

# Helping Families and Firefighters: Our Mission-Driven Impact



NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION | 2024 IMPACT REPORT



# Our Mission: Looking Back While Facing Forward

April 2025

At the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, we strive to **meet our mission** every single day. Whether assisting a family who has experienced the **loss of a firefighter**; supporting a department where a colleague has **died in the line of duty**; or training firefighters in an effort to **prevent future tragedy**, NFFF's mission is the driving force in all we do.

The following pages offer a sampling of how we've impacted our community over these past months. The Foundation is forever grateful to—and in fact, *inspired by*—the fire hero families, fire department members, volunteers, and staff who share the commitment to the NFFF's unwavering goals. And having seen first-hand what NFFF's 24/7 effort means to our fire hero families and the fire service overall, we feel personally humbled and honored to be part of this important mission.

However, there is a literal price to be paid for this work. Despite the fact that NFFF is *mandated* by Congress, we are not included in the Federal *budget*.

We offer our **sincere thanks** to our grant funders, our public and private partners, our corporate sponsors, and our individual donor base. Through our strong **fiscal stewardship**, we accomplish so much with the funding that is entrusted to us. But with the expansion of the criteria that honors fallen firefighters to include line-of-duty cancer deaths and death by suicide, we know that the number of families and departments we serve will just continue to grow.

In the coming months, you will be hearing about a **new initiative** that will bolster our existing public/private grants and donations. The **NFFF Endowment Fund** will offer a way for monetary donations to develop into long-term financial support in perpetuity. This opportunity for an **enduring legacy** will, in turn, ensure that the legacies of our nation's fallen firefighters – and those of their families, colleagues, and the firefighters who are following in their heroic footsteps – will endure, too.

We are proud of where we've been—and even prouder of where we are going. We ask that you accompany us on this mission of hope and healing, too.

Warm regards,



Troy Markel, CIC, CFM  
Board Chair



◀ Learn about  
the NFFF  
Endowment





# Mission-Driven Impact: At a Glance

At the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, we are proud—and humbled—to have **met our mission** in 2024.

## HONORING FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS

With the expansion of eligibility for Public Safety Officers Benefits (PSOB), we **honored 224 fallen firefighters** in 2024.

## SUPPORTING THEIR FAMILIES...

We welcomed **1,117 new Fire Hero Family members** to Memorial Weekend—the largest group that has ever attended the event in Emmitsburg. And throughout the year, we supported these new families as well as families of fallen firefighters honored in previous years via our in-person activities and virtual support and provided education scholarships to 59 children and partners of fallen firefighters.

## ...AND SUPPORTING THEIR COLLEAGUES

At Memorial Weekend, we offered support groups for all colleagues and leadership of the 224 fallen firefighters on 2024's Roll of Honor. Throughout the year, we provided peer support that engaged 124 fire departments. Our LAST team deployed to 142 local sites in support of departments that had suffered a line-of-duty death; we also assisted with over 200 PSOB claims per month. Our hallmark Taking Care of Our Own training engaged 766 personnel.

## REDUCING PREVENTABLE LINE-OF-DUTY DEATHS

Our ongoing effort to reduce preventable line-of-duty deaths was more relevant than ever in 2024, with first responders facing catastrophic challenges like wildfires and hurricanes. NFFF's Fire Programs training events ran from January through December, reaching 421 attendees in person and 30,247 through virtual trainings.

## Mission-Driven Collaboration

During the year, the Foundation also collaborated on various health and wellness initiatives; joined the U.S. Fire Administration and #FireServiceOneVoice partners in national programming and securing the reauthorization of the Fire Grants and Safety Act; and elevated the Foundation's presence through fundraising and communications efforts.

But it's our family and fire service success stories that are the true measure of our impact.

Our “mission first—people always” approach enabled us to **honor the fallen** and **support their families and colleagues**.

We will continue to be there for as long as they need us.



# We Honored 224 Fallen Firefighters

On May 4 and 5, we hosted over 1000 new family members at the 2024 National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend—the largest group that has ever attended the Emmitsburg event. where 224 firefighters were honored. We also welcomed 145 returning family members, who shared their wisdom and experience with the newest members of the Fire Hero Family. Family escorts and honor guard members joined the team, serving to honor the fallen and support their families.

*“My family and I had a wonderful time this weekend. It was truly a memorable experience and we are grateful for everyone.”*  
 – 2024 Fire Hero Family member



