



FIREFIGHTERS CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

2017

5th Annual Gala Dinner

The Firefighters Charitable Foundation (FFCF) held its 5th Annual Dinner Gala on November 17th, at the Chateau Briand in Carle Place, Long Island New York. The annual gala honors America's firefighters, first responders, veterans and those individuals who go above and beyond in furthering the foundation's mission. The gala proceeds allow the FFCF to continue to provide grants and services throughout the United States. The gala also provides an opportunity to acknowledge individuals and organizations that go the extra mile to support the FFCF in assisting victims of fire and disaster, aiding children in need, fire safety/first aid education outreach programs, supporting volunteer fire departments and other charitable organizations.



Mark Baisch (C) with Joe Cognitore, CDR, VFW Post #6249 (L) and Frank Tepedino (R)

This year's Humanitarian Award was presented to Kevin Hecker, VP of Slomins Inc. for his tireless efforts as a founding member and Board of Director of the Nassau County Firefighters Museum and Education Center. The Museum features a collection of memorabilia and historical artifacts that preserve history, but of equal or greater importance is the interactive educational



Kevin Hecker (C) with Frank Nocenno (L) and Frank Tepedino (R)

Former Major League Baseball Players Ron Blomberg and Roy White received this year's President's Award, which is given to individuals that personify and demonstrate the mission of the FFCF; civic mindedness, family values and charitable efforts. A Special Recognition Award was also presented to Lenny Mileo for his years of hard work and dedication to the FFCF.

component of the museum. The Hero's award was presented to Mark Baisch, Landmark Properties for his dedication to providing housing for veterans. Mr. Baisch formed Homes For Returning Veterans which have delivered 12 homes since its inception in 2011!



Ron Blomberg, Roy White and Frank and Lori Tepedino

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

Board of Directors

Frank R. Tepedino
President

Tom Sherlock
Vice President

Frank Nocerino
Vice President

Lori Tepedino
Secretary/Treasurer

Directors

James Cahill
Fred Cambria
Meryl Guerrero
Richard Helgason
Anthony Lorini
Les Noto

Administration

Joann Vazquez

President's Message

As we welcome a new year and look back to last year's success, I want to thank all of you for your kind support. Because of your generosity we at The Firefighters Charitable Foundation (FFCF) continue to provide firefighters and fire houses across the nation with funds they use to continue operating and to obtain lifesaving equipment, we continue to provide hygiene kits and assistance to victims of natural disaster, we continue to distribute fire safety literature, we continue to acknowledge the great work of first responders, and we continue to provide assistance wherever possible. Please be sure to read through the newsletter for ways to support the FFCF, including this year's golf outing and please be sure to check out the winter safety tips. Stay Safe.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Tepedino, President.



FFCF was once again pleased to support the US Marines Toys For Tots program. Pictured: Congressman Peter King (L), Major Chuck Kilbride, US Marines, Ret. and FFCF NY Counsel, Tom Sabellico (R).



Returning Veteran, Glen Cote and his family received a grant from FFCF.



Lenny Mileo was presented a Special Recognition Award by FFCF President Frank Tepedino.

Important Facts About Volunteer Firefighters

by Thomas M. Sabellico, Esq., New York Counsel to FFCF

The main mission of the Firefighters' Charitable Foundation is to support firefighters throughout the United States. Since we seek your assistance in accomplishing this mission, it is fair that you have some important facts at your disposal:

- Across the country, there are more than twice as many volunteer firefighters as career firefighters.
- Due to municipal budget problems, fund-raising now takes up roughly half the time most volunteers spend on duty. Volunteer firefighters save local governments more than \$139.8 billion across the country. In NYS alone, it is estimated that the 100,000 volunteer firefighters save the State's taxpayers more than \$3.8 billion annually, which would increase property taxes between 3.3 percent and 123 percent, with an average increase of 26.5 percent.
 - Because of Federal Standards enacted to protect firefighters, it now takes hundreds of hours for volunteer firefighters to be certified.
 - Since the 1980s, the price of a single self-contained breathing apparatus has jumped to over \$5,000, from \$900. A fire engine costs \$400,000 more than it did 30 years ago.
- In New York alone, an additional 30,822 career firefighters would be necessary to convert to an all-paid service.

