

# Committed to our Mission



NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION | 2023 IMPACT REPORT



Our mission is to honor America's fallen fire heroes; support their families, colleagues, and organizations; and work to reduce preventable firefighter death and injury.



## Table of Contents

- 3 Our Commitment to the NFFF Community
- 4 2023 Year at a Glance
- 5 Remembering Our Nation's Fallen Firefighters
- 6 2023 Roll of Honor
- 8 Fire Hero Family Community
- 10 NFFF Scholarship Program
- 12 Fire Service Community
- 14 From Stairways to Fairways
- 16 Partners and Donors
- 18 Board of Directors and Advisory Committee
- 20 Other Noteworthy NFFF Happenings
- 22 Looking Ahead
- 23 Financial Stewardship



Platinum  
Transparency  
2023

Candid.

**4-Star rating from Charity Navigator and 2023 Platinum Seal of Transparency from Candid**

# Our Commitment to the NFFF Community

April 2024

A mission statement is often considered the measure of success for an organization, according to which all decisions within the organization should be determined. Our responsibility as members of the leadership team at the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) is to ensure that this occurs.

The success of our mission depends on a strong community of Fire Hero Families, fire department members, public and private partners, individual and corporate sponsors, volunteers, and staff working together towards the same goals. While no report can capture everything the Foundation does in a year, the purpose of this impact report is to provide you with a glimpse of what we see every day—this incredible community that supports our mission.

Fire Hero Families are at the heart of all we do—they inspire us, help each other, and provide us with valuable insights into how we can best support other families. We understand that no words or actions can heal the pain of losing a loved one. It is our honor to ensure that they know that their firefighters will always be remembered and that they are not alone on their grief journey.

As you review the 2023 Impact Report, please remember that behind every event or resource is a group of dedicated individuals. Volunteers and staff are unwaveringly committed to the Foundation, and we are grateful for the financial support, time, and other resources provided by our individual and corporate sponsors.

On behalf of the NFFF Board of Directors, thank you for being part of our community and helping us fulfill our mission. Our commitment to you is that together, we will continue to memorialize fallen firefighters, support their families, and provide resources to fire departments to prevent firefighter injury and death.

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Troy Markel". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Troy Markel  
Board of Directors Chair

# 2023 Year at a Glance

## January

### January 6

*Red Light, Green Light, Blue Light* documentary is released



### January 7

150,000th student completed a module on the Fire Hero Learning Network

## April

### April 17

Staff attended the 10-year commemoration of the tragic fertilizer plant explosion in West, Texas.

### April 24

Victor Stagnaro named as Chief Executive Officer.

## June

### June 9-11

Comfort Zone Camp (Hardwick, NJ)

### June 12

Camp HAL (Parsippany, NJ)

### June 14

*The Story of Harrisonburg Tower 1* documentary was released.



### June 29-30

Staff attended the 10-year commemoration of the Yarnell Fire and the loss of the Granite Mountain Hotshots.

## September

### September 24-27

Men's Retreat (Charlotte, NC)

### September 27

Gary Krichbaum named as NFFF's Managing Director.

### September 27-30

Adult Children's Retreat (Charlotte, NC)

## November

### November 29

Fire Hero Tuesday Fundraising Campaign with Presto Foundation matching donations up to \$25,000

## February

### February 20-24

Training at the U.S. Forest Service Smokejumper Base (Missoula, MT)

## March

### March 19-22

Spouse and Life Partners Retreat (San Antonio, TX)

### March 22-25

Parents and Siblings Retreat (San Antonio, TX)

## May

### May 6-7

National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend honored 144 firefighters, 79 firefighters who died in 2022 and 65 who died in previous years.



## July

### July 21-23

High School Fire Cadet Symposium (Detroit, MI)

## August

### August 25

*Paterson, NJ: Remembering the Quackenbush Tragedy* podcast was released.