**ALABAMA**  
**Jordan E. Melton**  
 Birmingham Fire & Rescue Service



**ALABAMA**  
**Steven M. Smith**  
 Pebble Volunteer Fire Department



**ALABAMA**  
**Jeffrey Ray Wyatt**  
 McAdory Area Fire District



**ARIZONA**  
**Tyrone E. Bell**  
 Verde Valley Fire District



**ARIZONA**  
**Samuel J. Criner**  
 Drexel Heights Fire District



**CALIFORNIA**  
**Joshua Bischof**  
 CAL FIRE - California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



**CALIFORNIA**  
**Robert G. Brantley**  
 Los Angeles County Fire Department



**CALIFORNIA**  
**Russell V. Fagan**  
 Los Angeles County Fire Department



**CALIFORNIA**  
**Brian Falk**  
 Kern County Fire Department



**CALIFORNIA**  
**Jacob R. Flores**  
 CAL FIRE - California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



**CALIFORNIA**  
**Joey Gandara**  
 Los Angeles County Fire Department



**CALIFORNIA**  
**Daniel Joseph Geary**  
 CAL FIRE - California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



**CALIFORNIA**  
**Scott Kelley Gomes**  
 CAL FIRE - California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



**CALIFORNIA**  
**William L. Knott**  
 Los Angeles County Fire Department



**CALIFORNIA**  
**Samuel C. Neubauer**  
 Los Angeles County Fire Department



**CALIFORNIA**  
**Manuel Ramos Jr.**  
 Los Angeles County Fire Department



**CALIFORNIA**  
**Kenneth E. Renz**  
 Los Angeles County Fire Department



**CALIFORNIA**  
**Timothy Rodriguez Jr.**  
 CAL FIRE - California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



**CALIFORNIA**  
**Tony Sousa**  
 Air Shasta Rotor & Wing, Inc., contracted by CAL FIRE



**CALIFORNIA**  
**Mark A. Tolbert**  
 Los Angeles County Fire Department



**CALIFORNIA**  
**Andy Valenta**  
 Vista Fire Department



**CONNECTICUT**  
**Anthony A. DeSimone**  
 North Haven Fire Department



**DELAWARE**  
**Jeremy Charles Lundgren**  
 Dover Air Force Base Fire and Emergency Services



**DELAWARE**  
**John Michael Pridemore**  
 Clayton Fire Company No. 1, Inc.



**DELAWARE**  
**Philip S. Young**  
 Dover Fire Department, Robbins Hose Company No. 1



**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**Allen L. Roush**  
 U.S. Air Force Fire and Emergency Services



**FLORIDA**  
**Douglas Clemons**  
 Polk County Fire Rescue



**FLORIDA**  
**Austin M. Duran**  
 Apopka Fire Department



**FLORIDA**  
**James Stuart Hunt**  
City of Melbourne Fire  
Department



**FLORIDA**  
**Terryson Jackson**  
Broward Sheriff's Office  
Department of Fire/  
Rescue



**FLORIDA**  
**Robert George Low Jr.**  
Greater Naples Fire Rescue  
District



**FLORIDA**  
**Jeremy J. McKay**  
Clay County Fire Rescue



**FLORIDA**  
**Richard Brian  
Wolnewitz**  
Palm Beach Gardens Fire  
Rescue



**GEORGIA**  
**Shaun Luke Daniel**  
Georgia Forestry  
Commission



**GEORGIA**  
**Stephen Paul Richards**  
Georgia Forestry  
Commission



**GEORGIA**  
**Matthew Brian Smith**  
Bartow County Fire &  
Emergency Services



**GEORGIA**  
**Ryan Leonidas Taylor**  
City of Decatur Fire  
Department



**GEORGIA**  
**Collin Veasley**  
Clayton County Fire &  
Emergency Services



**HAWAII**  
**Tre' Evans-Dumaran**  
County of Maui  
Department of Fire and  
Public Safety



**IDAHO**  
**William "Bill" Wright**  
Timberlake Fire Protection  
District



**ILLINOIS**  
**Bradley Liggett**  
City of Freeport Fire  
Department



**ILLINOIS**  
**Larry Peasley**  
Maroa Countryside Fire  
Protection District



**ILLINOIS**  
**Jermaine A. Pelt**  
Chicago Fire Department



**ILLINOIS**  
**Michael R. Pickering**  
Chicago Fire Department



**ILLINOIS**  
**Andrew "Drew" Price**  
Chicago Fire Department



**ILLINOIS**  
**Jan M. Tchoryk**  
Chicago Fire Department



**ILLINOIS**  
**Kevin P. Ward**  
Chicago Fire Department



**INDIANA**  
**Gerald J. A. Brooks**  
Indianapolis Fire Department



**INDIANA**  
**Ronald K. Derrickson**  
Straughn Volunteer Fire  
Company



**INDIANA**  
**Duane E. Erwin**  
Elberfeld Volunteer Fire  
Department



**INDIANA**  
**Mark B. Gillam**  
Elwood Fire Department



**INDIANA**  
**Martin Jay Meyers**  
Kokomo Fire Department



**INDIANA**  
**Donald Max  
Neiswinger Jr.**  
Owen Valley Fire  
Territory



**INDIANA**  
**Bernard J. "Bernie"  
Noll**  
Southwest Allen County  
Fire District



**INDIANA**  
**Kyle Thomas Osgood**  
Farmland Volunteer Fire  
Department



**INDIANA**  
**David F. Phelps**  
Prairieton Fire Department



**INDIANA**  
**Jack Kelly Ronco**  
LaCrosse Volunteer Fire  
Department



**INDIANA**  
**Joe A. Stucker Jr.**  
Fairland Volunteer Fire  
Department



**INDIANA**  
**Bill L. Walters**  
Waterloo-Grant  
Township Volunteer Fire  
Department



**IOWA**  
**Anthony Gerhard  
"Tony" Hoffman**  
Ionia Fire Department



**KANSAS**  
**Josh Bruggeman**  
Wichita Fire Department



**KANSAS**  
**Frank E. Enke**  
Girard Fire Department



**KANSAS**  
**Jason C. Garrett**  
Kansas City Kansas Fire  
Department



**KANSAS**  
**Martin K. Smith**  
Montgomery County Fire  
District 1





**KENTUCKY**  
**Joseph Ray Back**  
Whitesburg Fire Department



**KENTUCKY**  
**H. M. Bottom**  
City of Russell Springs Fire Department



**KENTUCKY**  
**Edwin Carter Conley**  
Magoffin County Rescue Squad



**KENTUCKY**  
**Regina M. Huffman**  
Coon Creek Fire & Rescue



**KENTUCKY**  
**Sean Kelly**  
Murray Fire Department



**KENTUCKY**  
**Clarence Norman Lytle**  
Georgetown Fire and Rescue



**KENTUCKY**  
**Brian Ray Morgan**  
Pleasure Ridge Park Fire Protection District



**KENTUCKY**  
**Bobby Wade Mosby**  
Nelson Creek Volunteer Fire Department



**KENTUCKY**  
**David C. Pawley**  
Louisville Fire Department



**KENTUCKY**  
**Thomas A. Petschke Jr.**  
Ballardsville Fire and Rescue



**KENTUCKY**  
**Ernest Ray Rudder**  
Bush Volunteer Fire Department



**KENTUCKY**  
**David J. Studer**  
Covington Fire Department



**KENTUCKY**  
**William Edward "Sonny" Thompson**  
Mercer Fire Protection District



**LOUISIANA**  
**Michael Allen Ford Sr.**  
St. Tammany Fire Protection District #1



**LOUISIANA**  
**Walker L. Hill**  
Baton Rouge Fire Department



**LOUISIANA**  
**Erik T.S. Kreppein**  
St. Tammany Fire Protection District #1



**LOUISIANA**  
**Thomas Julius Maury Jr.**  
Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base New Orleans Fire & Emergency Services