It's clear that our volunteer firefighters are a very valuable asset and deserving of our support. Thank you for your assistance.

Sources: National Fire Protection Association; *The Disappearing Volunteer Firefighter*, NY Times, 8/16/14; and *Tax Savings and Economic Value of Volunteer Firefighters in New York*, December 2015, by Fireman's Association of the State of New York

Save The
Date

6th Annual
Dinner Gala
11/16/17

Cold Weather Fire Safety

Over half of all home fires occur in the winter months. 60% of fire deaths result from fires in homes. 30% of residential heating fires occur because the heat source is too close to things that can burn. Please check out these tips and have a safe and warm winter. For more info visit <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/winter>

Half of all home heating fires occur in the months of



Heating equipment is involved in **1** in every **6** reported home fires and **1** in every **5** home fire deaths.



Keep anything that can burn at least

3 feet from any heat source like fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators, or space heaters.



Keep portable generators outside, away from windows, and **as far away as possible from your house.**

Install and test carbon monoxide alarms at least **once a month.**



Source: FEMA

Have a qualified professional clean and inspect your chimney and vents **every year.**



Store cooled ashes in a tightly covered metal container, and keep it outside at least

10 feet from your home and any nearby buildings.



Plug only **1** heat-producing appliance (such as a space heater) into an electrical outlet at a time.



We Get Letters

"On behalf of my community, department, and myself I would like to extend my thanks to your organization for the grant. We are in the process of ordering: smoke/fire alarms to be installed in local residence, Kitchen Fire Prevention, EDITH and other Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) fire prevention material to be given in an upcoming Health and Safety Fair and two presentations with local Civic Groups. Your generous donations have greatly enhanced and sustained our prevention awareness programs to our citizens. Thank you for your support."

Willie Sapeta, Fire Chief
Lake County Fire Protection District
Clearlake, California

"On behalf of the Commissioner/Chief of Department, Joseph E. Finn, we thank you for your generous donations to the Boston Fire Department. Your donation will be used to continue the programs in the Safety, Health and Wellness Division. This Division was founded by the Commissioner to improve firefighters' lives and mitigate the risk against dangerous carcinogens causing cancer and orthopedic injuries found in every day firefighting/work life. Your generous donation is much appreciated and thank you for recognizing our need of assistance."

Kathleen Judge, Deputy Commissioner for Administration and Finance
Boston Fire Department
Boston, Massachusetts

"The Washington County Volunteer Fire Department is very grateful for your recent donation to our department. As a rural, economically-stressed county, every dollar is precious to us. Your donation could not have come at a better time. Late one evening, our volunteers responded to a large structure fire. After extinguishing the blaze, we were on our way back to the station when our tender broke down. Everyone stopped to help get the apparatus back on the road, however no one had a working flashlight. Personal cellphones were used to provide the only light on this dark night. We used your very generous donation to purchase rechargeable flashlights for our apparatuses. With our aging front-line apparatuses frequently traveling along bumpy dirt roads, we often encounter mechanical issues. But thanks to Firefighters Charitable Foundation, we should never again get caught in the dark."

Rich Kerr, Fire Services Coordinator
Washington County Board of Commissioners
Chipley, Florida

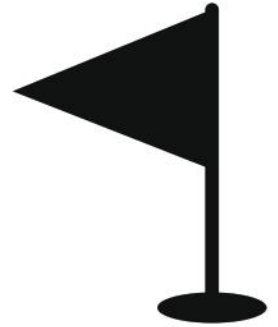
"Thanks once again for your foundations generous donation to our fire department. We plan on using these funds to restock our fire prevention supplies for our school children when we visit our schools this fall. We sincerely appreciate all you do."

Chuck Fromme, Treasurer
Elgin Volunteer Fire Department
Elgin, Texas

IT'S TIME FOR GOLF!



Firefighters Charitable Foundation
Celebrity Golf Tournament
Monday, May 8, 2017
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!



Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives

Test Yours Every Month!



One West Street
Farmingdale, NY 11735
United States of America

Phone: (516) 249-0332
Fax: (516) 249-0338
Website: www.FFCF.org

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