



FIREFIGHTERS CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

Summer/Fall 2021

Ways to Support Your Local Fire Department

We tend to not think of firefighters and other first responders until an emergency happens. But when it does, they are always the ones who come to our minds and they are inevitably the first on the scene regardless of where the emergency is. The majority of the country's first responders are volunteers, enlisting to perform the dangerous job that they do. In many cases, the local government provides the basic funding for volunteer fire departments and fire and rescue companies, but they must rely on donations and fundraising for necessary equipment, fire prevention education and other items, and while always difficult, fundraising has been especially challenging over the past two years. Here are a few ways that you can show your support for your local fire department.

Join! You can volunteer your time to become a firefighter. More hands make light work. There are a few requirements that you need to complete before being on the team. You need to be at least 18 years old, have a high school diploma or equivalent, and complete a physical and written test. Many people volunteer to serve in addition to another job, but serving as a volunteer can serve as a start if you are hoping to one day become a hired firefighter.

Donate: Volunteer fire departments are always in need of training materials, supplies, and equipment. Occasionally they will host fundraisers. If you ever see one in your area, be sure to attend. But you don't have to wait to donate. Most have yearly fundraising drives which you can contribute to. Every dollar helps their efforts to keep the community safe.

Educate: The next best thing you can do is educate yourself and your family about fire prevention. The Firefighters Charitable Web Site has many safety tips and the NFPA and OSHA web sites have tremendous amounts of safety information. Be familiar with escape routes in your building, and agree on meeting areas in case of an emergency.

Move Aside: While you're out on the road as a driver or a pedestrian, leave room for emergency vehicles to pass through easily. We've all seen the rubberneckers—the people that aren't paying attention to the road because they are straining to see the accident. This gums up the works, and makes it more difficult for help to arrive promptly. It's human nature to be curious, but do your best to focus on moving traffic so that fire trucks, ambulances, and EMTs can pass through. Your local firefighters and first responders are usually responsible for preventing an accident from becoming a major tragedy. They put their lives on the line every day to protect strangers. Do your part by helping them do their job without interference.

Stay on the Scene: If you call for assistance, then you should remain on the scene until help arrives. If you witness an accident, call and report it. Don't leave until the emergency personnel tell you to do so. Even for non-emergency situations, it's ok to call for help, but you should still remain on site until the issue is resolved. They may need to take a statement from you, or you might be able to offer more insight to what occurred. It's especially important if they are having difficulty locating the area.

Our Mission

Assist the victims
of fire and disaster

Aid children in need

Provide grants to
charitable
organizations

Support programs
for Fire Safety
and First Aid
Education

Support Volunteer
Fire Departments

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A Message From The President

In every issue of our newsletter, we publish excerpts from letters of thanks and appreciation we receive from individuals and institutions, mostly volunteer fire departments, who have received a grant donation from Firefighters Charitable Foundation (FFCF). Our intention in sharing these letters, a small sample of what we receive, is to demonstrate how your donations are used and the power and impact of your contributions. Your generosity is crucial to our making grants to help fire and rescue departments limit loss of life and property, by providing funds for needed equipment or fire prevention education, and to help individuals, who have been jolted and jarred by tragedy, put their lives back on track again.

Thanks to our donors and supporters we can, and do, grant a large number of requests for aid, but every year brings a huge number of requests for aid and relief, some of which are heartbreaking, and it is not possible to fully satisfy all requests. In this newsletter, we share with you excerpts from letters we receive from those seeking relief. We do so anonymously to protect privacy, but you can sense the urgency of these requests for aid without the requestors' identity: "Since the house fire we have no hot water or A/C. Please help us live normal again", Phoenix Az. "We are requesting funds to purchase smoke detectors (to be given to community members that can't afford them)", Key Largo, FL. "I am a single mother of 6 who has lost everything in the house fire. This is devastating to my family, please help", Marlin, TX. "Our fire department was hit by a tornado, we are in desperate need of funds to replace the damaged rescue tools to continue to protect our community", Fultondale, Al. Every contribution made, no matter how small, helps us say "YES" to one more individual or institution in need. We all feel good when we receive a letter of thanks and appreciation for having received a grant. It is a validation that we are fulfilling our mission and have helped someone in need, and we are happy to share those letters with you because it is YOU who makes those grants possible. The letters we receive requesting aid, as demonstrated above, are just as impactful. They are a constant reminder to us of the importance of our mission to assist those in need and the importance of YOUR contributions. We greatly appreciate every donation as they help us grant another plea for assistance.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Tepedino, President.

Annual Celebrity Golf Tournament Held

The Firefighters Charitable Foundation (FFCF) held its Annual Celebrity Golf Tournament on May 10th at the Town of Oyster Bay Golf Course, a beautiful par 70 championship course in Woodbury, Long Island, New York. While Covid -19 restrictions limited the number of golfers and dinner attendees, the FFCF was thrilled to be able to hold the tournament.