**MARYLAND**  
**Henry W. Eckhardt Jr.**  
Reisterstown Volunteer Fire Company



**MARYLAND**  
**Mark R. Fisher Jr.**  
Montgomery County Fire & Rescue Services



**MARYLAND**  
**Bryan Paul Hamilton**  
Naval District Washington Fire and Emergency Services



**MARYLAND**  
**Christopher D. Morlan**  
Frederick County Division of Fire and Rescue Services



**MARYLAND**  
**Rodney W. Pitts III**  
Baltimore City Fire Department



**MARYLAND**  
**Dillon Rinaldo**  
Baltimore City Fire Department



**MARYLAND**  
**Brice C. Trossbach**  
Naval District Washington Fire and Emergency Services



**MASSACHUSETTS**  
**Edward D. Bergdoll**  
Boston Fire Department



**MASSACHUSETTS**  
**Peter M. Skerry**  
Winchester Fire Department



**MICHIGAN**  
**Ronald Gene Cassada**  
Ottawa Lake Whiteford Fire Department



**MICHIGAN**  
**Ricky Albert Hill Jr.**  
Flint Fire Department



**MICHIGAN**  
**Ethan M. Quillen**  
Paw Paw Volunteer Fire Department



**MISSISSIPPI**  
**Philip Allan**  
Seminary Volunteer Fire Department



**MISSISSIPPI**  
**Wayne Doyle**  
Lowndes County Emergency Services Volunteer Fire District 3



**MISSISSIPPI**  
**Marshal "Mark" Hilley**  
Gulfport Fire Department



**MISSISSIPPI**  
**Clint Jacobs**  
Wiggins Fire Department



**MISSISSIPPI**  
**Kenneth Wayne Rainey**  
Bridgetown Fire Department



**MISSISSIPPI**  
**Guandes Deshun "Mook" Smith**  
Sardis Volunteer Fire Department



**MISSISSIPPI**  
**Lee Tatum Sr.**  
Greenleaf Volunteer Fire Department



**MISSISSIPPI**  
**Andrew Starling Whittle Sr.**  
District One Volunteer Fire Department



**NEW JERSEY**  
**Wayne M. Brooks Jr.**  
Newark Fire Department



**NEW JERSEY**  
**Edward Steines**  
West Milford Fire Department



**NEW YORK**  
**Peter E. Dromms**  
North Syracuse Fire Department



**NEW YORK**  
**John P. Fogarty**  
Fire Department City of New York



**NEW YORK**  
**Steven H. "Bullwinkle" Harris Jr.**  
Fort Johnson Volunteer Fire Company



**NEW YORK**  
**James C. Mager**  
Fire Department City of New York



**NEW YORK**  
**Brian E. O'Flaherty**  
Fire Department City of New York



**NEW YORK**  
**Patrick J. Whalen**  
Fire Department City of New York



**MISSOURI**  
**Lloyd M. Ruediger**  
New Haven-Berger Fire Protection District



**NEW JERSEY**  
**Anthony C. Duivenvoorde**  
Sussex Fire Department



**NEW YORK**  
**Thomas W. Anderson Jr.**  
Fire Department City of New York



**NEW YORK**  
**Rebecca "Beckie" Eleczko**  
Millgrove Volunteer Fire Department



**NEW YORK**  
**Frederick H. Gallagher**  
Fire Department City of New York



**NEW YORK**  
**Robert J. Kelly**  
Fire Department City of New York



**NEW YORK**  
**Anthony Malfi**  
Fire Department City of New York



**NEW YORK**  
**James T. Redmond**  
Fire Department City of New York



**NORTH CAROLINA**  
**Ricky D. Allen**  
Conover Fire Department



**MISSOURI**  
**Raymond M. Wynn**  
Kansas City Missouri Fire Department



**NEW JERSEY**  
**Jeff M. Pfeiffer**  
Deptford Fire Department



**NEW YORK**  
**Jason D. Arno**  
Buffalo Fire Department



**NEW YORK**  
**Dennis A. Farrell**  
Fire Department City of New York



**NEW YORK**  
**Michael H. Gebert**  
Fire Department City of New York



**NEW YORK**  
**David M. Lachenauer**  
City of Watertown Fire Department



**NEW YORK**  
**Anthony N. Mauro**  
Fire Department City of New York



**NEW YORK**  
**Karl J. Sederholt**  
Fire Department City of New York



**NORTH CAROLINA**  
**Eddie Dewayne Fender**  
Asheville Fire Department



**NEW JERSEY**  
**Augusto "Augie" Acabou**  
Newark Fire Department



**NEW JERSEY**  
**Timothy R. Pfleger**  
Keyport Fire Department



**NEW YORK**  
**Edward "Red" Corrigan**  
North Patchogue Fire District



**NEW YORK**  
**Russell Feliciano**  
Fire Department City of New York



**NEW YORK**  
**Wayne T. Goehring**  
Fire Department City of New York



**NEW YORK**  
**Leonard Llewellyn**  
Mattituck Fire Department



**NEW YORK**  
**James F. McCauley Jr.**  
Fire Department City of New York



**NEW YORK**  
**Christopher P. Viviano**  
Fire Department City of New York



**NORTH CAROLINA**  
**James William Goudelock**  
Town of Dallas Fire Department





**NORTH CAROLINA**  
**Jeremy Klemm**  
Durham Fire Department



**NORTH CAROLINA**  
**Larry J. Kye**  
North Carolina Forest Service



**OHIO**  
**Gregory Lee Bauer**  
Columbus Division of Fire



**OHIO**  
**Seamus J. Culligan**  
Willoughby Fire Department



**OHIO**  
**Kevin A. Dailey**  
Middleport Fire Department



**OHIO**  
**Charles E. Gossard Jr.**  
Springfield Township Fire Department



**OHIO**  
**H. Matthew Hanenkrath**  
South Richland Fire Department



**OHIO**  
**David Jarvis III**  
Columbus Division of Fire



**OHIO**  
**Edward J. Long**  
Portsmouth Fire Department



**OHIO**  
**Dennis Lee McCollum**  
Kalida Volunteer Fire Department



**OHIO**  
**Randy B. Miner**  
Mary Ann Township Fire Department



**OHIO**  
**Ralph A. Nunley**  
Bloom Township Fire Department



**OHIO**  
**Kenneth J. Pettit**  
Allen-Clay Joint Fire District



**OHIO**  
**Matthew A. Reid**  
Fletcher Volunteer Fire Department



**OHIO**  
**Charles D. Swank**  
Washington Township Fire Department



**OHIO**  
**James E. Tansey**  
Wakeman Fire District



**OHIO**  
**Sean R. Tyler**  
Tiffin Fire/Rescue Division



**OHIO**  
**Brett J. Wilson**  
Columbia Township Fire Department



**OHIO**  
**Robert L. "Bob" Wysong**  
Clinton-Warren Joint Fire and Rescue District



**OREGON**  
**Brian Edward Flowers**  
Gresham Fire Department



**OREGON**  
**Brandon Norbury**  
Gresham Fire Department



**PENNSYLVANIA**  
**Shawn Giles**  
Fuller Hose Company No. 1



**PENNSYLVANIA**  
**Timothy M. "TJ" Johnson**  
Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department



**PENNSYLVANIA**  
**Robert D. Klinefelter**  
Bauertown Volunteer Fire Department



**PENNSYLVANIA**  
**Brian Keith Martinez**  
Mont Alto Volunteer Fire Department



**PENNSYLVANIA**  
**Colin A. Reedy**  
West Whiteland Fire Company



**PENNSYLVANIA**  
**Nicholas J. Sava**  
Oakmont Fire Company



**RHODE ISLAND**  
**Robert T. Gardner Jr.**  
Richmond-Carolina Fire District



**RHODE ISLAND**  
**James L. Varin Sr.**  
Providence Fire Department



**SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**Joseph Kenneth Barr**  
Anderson County Fire Department



**SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**Gary L. Burris II**  
Gaffney Fire Department



**SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**John R. Hodge**  
Inman Community Fire Department



**SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**James Michael Muller**  
Irmo Fire District



**SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**Kevin D. Simmons**  
City of Aiken Department of Public Safety



**SOUTH DAKOTA**  
**Fred Fedeler**  
Chester Volunteer Fire Department



**SOUTH DAKOTA**  
**Joshua J. Kogel**  
Cavour Volunteer Fire Department



**TENNESSEE**  
**Jeffrey S. Arick**  
Memphis Fire Department



**TENNESSEE**  
**Malcolm Wayne Arrington**  
Nashville Fire Department



**TENNESSEE**  
**William Michael Brooks**  
Nashville Fire Department



**TENNESSEE**  
**Roger Estes**  
South Claiborne Volunteer Fire Department



**TENNESSEE**  
**Travis Isabel**  
Memphis Fire Department



**TENNESSEE**  
**Richard D. Miller**  
Henderson County Fire Department



**TENNESSEE**  
**Jeffrey Todd Norman**  
Memphis Fire Department



**TENNESSEE**  
**Darin D. Pasold**  
Hohenwald Fire Department



**TENNESSEE**  
**Roy Lee Sewell Jr.**  
North Tazewell Volunteer Fire Department



**TENNESSEE**  
**Clifford Smelcer**  
Sunnyside Volunteer Fire Department



**TENNESSEE**  
**Julian "Skill" Wilson**  
Fayette County Fire Department



**TEXAS**  
**Peter S. Avila**  
Brownsville Fire Department



**TEXAS**  
**Evan Curtis Brown**  
Honey Grove Volunteer Fire Department



**TEXAS**  
**Gregory L. Cocke**  
Fort Worth Fire Department



**TEXAS**  
**Robert R. Cocke**  
Fort Worth Fire Department



**TEXAS**  
**Richard Michael Hempel**  
Groesbeck Fire-Rescue



**TEXAS**  
**Edward R. "Eddie" Hykel Jr.**  
West Volunteer Fire Department



**TEXAS**  
**John P. Norris Jr.**  
Forest Bend Fire Department



**TEXAS**  
**Nahit Atif Oral**  
Community Volunteer Fire Department



**TEXAS**  
**Joe Parish**  
Diboll Volunteer Fire Department



**TEXAS**  
**Brandon T. Peterson**  
Lancaster Fire Department



**TEXAS**  
**Keven Glen Teague**  
Fort Worth Fire Department



**TEXAS**  
**Malcolm Sherrod Willis**  
Houston Fire Department



**TEXAS**  
**Horace "Dan" Wright**  
Abbott Volunteer Fire Department



**US VIRGIN ISLANDS**  
**Mario "Smiley" Smith**  
US Virgin Islands Fire Service



**UTAH**  
**Merrill L. Bone**  
Unified Fire Authority



**UTAH**  
**Robin Lee Pilcher**  
Unified Fire Authority