### August 25-27

*Learning From Loss* staff ride honoring Asheville Fire Department Captain Jeffrey Bowen (Asheville, NC)

## October

**October 10** U.S. Fire Administrator's Summit on Fire Prevention and Control

**October 29-31** Advocate Summit (Tucson, AZ)

## December

### November 29-December 2

Family Winter Retreat (Emmitsburg, MD)





# Remembering Our Nation's Fallen Firefighters

## Nearly 700 Family Members Attend Memorial Weekend, Held in May for the First Time

The 2023 National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend welcomed nearly 700 new family members to Emmitsburg on May 4-5, where 144 firefighters were honored. In addition, 111 returning family members shared their wisdom and experience with the new Fire Hero Family members. Over 200 family escorts and almost 500 honor guard members served to honor the fallen and support their families.

*"I don't know if I could ever really put into words how this weekend experience felt for us. We all left feeling lifted in spirit and saddened in the same. I personally felt that I left a little of Dave behind to be remembered by the many who will pass through."*

– Family member of a 2023 Honored Firefighter



◀ Watch the 2023 Memorial Weekend Highlight Video



## Paying it Forward: Fire Hero Family Member to Family Escort

The family of each fallen firefighter at Memorial Weekend is assigned a fire-service Family Escort to assist them throughout Memorial Weekend. At times, a Fire Hero Family Member volunteers to help other families as a Family Escort. Brian Schnibbe is a Fire Hero Family Member (son of Robert Schnibbe, NY - 2006), and 2023 was his first year serving as a Family Escort. Brian served as the Family Escort for the family of Brendan Luis Torres from Dalhart, Texas — aged 19, the youngest line-of-duty death in 2022. In his own words, Brian described his experience serving as a Family Escort.

*"The task of the Family Escort is no walk in the park, and for me, it was such a raw emotional journey. This weekend was not about me. But my story, my history, my compassion, and knowledge of where someone might be at emotionally, I think, made me a perfect fit. I knew when to be where I needed to be on every level. The Torres family and I laughed together — we cried, we prayed, and we honored their son Brendan and his sacrifice in a way that they had never seen."*

*I look forward to staying connected with the Torres Family and attending next year to provide the same standard of excellence to another family. Until the day when no more names are added to the roll of honor, I will be there serving."*

– Brian Schnibbe

# 2023 Roll of Honor

The 2023 National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend welcomed nearly 700 new family members to Emmitsburg on May 4-5, where 144 firefighters were honored. In addition, 111 returning family members shared their wisdom and experience with the new Fire Hero Family members. Over 200 family escorts and almost 500 honor guard members served to honor the fallen and support their families.

