany, Kuwait, Australia, France, and the United Kingdom commemorated the 20th Anniversary of September 11th.

### \$1,793,622 RAISED FROM 2021 STAIR CLIMBS

**15,885** *climbers at* **50 events and around the world** *honored and remembered the firefighters who made the ultimate sacrifice on 9/11.* 



#### STAIR CLIMBS

2021 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb at DPA

2021 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb at Lambeau Field

2021 Baltimore 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

2021 Binghamton Fire 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

2021 Bishop 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

2021 Black Hawk 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

2021 Borderland 100 Club 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

2021 Central Pennsylvania 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

2021 Charlotte 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

2021 Chicagoland 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

2021 Cintas 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

2021 Cintas-Mason 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

2021 Cira Green 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

2021 Colorado 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

2021 Columbus 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb & Walk

2021 Denver 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

2021 Dickinson 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

2021 El Dorado 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

2021 Fayetteville 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

2021 FDIC 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

2021 Firehouse Expo 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

2021 Four Corners 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

2021 Grand Rapids 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

2021 Greenville City 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

2021 Highlands County 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb & Walk

2021 Imperial Valley 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

2021 Kalamazoo 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

2021 Kearney Area 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

2021 Knoxville 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

2021 Lambton College 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

2021 Lancaster 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

2021 McCook 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

2021 Nashville 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

2021 National Stair Climb

2021 Nebraska 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

2021 New Hampshire 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

NYSAFC FIRE 2021 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

2021 Ocean City 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

2021 Panama City Beach 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

2021 Premier Health Gem City 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

2021 Princeton 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

2021 Richmond 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

2021 Roanoke 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

2021 Rochester 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb & Walk

2021 Salt River Firefighters 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

2021 Spokane 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

2021 Springfield Area 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

2021 Stevens County 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

2021 Tri-Cities 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

2021 VCOS 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb & Walk

I believe the Stair Climb event provides an environment where we may honor and remember the sacrifices that were made during the attacks on 9/11. As an active-duty fire service member, it is important to stop and reflect on the lives that were taken in the line of duty, so their sacrifices are not forgotten. The Stair Climb event provides an uninterrupted time to focus our thoughts on those 343 firefighters and to recommit ourselves to serving the fire service in a way that is befitting of their legacy.

# OUR 9/11 MEMORIAL STAIR CLIMBS SUPPORT NFFF PROGRAMS AND 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.

### **2021 Regional Golf Tournaments**

#### **GOLF TOURNAMENTS**

Maryland Fire Chiefs Association Annual Fall Golf Tournament
Paul Davis Restoration of Florida Charity Golf Tournament Benefiting the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation
1st Annual National Fallen Firefighters Golf Tournament hosted by Paul Davis Delmarva
2nd Annual Charity Golf Tournament Metro Atlanta Firefighter Classic
6th Annual Southern Maryland Volunteer Firemen's Association Golf Tournament
7th Annual Greater Pittsburgh National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Memorial Golf Tournament
8th Annual Play It Forward Golf Tournament

8th Annual Protectowire Open Benefiting the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation
12th Annual Geneva National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Golf Tournament
14th Annual Central Ohio Fallen Firefighters Golf Tournament
14th Annual Greater Monroe County National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Golf Tournament
14th Annual National Fallen Firefighters Golf Tournament hosted by Raleigh Fire Department

### 1,830 PARTICIPANTS RAISED \$328,412 AT 12 TOURNAMENTS IN 2021



### **2021 Special Giving Campaigns**

66

I have seen what the NFFF
has done over the years,
and what a great resource
it is to firefighters and their
families. I wish more people
knew about NFFF and all the
special work that it does...
to provide comfort to the
families and recognition to our
heroes that have given it all.

### TOTAL AMOUNT RAISED BY SPECIAL CAMPAIGNS

#FireHeroTuesday	\$70,140
COVID-19 Emergency Fund	\$2,260
Gamers for the Fallen	\$6,255
Facebook Giving	\$128,810
Everyday Hero Campaigns	\$58,964

#FIREHEROTUESDAY MATCH OF \$35,000 FROM THE PRESTO FOUNDATION

# **PRESTO**®

On November 30, 2021, the Foundation kicked off its holiday season of giving with #FireHeroTuesday. Through the generous support of The Presto Foundation, every donation made by December 31st was matched, up to \$35,000. We are proud to partner with The Presto Foundation to bring comfort and hope to the families who have lost a loved one in the line of duty. In 2021, we made twice the impact for programs like our scholarships, peer support, wellness conference, kids camps, and so much more.