**VIRGINIA**  
**Ernest Nelson "Ernie" Cash**  
Monelison Volunteer Fire Department



**VIRGINIA**  
**Matthew R. Chiaverotti**  
Virginia Beach Fire Department



**VIRGINIA**  
**Cameron Bentley Craig**  
Abingdon Fire Department



**VIRGINIA**  
**Mia Ethridge**  
Louisa County Department of Fire and EMS



**VIRGINIA**  
**James Arness Foster**  
Rice Volunteer Fire Department



**VIRGINIA**  
**Brian R. Hrick**  
Alexandria Fire Department



**VIRGINIA**  
**John Laronda**  
Altavista Volunteer Fire Department



**VIRGINIA**  
**Chester T. Lauck**  
Frederick County Fire and Rescue Department



**VIRGINIA**  
**Mark A. McCowan**  
Clinchco Volunteer Fire Department





**VIRGINIA**  
**Eric P. Newman**  
Franklin County  
Public Safety



**VIRGINIA**  
**Ian Thomas Strickler**  
Frederick County Fire  
and Rescue Department



**VIRGINIA**  
**John E. Tucker**  
Altavista Volunteer  
Fire Department



**VIRGINIA**  
**Michael Wayne Webb**  
Callaway Volunteer Fire  
Department



**VIRGINIA**  
**Stephen D. Whitson**  
Henrico County Division  
of Fire



**VIRGINIA**  
**Rocky S. Wood**  
Virginia Department of  
Forestry



**WASHINGTON**  
**Charles Thomas  
"Chad" Cate II**  
Clallam County Fire  
District #3



**WASHINGTON**  
**Dean Allan Crosswhite**  
Whatcom County Fire  
District 7



**WASHINGTON**  
**Matthew D. Riggsby**  
City of Buckley Fire  
Department



**WASHINGTON**  
**Ronald A. Roy**  
Wenatchee Valley Fire  
Department



**WASHINGTON**  
**Robert "Bo"  
Schiemer**  
Tacoma Fire Department



**WASHINGTON**  
**Michele J. Williams**  
Seattle Fire Department



**WEST VIRGINIA**  
**Cody John Mullens**  
West Virginia Division  
of Forestry



**WEST VIRGINIA**  
**Ronald Maurice  
"Ron" Strosnider**  
Capon Valley Volunteer  
Fire Department



**WISCONSIN**  
**Raymond Joseph  
Samson**  
Dale Fire Rescue



**WISCONSIN**  
**Frank Castro  
Sanchez Jr.**  
Nekimi Volunteer Fire  
Department



**WISCONSIN**  
**Stephen M. Smith**  
Vandenbroek-Kaukauna  
Fire Department



**WISCONSIN**  
**Todd J. Yandre**  
Lake Mills Fire  
Department

*"Unable to attend the weekend but live streamed both sessions. It was like being there. Thank you ever so much; it was such an honor."*

**– 2024 Fire Hero Family member**

*"Thank you all for your hard work and dedication to honoring the returning families and the new families. It is a blessing to be part of a team that shows other people that we do truly care about them and support them from here out."*

**– Returning Fire Hero Family member**







# We Supported Families

The Family Programs resources for families are offered with the understanding that everyone's grief journey is different—and the programs that resonate with them differ, too. We provided a range of programs including in-person events, virtual support, a bi-monthly newsletter with family-created content, one-on-one counseling, and ongoing grief support. One-on-one counseling, and ongoing grief support. Our Fire Hero Family's feedback after every event is critical so we can continue to enhance our programmatic services.

**Memorial Weekend** is typically the first in-person introduction a Fire Hero Family has to the Foundation. With the largest-ever attendance of new families in Emmitsburg, our Family Programs team served and supported more family members than ever. The **1,117 family members** we worked with included:

- Children of firefighter: 54 minors, 168 adult
- Spouse/Life Partner: 115
- Parents: 79; Sibling: 113
- "Other" relationship (aunts, uncles, in-laws, grandparents): 588

We welcomed back **145 returning family members**, who provided a total of **726.5 volunteer hours** in support of the new Fire Hero Families.



## In-Person Events:

### Hal Bruno Kids Camps

- June/Bloomington, IN
- Campers: 96

### Fire Hero Family Conference

- September/Mesa, AZ
- Attendees: 65

### Winter Retreat

- December/ Fairfield, PA
- Attendees: 100

## 2024-2025 NFFF Scholarship Program

59 Recipients (47 female, 12 male)  
**Total awarded: \$538,893**

## Virtual Events:

### Weekly Peer Support – 42 Sessions

8pm ET on Wednesdays  
Individual participants: 48  
Total sessions attended: **730**

### Weekly Facilitated Support – 41 Sessions

8pm ET on Tuesdays  
Individual participants: 29  
Total sessions attended: **273**

### Monthly Remembrance Group – 12 Sessions

3pm ET every 3rd Sunday  
Participants: **61**

### Men Forging Ahead – 12 Sessions

3pm on every 4th Saturday  
Average monthly participants: 13  
Total sessions attended: **152**

# We Awarded More than a Half Million in Scholarships

The NFFF Scholarship Program awarded 59 scholarships totaling \$538,893 to family members of fallen firefighters. Recipients for the 2024/25 school year included 47 female and 12 male students. Six families accounted for 12 of the scholarships—five are sibling pairs, and one are mother and daughter. Scholarships are based on financial need and academic performance, emphasizing those studying science, technology, engineering, math (STEM), and public safety. NFFF and its scholarship partners are proud to support these families and honor the memory of fallen heroes.

The Program is made possible by generous donations from Motorola Solutions Foundation, MissionSquare Retirement, the Alan Patrick Sondej Scholarship Fund, the Kenneth M. Hedrick Memorial Scholarship Fund, Burton A. Zipser and Sandra D. Zipser Foundation, National Association of State Fire Marshals, Global Health & Safety, and Fire Engine Number 5 Charitable Foundation.



**Kristen Adams**  
Medicine  
LSU Health Shreveport



**Gabriella Ambelas**  
Nursing  
DeSales University



**Lezlee Armes**  
Family Nurse Practitioner  
Ohio University



**Imani Armstrong**  
Music Performance  
Alabama State University



**Noah Baity**  
Pre-Nursing  
Charleston Southern University



**Caroline Barber**  
Nursing  
University of Northern Florida



**Olivia Barber**  
Environmental Studies  
University of Northern Florida



**Madison Barker**  
Chemistry/Medicine  
Canisius University



**Elizabeth Boatman**  
Music Teacher/Therapist  
Glendale Community College



**Marissa Brake**  
Studio Arts (Glass)  
CSU-Chico



**Miranda Brake**  
Medicine  
Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine



**Michelle Bryant**  
Business Administration  
Southern Utah University



**Owen Curry**  
Mechanical Engineering & Robotics  
University of Central Florida



**Aliza DeVoe**  
Social Work  
West Chester University



**Kensley Dickey**  
Business Management & Leadership  
Trevecca Nazarene University



**Elizabeth Dill**  
Nursing  
Oklahoma City Community College



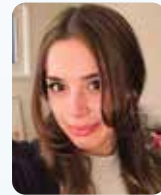
**Emily Dill**  
Fashion Merchandising  
University of Central Oklahoma



**Gabrielle Eck**  
Accounting  
Wichita State University



**Cayla Fenwick**  
Veterinary Medicine  
Texas A&M School of Veterinary Medicine



**Carly Ferrugia**  
Law  
St. John's University School of Law



**Rylee Fournier**  
Photography & Marketing  
University of La Verne



**Grant "Frank" Fouts**  
Business  
University of Iowa



**Bailey Fritz**  
Athletic Training  
Youngstown State University



**Karen Fritz**  
Clinical Mental Health Counseling  
Kent State University



**Cameron Gerace**  
Fire Science  
University of New Haven



**Gracelyn Gonsioroski**  
Nursing  
Montana State University Bozeman



**Grady Gonsioroski**  
Mechanical Engineering  
Montana Technological University



**Natalie Jones**  
Pre-Health/Occupational Therapy  
Ithaca College





**Kennedy Karriem**  
Psychology  
University of Central  
Arkansas



**Jackson Lukas**  
Political Science  
Michigan State  
University



**Madison Manger**  
Chemistry: Biochemistry  
St. Catherine University



**Brianna Marshall**  
Premedical  
Massachusetts College  
of Pharmacy and Health  
Sciences



**Luke McCormick**  
Forest Management  
North Carolina State  
University



**Alyssa McDuffie**  
Health Information  
Management  
Western Governors  
University



**Jack McNamara**  
Fire Science  
Eastern Kentucky  
University



**Marty McNamara**  
Pre-Nursing  
Quinsigamond Community  
College



**Allison Meehan**  
Business  
Orange County  
Community College



**Amy Morrison**  
Dental Hygiene  
The University of New  
Mexico



**Isabella (Bella)  
Moya**  
Math  
Jacksonville University



**Hannah Nunley**  
Nursing  
University of Cincinnati



**Meghan Paidar**  
Physical Therapy  
University of Wisconsin -  
La Crosse



**Courtney Quiroz**  
Clinical Psychology  
Pacific University



**Jostin Rasmussen**  
Kinesiology w/  
emphasis on Physical  
Therapy  
Washington State  
University



**Ava Sanchez**  
Nursing  
Blinn College



**Marissa Sayles**  
Nursing  
Northern Michigan  
University



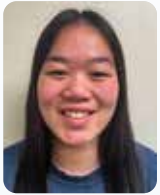
**Deserae Schwindt**  
Human Resource  
Development  
Pittsburg State  
University