## ALABAMA

**Larry Wayne Harbin**  
Town of Lynn Fire and Rescue

**Fredy C. Reeves**  
Ward Volunteer Fire Department

## ALASKA

**Jared N. Bird**  
ROTAK Helicopter Services

**Doug Ritchie**  
Northern Pioneer Helicopters

## ARIZONA

**Brendan J. Bessee**  
Salt River Fire Department

## ARKANSAS

**Cory Collins**  
Pine Bluff Fire and Emergency Services

**Dennis E. Graham**  
Southridge Fire Department

**Jerry Lynn Robinson**  
North Little Rock Fire Department

**Everette L. Watson**  
Calvert Township Volunteer Fire Department

## CALIFORNIA

**Darin Kyle Banks**  
Firestorm Wildland Fire Suppression, Inc.

**Hans Bolowich**  
CAL FIRE – California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

**Steven F. Casados**  
CAL FIRE – California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

**Stanley Craig**  
CAL FIRE – California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

**Max Fortuna**  
Stockton Fire Department

**Steven Michael McCann**  
Los Angeles County Fire Department

**Jason R. O'Brien**  
CAL FIRE – California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

**Jason S. Pollard**  
CAL FIRE – California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

**Mark Shawn Roedel**  
CAL FIRE – California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

**David A. Spink**  
Barstow Fire Protection District

**Matthew L. Watt**  
USDA Forest Service, San Bernardino National Forest

**Christopher Andre Wurster**  
CAL FIRE – California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

## COLORADO

**Harold J. Cordova**  
Central Conejos Fire Protection District, Manassa Fire Department

**Anthony Palato**  
South Metro Fire Rescue

**Stephen Michael Smith**  
West Douglas County Fire Protection District

## CONNECTICUT

**William T. Halstead Sr.**  
Sandy Hook Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company

**Matthias A. Wirtz**  
North Haven Fire Department

## FLORIDA

**Chris Allen**  
Hollywood Fire Rescue & Beach Safety

**Dustin Schieber**  
Seminole County Fire Department

**Eric M. Siena**  
Orange County Fire Rescue

## GEORGIA

**Christopher Ronald Applebee**  
Statesboro Fire Department

**James "J.B." Guiler**  
Heard County Fire & Emergency Services

**Tommy Allen Hopson**  
Carroll County Fire Rescue

## IDAHO

**Jon Delvalle**  
Garden Valley Fire Protection District

**Thomas P. Hayes**  
ROTAK Helicopter Services

## ILLINOIS

**Robert "Bob" Forney**  
Brimfield Community Fire Protection District

**Kevin Hauber**  
Buffalo Grove Fire Department

**Scott A. Williams**  
Argonne National Laboratory Fire Department

## INDIANA

**Terry Lee Cassidy**  
Sparta Township Fire Department

**Bruce W. DeArk**  
Jeffersonville Fire Department

## KANSAS

**Michael Loy Baker**  
190th Air Refueling Wing Fire & Emergency Services, 190th Fire Department

**Joshua C. Haynes**  
Linn County Rural Fire District #1

## KENTUCKY

**Jerry Steve Ferrell**  
Monticello Fire Department

**Johnnie Jacobs**  
Georgetown Fire and Rescue

**John B. Martin**  
Louisville Fire Department

**Sean P. McAdam**  
Louisville Fire Department

## LOUISIANA

**Stanford S. Collins Sr.**  
New Orleans Fire Department

## MARYLAND

**Paul Butrim**  
Baltimore City Fire Department

**Kelly W. Frye**  
City of Cumberland Fire Department

**David Insley Jr.**  
Salisbury Fire Department

**Kenneth Lacayo**  
Baltimore City Fire Department

**Kelsey R. Sadler**  
Baltimore City Fire Department

**James Perrine Seavey Sr.**  
Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Department

## MICHIGAN

**Collin James O. Hagan**  
BLM – Craig Interagency Hotshot Crew

## MINNESOTA

**Ryan Leif Erickson**  
Blomkest Fire Department

**Jimmy Scanlon**  
Hopkins Fire Department

## MISSISSIPPI

**Bobby Elliott**  
Shannon Fire and Rescue

**Jessica Criddle Hamblin**  
Southeast Chickasaw Volunteer Fire Department

**Michael Lacy**  
Tchula Volunteer Fire Department

## MISSOURI

**Dustin Wayne Brandhorst**  
Ebenezer Fire Protection District

**Kevin Lawrence Cremer**  
City of Festus Fire Department

