



FIREFIGHTERS CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

2015

Foundation Gala Honors Heroes and Humanitarians

The Firefighters Charitable Foundation held its 3rd Annual Dinner Gala at The Chateau Briand, on Long Island, New York, on November 21, 2014, honoring America's firefighters, first responders and veterans, and those individuals who go "above and beyond" in furthering the Foundation's mission.

The athletes/celebrities present included, Maxcine Agee, Vito Antuofermo, Tony Balsamo, Fred Cambria, Dom DeMola, Darrell Evans, Bud Harrelson, US Congressman Peter T. King, Ed Lucas, Joseph "Bo" Orlando, Billy Sample, Billy Staples, Ron Swoboda, Frank Tepedino, Fred Valentine, NYS State Senator-elect Michael Venditto, Town of Oyster Bay Supervisor John Venditto, and Jon Warden.



Congressman Peter T. King and FFCF President Frank Tepedino

FFCF's Hero Award was presented to US Congressman Peter T. King, a staunch supporter of firefighters and first responders, and the author of the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act.

The Foundation also honored former Major Leaguer Darrell Evans and former NFL player Joseph "Bo" Orlando with Humanitarian Awards for their outstanding work with veterans, senior citizens and at-risk youths. The President's Award was presented to Irv "Mr. G" Gikofsky for his efforts to lessen the suffering caused by natural disasters through meteorological education and his charitable work benefitting school children.



Major Chuck Kilbride and fellow Marines with Frank Tepedino

Keeping true to a Foundation tradition, the Foundation supported the US Marines Toys for Tots Program, asking Gala guests to bring toys to the event. As a result, the Foundation was able to present dozens of toys for needy children to Maj. Chuck Kilbride, Ret., USMC, and other Marines present.

Our Mission

- Assist the victims of fire & 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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President's Message

Another long winter has almost passed. As weather across the country slowly gets warmer, thousands of firefighters are injured as they respond to tens of thousands of calls. We need to remember this as we consider just how important it is that these brave men and women have the best equipment and support we can offer. As Ben Franklin said, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." We must remain steadfast in providing our nation's fire departments with the best proactive fire prevention services possible.

May we never forget the compassionate spirit instilled in this nation by our forefathers. Let us never take for granted our basic necessities and freedoms. Thank you everyone for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Tepedino
President

Planned Giving "101"

Planned Giving is a form of philanthropy that creates a gift now for the future benefit of a non-profit organization. Planned Giving does not have to be complicated or frightening.

Planned Giving is a set of ways a donor can support a non-profit organization by leaving money or assets to the organization through their wills or estate plan; or it can be a way for a donor to invest money so that the donor receives benefits during their lifetime and then bequeaths the remaining funds to the non-profit organization.

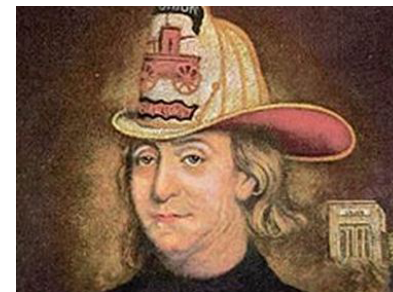
We encourage you to work with us and your financial advisor to include Planned Giving in your Estate Plan to help support the long-term goals of The Firefighters Charitable Foundation.



(from page 1) Firefighters, first responders, veterans, and police officers gather as the East Lake Elementary Hand Bell Choir perform the Star Spangled Banner

Ben Franklin: Founding Father of Volunteer Firefighters

The establishment of the first volunteer fire department in America is often credited to Ben Franklin, on December 7, 1736, in Philadelphia. Approximately thirty residents, spurred on by a articles in The Pennsylvania Gazette, published by Franklin, formed the club, each agreeing to supply, at their own expense, six leather buckets (to carry water) and two large linen bags (to hold property to save it from being destroyed by fire or stolen).



Ben Franklin in fire hat

In addition, the brigade members met monthly to discuss how to improve fire-fighting and prevention. One measure adopted was to require homeowners to have a leather water bucket in their home.

Records indicate that over the years, from 1736 to approximately 1800, The Union Fire Company cooperated with other brigades to obtain apparatus which it could not afford on its own, including a fire bell which could be heard throughout the city.

Thanks to Franklin's foresight and leadership, Philadelphia became one of the safest cities in the world in terms of fire damage. The volunteer brigade system of fighting fires with volunteers spread throughout the colonies and ultimately the United States.

Reference: History of Philadelphia, by J. Thomas Scharf and Thompson Westcott, 1884

Letters of Appreciation

"Thank you for making a donation to Hudson Fire Protection District. The department was able to use the funding to purchase over 30 smoke alarms. Your grant has made it possible to make our community members more aware and safe when it comes to fire prevention."

Wendy Spronk, Firefighter
Hudson, Colorado

"Thank you so much for your generous gift. Our family is amazed at the never-ending love and support from our family, friends and community."

The Roth Family
Massapequa Pk, New York

"On behalf of the sisters and staff of OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center and the Neuro Burn Unit, I would like to thank you for your generous gift. Many special programs and services have resulted from gifts such as yours."

Richard E. Zumwalt, Director
Rockford, Illinois

"Over the past several years Firefighters Charitable Foundation has provided grants to the Urania Volunteer Fire Department. ...Thank you for all the assistance you have given our fire department and families in our community."

Urania Volunteer Fire Department
Urania, Louisiana

2014 BY THE NUMBERS

676
Total Monetary Donations

519
Fire Departments that Recieved Donations

108
Families that Recieved Donations

52
States that Recieved Donations

19
Burn Centers & Hospitals that Recieved Donations

30
Charities & Organizations that Recieved Donations

IT'S TIME FOR GOLF!

Firefighters Charitable Foundation
Celebrity Golf Tournament
Monday, June 15, 2015 at
The Town of Oyster Bay Golf Course
South Woods Rd. Woodbury, NY

For more information call us at
516-249-0332
or visit our website at www.ffcf.org

Sponsorship opportunities available!



Organizations Funded by FFCF

- Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation
- Burn Camps
- Camp Celebrate
- Camp John Marc
- Center for Fire & Burn Prevention
- Evan Haynes Burn Center
- LA County USC Burn Center
- Parkland Burn Camp
- Safe Kids Sonoma County
- UH Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital / Safe Kids
- University of Cincinnati Hospital – Burn Unit
- Washington Hospital Burn Center
- Volunteer Fire Houses

Space heaters are involved in 80% of all home heating fires!

Make sure you follow these tips: Keep your space heater on a level surface.
NEVER leave it running unattended.
Keep it THREE feet away from anything that can burn.



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"Helping Victims of Fire & Disaster With Your Support Since 1991"