**Iaini Scott**  
Criminology & Criminal  
Justice w/Forensics  
Investigation Minor  
Arcadia University



**Randi Sewell**  
Social Work  
University of Kentucky



**Lily Shaffrey**  
Pre-med  
University of Health  
Sciences and Pharmacy



**Sarah Shoup**  
Dental Hygiene  
Northeast Mississippi  
Community College



**Edward Singleton, II**  
Business Analytics  
DePaul University



**Mollie Skipper**  
Criminal Justice  
University of South Dakota



**Miccael Sonner-  
Cranney**  
Biology  
Lewis-Clark State  
College



**Ryenn Sovich**  
Psychology  
Ursinus College



**Kadence Stroble**  
Psychology  
University of the  
Southwest



**Grace Tchoryk**  
Physical Therapy  
Carroll University



**Madison Tipton**  
Criminology  
University of Idaho



**Joe Wach**  
Public Accounting  
Wayne State College



**Matt Wach**  
Academic Transfer  
(Undecided)  
Southeast Community  
College - Beatrice



◀ **NFFF  
Scholarships:  
How to Apply**



◀ **Learn more  
about our  
Scholarship  
Program**

“

*Receiving this scholarship [will] allow me to focus on my final year of grad school, including the two semesters of internship that I will be completing at a Community Behavioral Health Center. Thank you to the donors for being such wonderful people who ‘see’ our families.*

**– Recipient Karen Fritz, mother of Bailey**

*Receiving this scholarship will allow me to obtain my master’s degree in athletic training. This scholarship will assist me by allowing me not to have to take out any loans and will allow me to have a small margin of debt after college. Thank you to the donors for making my career dreams possible by allowing me to complete undergrad with no debt and providing me the college experience for me that without their generosity, I wouldn’t be able to accomplish.*

**– Recipient Bailey Fritz, daughter of Karen**

*Through the generous contributions of the NFFF and the scholarship donors, I won’t have to worry about working as much so I can continue to focus primarily on my studies and research position. Without your help, I would have struggled significantly to make ends meet.*

**– Son of a fallen firefighter**

*The financial burden of attending medical school can be daunting and most students are forced to take out significant loans in order to pay for their education, leaving them with a staggering amount of debt. Thanks to the Alan P. Sondej Scholarship, I am fortunate enough to focus on my education without worry about the financial burden allowing me to fully immerse myself in my studies and pursue my passion for medicine.*

**– Daughter of a fallen firefighter**

*Receiving this scholarship will allow me to complete my goal of going back to school to obtain my master’s degree with a Family Nurse Practitioner license. Obtaining this degree will allow me to provide a better life for my family.*

**– Spouse of a fallen firefighter**

”



# We Sent Kids to Camp

In the spring, the NFFF sent children of fallen firefighters to camp. With two age levels (ages 4-6 and ages 7-17), our Kids Camps offered the healing chance to just “be kids.”

For the older group, NFFF partnered with Comfort Zone Camp to provide a weekend-long experience. Campers were paired one-on-one with Big Buddies—many of whom were firefighters. They met others with a similar loss in Healing Circles, worked together as teams on the challenge course, played games and engage in outdoor camp activities.

Camp HAL (Healing After Loss) for the younger group was led by licensed therapists who specialize in working with young children who are grieving. With support from NFFF staff and volunteers, the camp program used play therapy and expressive therapy to help children express themselves in their natural language.

This camp included a mix of age-appropriate activities and activities for children and parents together. Children stayed with their parent overnight.



In **2024**, Fire Hero Family members volunteered for the Hal Bruno Kids Camp than ever before— a total of 16, or **21.9%** of our volunteer base.



## Spotlight: From Camper to Big Buddy

*“Words can’t fully capture how extraordinary this weekend was as it was truly a full circle moment. I attended this camp as a camper for years starting in 2012. After aging out of the program, I always said I would come back one day to become a Big Buddy and mentor to a young child who is grieving the loss of their father. I am so honored to have witnessed the vulnerability and resilience of these campers and how much growth they made in a weekend. This camp will always be special to me.”*

– Ryan Woitalewicz, Fire Hero Family member

Ryan attended NFFF’s very first Kids Camp in 2012 and aged out after graduating from high school in 2017. He received five NFFF Scholarships between 2017 – 2021 and obtained his Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education. He is now a Fifth Grade Teacher.

# We Launched the Family Conference

When a first responder dies in the line of duty, life changes forever for loved ones left behind. For adult family members of firefighters who have been honored at the **National Fallen Firefighters Memorial**, the Fire Hero Family Conference provided a place to go to find support and comfort, make new friends, and create new memories.



At the inaugural Conference, 66 spouses, parents, siblings, and adult children of fallen firefighters attended workshops on a variety of topics related to grief, wellness, self-care, and practical skills. Bonding with others that have experienced a similar loss fostered the building lasting supportive friendships.

## We Welcomed Families During the Holidays

For Fire Hero Family members who have lost a firefighter in the line of duty, the holidays can be an especially challenging time of year.

The annual Fire Hero Family Winter Retreat welcomed family members of all ages. The casual and inclusive atmosphere focused on service, giving back to others at the holidays, self-care, reflection, and fellowship. Fire Hero Families enjoyed time connecting with each other for support — and attended the annual Tree Lighting at Memorial Chapel in Emmitsburg, where trees are adorned with ornaments representing every firefighter who has been honored at the Memorial.

*“The Winter Retreat is what my heart needed. Getting to meet people who truly understand my grief has been a life saver.”*

– Winter Retreat attendee

### Men Forging Ahead

*“It is so heartwarming to be there (in the group), (to) watch people regroup and forge on.”*

– Son of a fallen firefighter

*“I am so thankful for this group. These guys help make the harder days more manageable.”*

– Father of a fallen firefighter

### Family Conference

*“I’m so happy to be back with my NFFF family. I was in a huge funk and I’m so much more optimistic. The overall conference was excellent and the NFFF staff was phenomenal.”*

– Spouse of a fallen firefighter

*Always deeply grateful for all provided for us by NFFF. The understanding, acceptance, provided time for letting go”...“Feel accepted and talk openly”...“So much learned, new friendships made and shared time with these we have come to call family.”*

– Adult family members of fallen firefighters





# We Assisted and Trained Fire Departments

The Fire Programs team's work spans the entire country. Comprehensive efforts support the leadership and colleagues of fallen firefighters through on-the-ground assistance immediately after loss, assistance with PSOB, and liaising with families. Mission-driven training efforts work to keep firefighters safe in the field to reduce preventable loss.

## LODD Outreach and Research Group

### "Taking Care Of Our Own"

26 Classes/FEMA Regions 1 through 10  
Personnel trained: 766

### Local Assistance State Team Program

- Firefighter: 83 fatalities tracked – LAST assisted in 92%
- EMS: Assisted with 27 fatalities
- Law Enforcement: Assisted with 32 fatalities
- PSOB Claim Assistance: 207/month (Staff 25; LAST teams 182)

## Presentations/Classes

### LAST Classes (9)

Participants: 205

### PSOB Workshops (6)

Participants: 441

### "Handling a Line of Duty Death" presentations (5)

Participants: 224

## Uniformed Peer Support Program

### Outreach: 124 fire departments Peer Support Requests: 32

- Chief-to-Chief: 25
  - IC-to-IC: 4
  - CO-to-CO: 3
- Activities:
- March Virtual Meeting
  - May Group Support (at Memorial Weekend): Chief, IC, CO, Colleague
  - September in-person (Charlotte, NC) – 20 participants

NFFF Advocates attended **64 national, state and regional trade shows** and events across 22 states during the year.

As the Vulnerability Assessment Program (VAP) undergoes an update for 2025, 30 new departments signed up in 2024.