### EVERYDAY HERO – SIMON CORBY & HIS PEERS RAISED \$1,943 FOR NFFF



"On June 19th we will be participating in the Ghost Town Trail Challenge to raise money for the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. The Challenge is a 32-mile, one-day, sunrise to sunset endurance hike (or run) on nearly the entire Ghost Town Trail from Blairsville, Pennsylvania to Ebensburg, Pennsylvania. Unlike a footrace, the "challenge" is not to come in first or win, but to endure, to finish the hike in one day. The Challenge starts in Blairsville, Pennsylvania and ends 32 miles later in Ebensburg, Pennsylvania."

### **Board of Directors**

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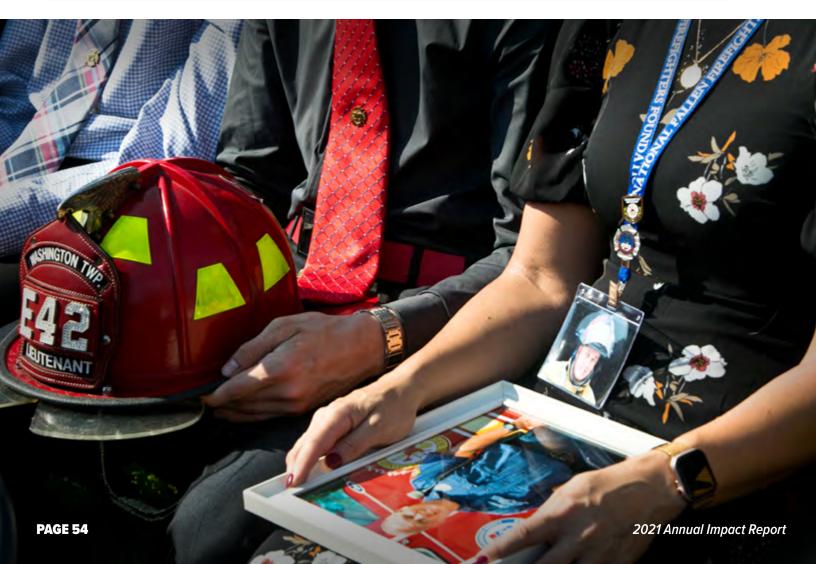
### **Financial Stewardship**

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 79% of our budget supports our Fire Hero Family and Fire Service Programs.** In 2021, we were proud to earn a Platinum Seal of Transparency rating from GuideStar and our sixth consecutive 4-star rating by Charity Navigator.

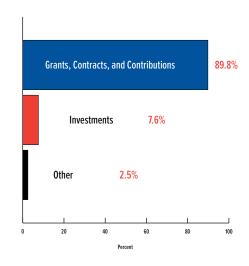


Coming from over a decade of law enforcement, I understand the tragedy that falls on families and friends when one is lost in the line of duty. It is outstanding to hear the direct impact my donation made, but more importantly it is outstanding that your Foundation does the tireless, and at times thankless, work it does. Thank you for the continued work of every single person at your Foundation in providing resources and scholarships!

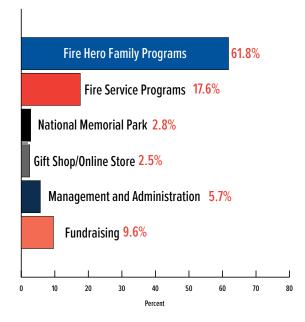




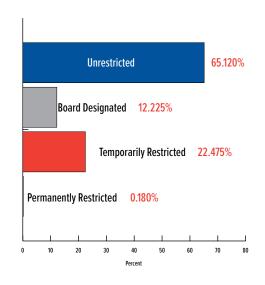
2021 REVENUE AND SUPPORT	
Grants, Contracts, and Contributions	\$8,800,549
Investments	\$745,552
Other	\$249,430
Total	\$9,795,531



2021 PROGRAM EXPENSES		
Fire Hero Family Programs	\$5,128,555	
Fire Service Programs	\$1,458,773	
National Memorial Park	\$232,227	
Gift Shop/Online Store	\$209,557	
Management and Administration	\$468,302	
Fundraising	\$797,140	
Total	\$8,294,554	



2021 NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	\$9,044,782	
Board Designated	\$1,697,943	
Temporarily Restricted	\$3,121,622	
Permanently Restricted	\$25,000	
Total	\$13,889,347	





#### NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION

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#### **EMMITSBURG**

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