Former Major League Baseball Player, Hofstra University Baseball Manager Frank Catalanotto (center) joins FFCF President Frank Tepedino (right) at the start of this years Golf Tournament.



Proceeds from the golf outing enable us to award grants to fire departments and fire victims.

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We Get Letters

The Fort Lewis Mesa Fire Protection District received the award from the Firefighters Charitable Foundation for the assistance in expanding/remodeling of our Station 1. As the expansion continues, all who serve and live within the district will be able to benefit from the changes making Station 1 better utilized and safer for responders. The Fort Lewis Mesa Fire Protection District would like to thank you for the generosity that has been given to our fire district, as this contribution will be instrumental in reaching our station expansion/remodel goal. Thank you.

Debbie Lee
President, Board of Directors
Fort Lewis Mesa Fire Protection District
Hesperus, Colorado

We are in receipt of your grant to our department. In this year of COVID, we have not been able to earn extra dollars by providing food at our Fair and other events. So, your generous contribution is especially welcomed this year. We thank the Firefighters Charitable Foundation and its contributors for the generous grant.

Sincerely yours,
William F. Laudenslayer, JR.
Lake City Volunteer Fire Department
Lake City, California

Sincerest thanks from the Shenandoah Volunteer Fire Company, Inc. for your generous grant. Support, such as yours, allows our fire company to continue to provide community emergency response as we have done for 115 years. Our fire company is very grateful to serve our community and are genuinely appreciative to have your organization provide financial assistance to us. We are committed to providing the finest emergency services to our citizens and, with your support, we can continue to provide that service. Thank you again for your support of the Shenandoah Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.

Dustin Lucas, Chief
Shenandoah Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.
Shenandoah, Virginia

We have received your grant and are sincerely appreciative of your foundation's donation. Our plans are to use this money to replace restraint systems for our Stokes basket. We use this apparatus to safely remove patients from precarious locations such as over embankments, buildings and others. Thank you for your assistance and keep up the great work!

Joe Gavaia, Chief
West End Fire and Rescue
Mahanoy City, Pennsylvania

I'd like to thank you for your generous gift to the Cold Spring Fire Company No. 1. The contribution will be used to offset the cost of our firefighter bailout system. The bailout system is a life-saving tool that increases the safety of our firefighters, enabling our firefighters to perform their duties to our community with the utmost confidence. The bailout system does come with a considerable financial cost. However, the grant provided by you will assist with the financial burden. Thank you again.

Thomas Merrigan, Chief
Cold Spring Fire Company No. 1
Cold Spring, New York

I would like to thank you for the grant that you kindly awarded to me. It will help me in my payments for my last semester of college. As a grandson of a former firefighter, receiving this grant hits close to home. The fact that I can continue helping others like my grandfather did encourages me to be successful. As a future teacher, I want to help as many of my students as I possibly can and your kind contribution will help make that possible. Again, thank you very much.

Kind regards,
William J Grammas Jr.
Phillipsburg, NJ

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Last year Covid forced us to cancel the outing and our annual Dinner Gala. The golf tournament is an important tool to raise funds to support the FFCF mission of supporting victims of fire and disaster, other nonprofit agencies and volunteer fire departments. The FFCF would like to thank all of the golfers and sponsors for their support. A special thanks to our Golf Committee and Christine Cahill for their efforts in making the outing a reality during the unparalleled Covid times. While it was not the full-blown outing that we are all used to, it was encouraging and rewarding to see many of our friends, sponsors and supporters at the outing and dinner afterwards. This year saw even more requests for assistance from our volunteer departments and support organizations. The Pandemic eliminated most of their fundraising opportunities. The FFCF is proud and thankful that we were able to continue to support our mission, even during these unprecedented times. We know it is physically impossible for most of our supporters (who are not in the Metropolitan/Long Island Area) to attend the outing. You can help us help others by making a tax-deductible charitable donation to FFCF. Any amount, no matter how small, will be greatly appreciated.



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“Helping Victims of Fire & Disaster With Your Support Since 1991”

Kitchen Safety Tips

All About Kitchen Fires

Did you know:

1 in 3 house fires begin in the kitchen.



Don't leave frying, grilling or boiling unattended, even for a moment.

Have an oven mitt and lid on standby. If a small fire begins on the stove, smother the flames with the lid and turn off the burner

In the event of an oven fire, turn off heat and close the door to prevent the flames and smoke from emerging. Have oven serviced before using.

Keep articles such as curtains, paper towels, bags, packaging and loose sleeves away from your stove top.

Make sure smoke alarms are in working order on every level of your house.

**When in doubt, get everyone out!
Close doors behind you
and call 911.**

Closely monitor children in the kitchen and keep a kid-free zone of 3 feet around areas where hot food is prepared or served.