## Fire Hero Learning Network (online)

- 4 new modules launched
  - Learning activity increased by 7.5%
  - Classroom delivery hours increased by 15.8%
- Total trainings: 30,247

## Training Events

Fire safety grants from the **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)** fund critically needed resources to equip and train emergency personnel, enhance efficiencies and support community resilience. NFFF's careful stewardship of the grant dollars we receive supports our ongoing efforts to reduce preventable line-of-duty deaths.

### Regional Advocate Meeting (FDSOA)

January/Phoenix • Attendance: 18

### New Horizons (WUI)

February and June 2024/Utah Valley  
Attendance: 34

### Leadership Lessons from LODD Experience

March/North Beach, MD • Attendance: 48

### Leadership Management Conference

March/Prescott, AZ • Attendance: 31

### Fellows Meeting at CFSI/Region 5

April/Washington DC • Attendance: 19

### Lessons from West Texas: Training and Staff Ride

June/Waco, TX • Attendance: 18

### High School Fire & EMS Cadet Program Symposium

July/Detroit, MI • Attendance: 89

### 20th Anniversary Firefighter Life Safety Summit

August/St. Louis, MO • Attendance: 164

**Total in-person training attendees: 421**



# We Made Prevention a Top Priority

## 20th Anniversary Firefighter Life Safety Summit St. Louis, MO – 164 attendees

2024 marked the 20th anniversary of the pivotal fire service gathering that launched the **16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives** (16FLSIs). These foundational initiatives laid the groundwork and became cornerstones of safety training across the United States fire service. The initiatives have served—directly and indirectly—as the catalyst to a wide range of safety improvements across the fire service. The emphasis was to draw as many firefighters with 15 years or less, as they would be charged with implementation of the outcomes.

The 2024 Summit maintained a laser focus on the quest to reduce preventable line of duty deaths by examining the continued impact of the 16 FLSIs as written, considering the need to streamline them in recognition of what has been accomplished, and exploring how to be responsive to today's firefighters *and* tomorrow's leaders.

Chief Dennis Jenkerson and the members of the St. Louis Fire Department co-hosted the gathering, which was dedicated to **fallen St. Louis firefighter Benjamin Polson**. Firefighter Polson, a second-generation firefighter, was killed in the line of duty in 2022 fighting a fire in a structure later determined to be vacant.

## Fellows Meeting CFSI – Washington DC – 19 State Leads

The State Leads from Region 5 met to discuss the objectives of the EGH Strategic plan. Each state was invited to outline the support needed to meet objectives of the Advocate program successfully. To foster the training of rising leadership, State Leads who attended were required to bring their successor with them; successors could be from within the advanced group or outside.

## NFFF Fellows Program: Lessons from West Texas Waco Emergency Services Education Center – 17 Fellows

The NFFF Fellow Development and Staff Ride, West TX, built on academic instruction provided to the Fellows during the CFSI 34th Annual Dinner and Symposium. The 2-day facilitated workshop will provide a case study of the **2013 West Fertilizer Plant Explosion**, which resulted in **15 fatalities and approximately 200 injuries**; survivor and witness accounts' facilitated discussion; and a staff ride to significant sites and the West Memorial.

Discussions focused on the aftermath—including hypotheticals to what changes to the regulatory process could prevent or reduce the impact of future events—and application of communication tools already learned. The Texas State Fire Marshal's Report was used as a reference and advance study guide.

## New Horizons – Two Parts Orem, UT– 34 Wildland Firefighters

An increasing number of firefighters are facing fire operations in the “wildand-urban interface”: areas that were once pure wildland but where homes are now being built. Recent calamities in Lahaina (HI), Greenville (CA), and Paradise (CA) illustrate the immense destruction that can result from fighting fires that present two different conditions. In fact, firefighters at these incidents reported being overwhelmed by the size, speed, and destruction of each fire.

New Horizons took place at the **Utah Valley Fire Rescue Academy** and focused on orienting “new” firefighters (federal world) to the world of “other” firefighters. The course discussed the roles of USFA, DHS, and the NFPA standards and showcased NFFF tools available through its **Taking Care of Our Own** (TCOOO) program, **Local Assistance State Teams** (LAST), and other training and education programs designed to enhance teamwork and incident orientation and included an NFFF “After-Action Review” class.

## High School Fire & EMS Cadet Program Symposium

### Detroit, MI – 89 attendees

Dating back to 2019, this annual series brought together stakeholders from 22 states and the District of Columbia for two days of learning. Attendees networking face-to-face with learning professionals, subject matter experts, and leaders of successful programs. 100% of attendees agreed that the symposium provided them with tools, resources, and best practices to use in their current program; a networking opportunity that enabled them to meet and interact with their peers; and that they planned to continue engagement with fellow attendees to share ideas and best practices.

A sample of topics: Fire Service Culture and what it means to cadets; mental health considerations; reflecting societal demographics in today's fire service; strategies to reduce bullying; and an intro to NFFF's vast training resources.

## Leadership Management Conference

### Prescott, AZ – 31 fire service leaders

The Conference took place at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Prescott Campus, not far from the location of the devastating Yarnell Fire in 2013 where 19 Granite Mountain Hotshots were lost. The agenda included a full day of leadership deliveries from the NFFF's expanded programs, including Crew Resource Management, Attributes of Leading, Stress First Aid, and a primer on Day 2's memorable staff ride.

The following day's staff ride to the site of the **Yarnell Tragedy** followed the proven staff model that consists of three distinct phases: preliminary study of the Incident; an extensive visit to the actual site; and the opportunity for the group to integrate the lessons derived from the study and visit. In this way, the historic Yarnell event helped leaders learn from the past through both systematic study and the actual terrain.

## Leadership Lessons from LODD Experience

### North Beach, MD – 48 firefighters

This one-day seminar was made possible by a grant from BGE/Exelon and included two line-of-duty death case studies delivered by chief officers who functioned as the senior officer on scene or incident commander.

It recounted the events, remember the sacrifice of the firefighters who died, and discussed the impact the deaths had on the department members—including the speakers. What's more, it aimed at providing a strategy to prevent a similar occurrence in other department.

## Fire Hero Learning Network

### Online – 30,247 trainings

The FHLN continued to grow its user base with a 7.5% increase in learning activity and 15.8% growth in classroom delivery hours. In addition, four new FHLN models were launched.

The Network's definitive impact was evident, with 14,967 users confirming "Improved Knowledge on Handling an Incident or Topic." Another 4,711 indicated that the training led to informal changes in specific practices, with many users confirming that it generated a revision to an existing Department SOP (2,489 users) and even generated a new Department SOP (2,068 users).

Expanding on the valuable story recounted in the Boyd Street Fire video production—which by 2024 had garnered a million and a half views on YouTube—the NFFF Fire Hero Learning Network launched its first **Interactive Case Story**, showcasing the events surrounding and the lessons learned from the 327 E. Boyd Street Fire that sent eleven LAFD firefighters to the hospital—some with life-altering injuries. The Case Story is one all fire departments can relate to—and learn from.



◀ Explore the Fire Hero Learning Network



## Spotlight: The Impact of Training

"The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) training programs have profoundly and professionally impacted me, reinforcing my commitment to firefighter safety, leadership, and resilience. I have had the privilege of delivering Attributes of Leading, Stress First Aid, and Leadership Accountability Culture and Knowledge, (LACK) as it is often referred to.

I have witnessed firsthand how they transform department cultures, strengthen leadership, and enhance operational safety. The NFFF's powerful message of honoring the fallen through action resonates deeply with me, driving my passion to equip firefighters with the tools they need to prevent future tragedies. By fostering open conversations about safety, behavioral health, and leadership, these trainings empower firefighters to create lasting change, ensuring that every firefighter goes home safely at the end of each shift." ~ Battalion Chief David Santos

David Santos is the Battalion Chief of Training for the City of Colton, CA. Fire Department, a 50-member organization operating out of 4 fire stations. CFD protects a population of approximately 60,000 people. Chief Santos has been with the CFD for 24 years.