**Rickey Lee Hobbs**  
Waynesville Rural Fire Protection District

**Donald Mark Kisner**  
Hurley Fire Protection District

**Robert Lee Moore**  
Kennett Fire Department

**Benjamin James Polson**  
St. Louis Fire Department

**Gregory James Thompson**  
Lakeview Heights Fire Protection District

## MONTANA

**Kenneth M. Lemanski Jr.**  
Cascade City/ Farmer Rancher Rural Volunteer Fire Department

## NEBRASKA

**James C. Bissonette**  
Broken Bow Fire Department

**Darren D. Krull**  
Elwood Volunteer Fire Department

**Michael L. Moody**  
Purdum Rural Fire District

**Christopher J. Parker**  
Fairbury Rural Fire District #8

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

**Michael J. Galimberti**  
Pease Fire and Emergency Services

## NEW JERSEY

**Charles W. Achong**  
Jersey City Fire Department

**Ronnie Cordero**  
Little Falls Fire Department

**Alex K. Moss**  
Upper Saddle River Fire Department

**Basil J. Pizzuto**  
Saddle Brook Fire Department

## NEW MEXICO

**Matthew A. King**  
Bernalillo County Fire Department

## NEW YORK

**Owen T. Carlock**  
Fire Department City of New York

**Joseph K. Daly**  
Fire Department City of New York

**Stephen A. Feron**  
Hauppauge Volunteer Fire Department





**Daniel Robert Foley**  
Fire Department City of New York

**Jesse Baier Gerhard**  
Fire Department City of New York

**Ronald H. Kemly Sr.**  
Fire Department City of New York

**Timothy Patrick Klein**  
Fire Department City of New York

**William P. Moon II**  
Fire Department City of New York

**Thomas G. Oelkers**  
Fire Department City of New York

**Raymond R. Phillips Jr.**  
Fire Department City of New York

**William J. "Billy" Steinberg**  
Forestburgh Fire Company #1

**Victor C. Valva**  
Fire Department City of New York

**Tracy A. Veno**  
City of Olean Fire Department

**NORTH CAROLINA**

**Kenneth Kelly "Ace" Cameron**  
Pocket Volunteer Fire Department

**Jason Dean**  
Clayton Fire Department

**Harold L. Heglar**  
Kure Beach Fire Department

**Scott William Hinson**  
Concord Fire Department

**David S. Holmes**  
La Grange Fire Department

**Ron McGarvey**  
Waxhaw Community Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad

**James V. Radford**  
Polly Watson Volunteer Fire Department

**J Sorrell Thomas**  
Concord Fire Department

**Brent A. Upton**  
Raleigh Fire Department

**OHIO**

**Wayne B. Bingaman**  
Ripley Fire Department

**Tracy L. Leach**  
Kettering Fire Department

**James M. Pero**  
Mentor Fire Department

**Ronald G. Reinhart**  
Defiance Fire and Rescue Division

**Johnny Tetrick**  
Cleveland Division of Fire

**Philip M. Wigal**  
Town & Country Fire District

**OKLAHOMA**

**April L. Partridge**  
Edgewater Park Volunteer Fire Department

**Jason T. Smith**  
Balko Fire Department

**OREGON**

**Austin Garrett Smith**  
St. Paul Fire District

**Logan Harrison Taylor**  
Sasquatch Reforestation, contracted by Oregon Department of Forestry

**PENNSYLVANIA**

**Troy M. Dettinger**  
Union Fire & Hose Co. #1

**Marvin L. Gruber**  
Community Fire Company of New Tripoli

**Isaac D. Hassen Sr.**  
Hope Fire Company of Northern Cambria

**Kurt W. Keilhofer**  
Mapleton Volunteer Fire Department

**Zachary T.A. Paris**  
Community Fire Company of New Tripoli

**Tod M. "Clever" Steese**  
Mifflinburg Hose Company No. 1

**Stephen Sunday**  
Scranton Fire Department

**Sean J. Williamson**  
Philadelphia Fire Department

**SOUTH CAROLINA**

**Andrew D. Orphanoudakis**  
Hardeeville Fire Department

**Kenneth R. Sott**  
Summerville Fire & Rescue

**TENNESSEE**

**David W. Pleasant**  
Memphis Fire Department

**TEXAS**

**Gerald D. Becker**  
Plano Fire-Rescue

**Curtis Dewayne Brown**  
Dalhart Volunteer Fire Department

**Hunter Aaron Coco**  
Maxwell Community Volunteer Fire Department

**Jonathon Taylor Coco**  
Maxwell Community Volunteer Fire Department

**Charles D. Krampota**  
Alvin Volunteer Fire Department

**Jose A. Negrete**  
Copperas Cove Fire Department

**Randal D. Robinson**  
Fort Worth Fire Department