*"I believe [NFFF's training] will open [attendees'] eyes to things that they take for granted every day. Until you call someone's attention to something they are doing wrong or careless, oftentimes they don't realize it has become a habit."* – Leadership Everyone Goes Home attendee

*"The course was spectacular and provided extremely beneficial information regarding the benefits for LODD's along with the complete process from notification of family to caring for the families and departments involved. Though we have established protocols within our department, it was helpful to be reminded that the final wishes packets and information should be updated frequently."*

– Taking Care of Our Own attendee



*"Excellent class which allowed for all levels of firefighters to provide their perspective to leadership."*

– Attributes of Leading attendee



*"This was a great collaboration of thoughts and experiences from across the country. I learned a great deal and will implement and strive to better my department's relationship with our local federal resources by training together and working together."*

– New Horizons, Fire in the WUI attendee





*“It was a great experience. I was able to bring it back to my department...which opened a discussion on future practices.”*

**– West (TX) Staff Ride attendee**

*“The [Fire and Rescue Safety In Training] program was excellent and eye-opening about how personal attitude affects those around me...In the future, I will change my delivery of stories involving dangerous acts to be cautionary tales instead of bragging.”*

**– FHLN student**

*“In October of 2024, Perryton Assistant Chief Scott Glass was killed when a vehicle ran over a supply line, popping a coupling, causing three firefighters to fall. Our team deployed a Response Commander to support the Perryton fire chief during the planning of the funeral. We also deployed several honor guard commanders to help train the department’s members on funeral and honor guard protocol. Working remotely, we also provided communications support and assisted with writing press releases and handling media inquiries. A logistics coordinator provided coordination of resources that the department needed for casket watch, backfill for Perryton, and equipment for the funeral.*

*Since Chief Glass’s death, the Texas Line of Duty Death Task Force continues to provide support services for the agency and the family: referrals for mental health services, family care from our Family Care Team, and filing both State and National LODD benefits. We will continue to provide these services for as long as they need the help.”*

**– Wendy Norris, Texas LAST**





# We Climbed and Golfed to Honor the Fallen

## 2024 NFFF 9/11 Memorial Stair Climbs

The 9/11 Memorial Stair Climbs are a way to honor and remember the firefighters who died on September 11, 2001. Donations raised by participants and sponsors support the programs of the NFFF and the FDNY Counseling Service Unit. Stair climb participants climb the equivalent of the 100 stories of the World Trade Center wearing an honorary badge of an FDNY firefighter who died on 9/11 or in subsequent years due to a 9/11-related illness.

*“Doing the Stair Climb is the least we can do to thank the guys who gave all. We stand on their shoulders.”*

*“You get here and everyone stands around at the stage and...its like you’re back there.”*

*“He gave everything on that day for people he never even knew. So for the families and for all the fellow brothers out there—it’s the least we can do.”*

850 Heroes 4 Heroes 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

9/11 Memorial Stair Climb at Lambeau Field

Altoona Curve 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

Baltimore 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

Binghamton Fire 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

Bishop 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

Bisman 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

Black Hawk 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

Central Kansas 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb and 5K Walk

Charlotte 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

Cincinnati 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

Cintas Virtual 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

Colorado 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

Columbus 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

Crosby VFD 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

Denver 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

Dickinson 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

Fayetteville 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

FDIC 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

Four Corners 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

Gaithersburg 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

Georgia 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

Grand Rapids 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

Greenville City 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

Knoxville 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

Lancaster 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

LION Gem City 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

Morongo Reservation FD 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

Nashville 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

National Capital Region 9/11 Stair Climb and 5K Walk

Nebraska 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

New Hampshire 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

New York City 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

NYS AFC FIRE 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

Ocean City 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

Philadelphia 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

Roanoke 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

Rochester 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb, Walk and Bike Ride

Salt River Firefighters 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

Southeast Texas 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

Tri-Cities 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

Union City Fire Department 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb at Discovery Park of America

VCOS 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb and Walk

Wiregrass 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb



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VFIS  
**Chairman of the Board**



**Bill Webb**  
Congressional  
Fire Services Institute  
**Vice-Chairman of the Board**

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The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation’s Board of Directors and Advisory Committee represent individuals with a strong interest in honoring fallen firefighters, supporting their families, and reducing preventable firefighter injury and fatality. The Board establishes Foundation priorities and oversees the National Fallen Firefighters Scholarship Programs, Memorial Park, the annual Memorial Weekend, and the wide variety of programs for the families and colleagues of fallen firefighters.



**Chief G. Keith Bryant**  
Oklahoma State  
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Administrator (Retired)



**Chief Kevin E. Cooney**  
Volunteer and  
Combination  
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**Thomas Harbour**  
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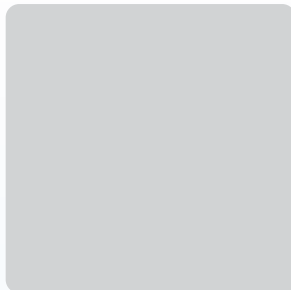
**Matt Kraycinovich**  
Kraycinovich  
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**Liz D. Paintiff**  
Turtle Plastics



**Nick Pickens**  
Cintas Fire Protection



**Donna Piechura**  
Fire Hero Family Member



**Vickie Pritchett**  
National Fire  
Sprinkler Association



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**John Steele**  
Senior Director of  
Government Relations  
Johnson Controls



**Faith Swan**  
Fire Hero Family Member

*The NFFF Board of Directors includes leaders from the private sector, fire service, fire hero families, and government—all of whom share a strong interest in fire safety. Advisory Committee members lend specialized expertise and support to the Foundation’s programs.*

# Partners and Donors

Our sincere thanks to our partners and donors for their generosity in supporting the mission to honor America’s fallen firefighters, assist their families, and prevent firefighter injury and fatality. Contributions to the NFFF include cash donations, event and conference sponsorships, royalties through our affinity programs, proceeds from affiliate collaborations, in-kind donations, and bricks on the NFFF Walk of Honor®.

## With Gratitude to our Federal Partners for their Continuing Support

**Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program  
Fire Prevention & Safety Grant**  
Department of Homeland Security

**Bureau of Justice Assistance**  
Department of Justice

**Federal Emergency Management Agency**  
Department of Homeland Security

**U.S. Fire Administration**  
Department of Homeland Security

*“At Turtle Plastics, our mission has always been rooted in safety, sustainability, and service. Supporting the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation is a natural extension of our values—honoring those who’ve made the ultimate sacrifice and helping prevent future loss through training, awareness, and resilience-building. It’s our way of standing beside the fire service community that stands up for all of us.”*