**Erik Segura**  
Laredo Metro Fire Department

**Brendan Luis Torres**  
Dalhart Volunteer Fire Department

**William R. Wimberly Jr.**  
Yoakum Volunteer Fire Department

**UTAH**

**J. Chris Cage**  
Unified Fire Authority

**VIRGINIA**

**Robert W. "Bobby" Nelms**  
Fries Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department

**Kimberly A. Schoppa**  
Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department

**James Allen Sturgill**  
Pound Volunteer Fire Department

**WASHINGTON**

**Michael W. Bieniek**  
Grays Harbor Fire District #10 - Wishkah Fire Department

**Joseph B. Killian**  
Clark County Fire District 6

**Chadwick Jacob Mittleider**  
Aberdeen Fire Department

**Blake A. Nelson**  
Naches Fire Department, Yakima County Fire District #3

**Dan W. Patterson**  
Spokane Valley Fire Department

**WEST VIRGINIA**

**John D. Forbush**  
Gassaway Volunteer Fire Department

**Brian H. Ritchie**  
City of Weirton Fire Department

**WISCONSIN**

**Brian C. Busch**  
Mineral Point Fire Department

**Riley Daniel Ray Huiras**  
Grand Rapids Volunteer Fire Department

**James M. Ludlum**  
Mineral Point Fire Department

**WYOMING**

**Bruce Lang**  
Pine Haven Volunteer Fire Department



Nowana Bingaman, wife of Firefighter Wayne Bingaman (OH-2022)

## Hero Tributes

During Memorial Weekend 2023, we invited family members to create Hero Tribute videos to honor their loved ones. Family members share stories honoring their firefighters' courage, dedication, and indelible impact on the lives of so many.



◀ Watch Hero Tributes

# Fire Hero Family Community

The NFFF offers a variety of programs and resources for families of fallen firefighters with the understanding that everyone's grief journey is different. Our programs range from virtual support groups to in-person events, a bi-monthly newsletter, 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.

## Supporting Fallen Firefighter Families

### Inaugural Retreat for the Adult Children of Fallen Firefighters

The Adult Children's Retreat was created in response to the recommendation of those aged 21 or older who lost their firefighter parents. Its purpose was to create a platform for people with similar experiences to connect, promote healing, discuss resilience, and build connections for the future. The inaugural retreat was held in 2023, with 17 adult children participating and providing excellent feedback for future retreats.



*"I've been putting in so much work since the death of my father. To be able to set aside time for just myself and focus on healing with others who have been through similar situations was so powerful and meaningful to me. The experiences and discussions I had on the retreat will positively impact and propel my work in therapy. NFFF gives me a chance to still have support from the firefighter community my father dedicated 26 years to and gives me back some hope. As a therapist, I saw the benefits for myself and my peers."*

– Adult Children's Retreat attendee

All established Fire Hero Family Events achieved 100% participation; new Adult Children's Retreat achieved 68% in its first year

**Camp HAL Program:**  
12 children aged 4-7

**Hal Bruno CZC Camp:**  
59 children aged 8+

**Parents and Siblings Retreat:**  
39 participants

**Spouses and Life Partners Retreat:**  
35 participants

**Men's Retreat:**  
29 participants

**Fire Hero Family Peer Support Training:**  
15 participants



### Ongoing Support

Fifteen Fire Hero Family members were trained to be on our Peer Support Network providing one-on-one support to newly bereaved family members of fallen firefighters. These new peer support members are spouses, parents, and siblings of honored firefighters.



## Virtual Programs

What began as a necessity during the pandemic has evolved into a meaningful way for our Fire Hero Family to build new relationships and strengthen existing ones. Our virtual meetings provide Fire Hero Family members with a place to share memories, celebrate accomplishments, and support each other in difficult times.