– Liz D. Paintiff, President of Turtle Plastics

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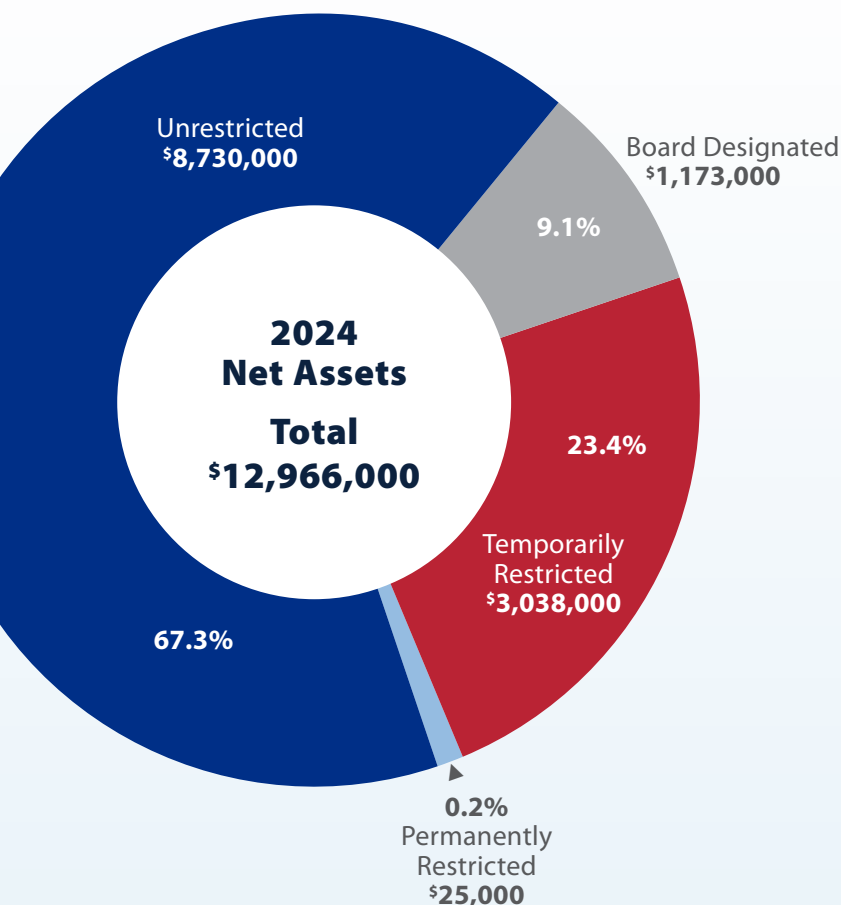
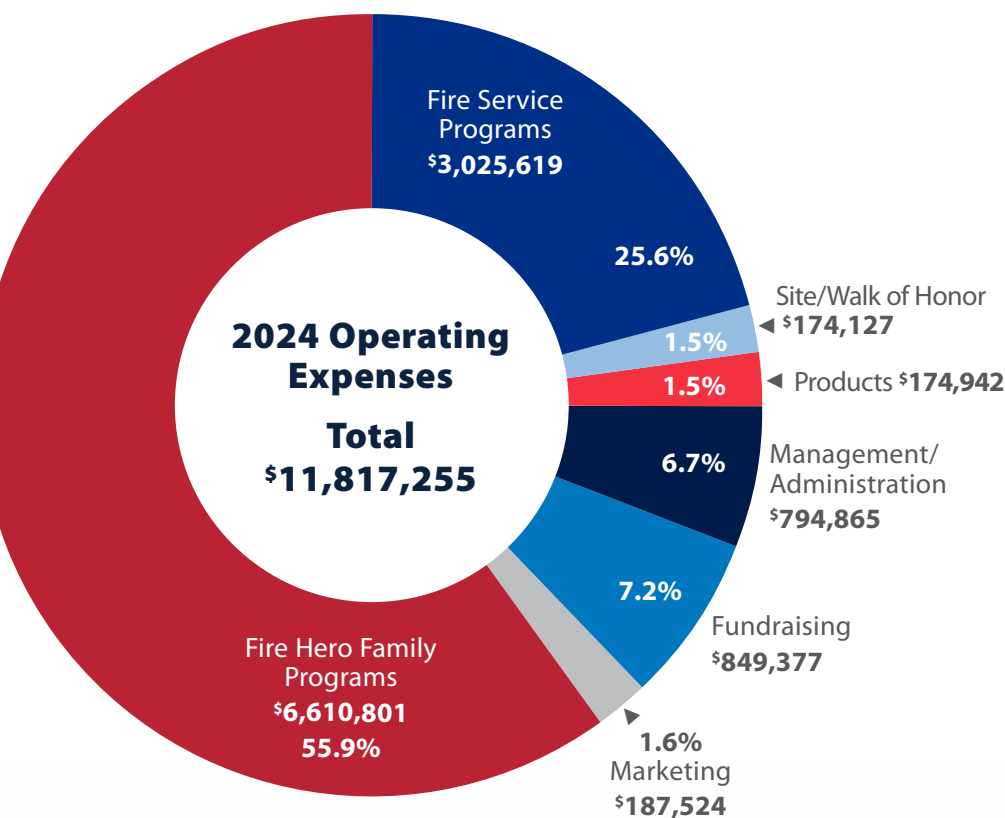
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# Financial Stewardship

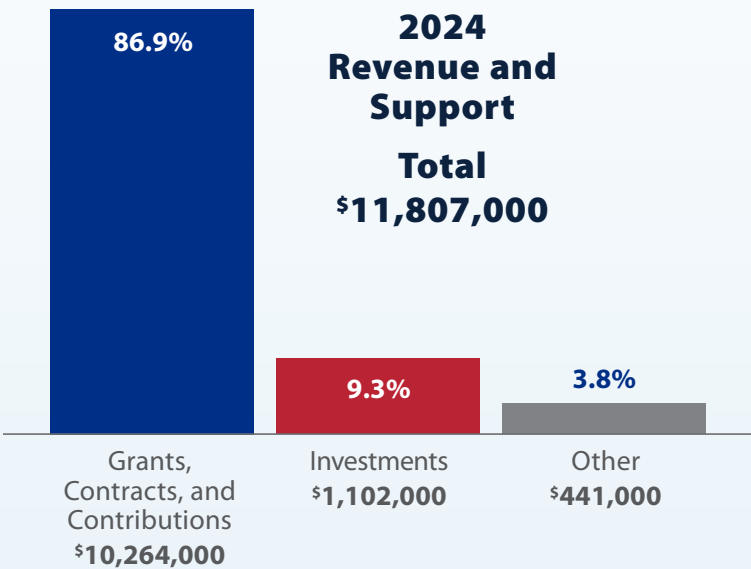


“Each decision we make is guided by the principle of being good stewards of every dollar at our disposal. That also means keeping a laser-sharp focus on meeting our mission of supporting Fire Hero Families, aiding colleagues of the fallen, and training the fire service to reduce preventable loss.

In 2024, we honored 224 fallen firefighters – the most ever memorialized at Memorial Weekend in Emmitsburg. We hosted more families than ever before: over 1,000 onsite. Our fundraising efforts yielded higher results than in 2023, which bolstered our ability to provide resources and targeted programming for the fire service and our Fire Hero Families all year long. We also secured a sizable new contract with USFA to broaden our efforts of prevention.

I’m proud to say that in 2024, over 80% of our budget supported our Fire Hero Family and Fire Service Programs. Maximizing the funds we have available to meet our mission is—and always will be—our single most important task.”

— Victor Stagnaro  
February 2025





# Reflecting on the Past Year—and Looking Ahead

**This past year**, a powerful and humbling moment for me occurred during the **National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service**, where we honored **226 fallen firefighters**. The inclement weather forced the ceremony to move indoors—but an amazing group of people worked behind the scenes to make the transition seamless. The tribute remained dignified and deeply meaningful and was a fitting reminder that rain or shine, we will *always* stand together to honor the courage and sacrifice of our fallen heroes.

Throughout the year, I found myself deeply moved on more than one occasion. Attending our **Hal Bruno Kids Camps** and watching these young people laugh, bond, and grow together was nothing short of inspiring. In the face of unimaginable loss, they've found strength in each other. It was a privilege to be there to see them offer support, share stories, and learn to create space for joy and healing.

The **Fire Hero Family Conference in Mesa, Arizona** was another profound gathering. Being with families from all over the country—each carrying their own stories of sacrifice—reminded me that while loss may be deeply personal, healing can be beautifully communal. We found comfort in shared memories, strength in shared purpose, and it was genuinely inspirational.

And later in the year, the **Winter Retreat and Tree Lighting Ceremony** offered a time for peaceful reflection. There is something deeply comforting about standing among families under the glowing trees lit in honor of those we've lost. Another powerful reminder that their light continues to shine in our hearts.

This year also brought growth and vision through the **Firefighter Life Safety Summit**. The collaborations and commitments made there reinforced the importance of continual progress. It was a moment to look both backward and forward—to honor those we've lost while fighting to ensure fewer names are added to the list.

**Looking ahead**, the NFFF is deeply honored to take part in a special memorial in **New York City**, where we will pay tribute to **more than 180 firefighters who died as a result of their work in the rescue and recovery efforts following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks**. This solemn occasion will honor their extraordinary sacrifice and serve as a powerful reminder of the long-lasting impact of 9/11. It will be a moment to stand together in reflection, in remembrance, and in gratitude for their bravery and selflessness.

With every event, handshake, tear, and story shared this past year, one truth remains clear: though our heroes may be gone, their spirit lives on—in every life they touched, and in every heart that remembers.

Here's to continuing the mission, walking alongside these incredible families, and never letting the flame of remembrance go out.



Victor Stagnaro  
Chief Executive Officer



◀ I invite you to join us here



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