Our **virtual support groups** provide a way for Fire Hero Families to connect with one another from their homes across the country throughout the year.

Virtual Programs	Number of Sessions	Total Number of Attendees
Weekly Unfacilitated Peer-to-Peer Support Group	42	898
Weekly Facilitated Support Group	42	217
Monthly Remembrance	11	46
Monthly Men Forging Ahead	12	152

Event	Total Participants	2023 Dates	Location
Spouses and Life Partners Retreat	34	March 19 - 22	San Antonio, TX
Parents & Siblings Retreat	38	March 22 - 25	San Antonio, TX
Kids Camp	112	June 9 - 11	Parsippany, NJ
Men's Retreat	29	Sept 24 - 27	Charlotte, NC
Adult Children's Retreat	17	Sept 27 - 30	Charlotte, NC
Fire Hero Family Winter Retreat	105	Nov 29 - Dec 2	Fairfield, PA

## Expanded Programming at Winter Retreat Results in Record-Breaking Attendance

Over 100 family members of Fire Heroes attended the 2023 Winter Retreat — the best-attended Winter Retreat ever. Based on feedback from previous attendees, the 2023 Winter Retreat featured expanded programming, including facilitated discussion groups, a men's group, more activities for children, and a visit to a local museum.



*“Our son loved Christmas, the decorations, and especially the lights. We didn’t decorate last year, but this year, thinking of him, we did. The NFFF Winter Retreat helped get us there.”*

**– 2023 Winter Retreat Participant**

# NFFF Scholarship Program

The Scholarship Program awarded 63 scholarships totaling \$504,149 to family members of fallen firefighters. Recipients for the 2023/24 school year include 41 previous recipients and 22 first-time recipients. Scholarships are based on financial needs 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, Inc., the Alan Patrick Sondej Scholarship Fund, the Kenneth M. Hedrick Memorial Scholarship Fund, and partnerships with MissionSquare Retirement, Burton A. Zipser and Sandra D. Zipser Foundation, National Association of State Fire Marshals, Global Health & Safety, the Steel Family's Engine Company 5 Foundation, and individual donors.



◀ Learn more about our Scholarship Program



**Kristen Adams**  
Medicine  
LSUHSC Shreveport



**Imani Armstrong**  
Music Performance  
Alabama State University



**Noah Baity**  
Criminal Justice  
Charleston Southern University



**Caroline Barber**  
Nursing  
University of North Florida



**Olivia Barber**  
Business Administration  
University of North Florida



**Jane Barker**  
Doctor of Nursing  
SUNY Upstate Medical University



**Tiffany Bartholemew**  
Communications & Marketing  
University of West Florida



**Katreana Bellew**  
Film  
New York University



**Kieran Bellew**  
Sports Journalism  
Penn State University



**Cory Benson**  
Law  
Fordham University School of Law



**Elizabeth Boatman**  
Music Education  
Estrella Mountain Community College



**Marissa Brake**  
Studio Arts  
CSU Chico



**Miranda Brake**  
Medicine  
Western University of Health Sciences



**Devin Bryant**  
Accounting  
Utah Valley University



**Michelle Bryant**  
Business Admin  
Southern Utah University



**Jillian Campbell**  
Social work  
Mary Baldwin University



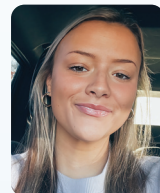
**Michaela Clark**  
Animal science & Industry - Pre vet  
Kansas State University



**Owen Curry**  
Mechanical Engineering  
Daytona State College



**Aliza DeVoe**  
Social Work  
Millersville University



**Kensley Dickey**  
Medical Sonography  
Columbia State Community College



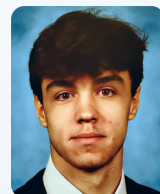
**Emily Dill**  
Fashion Merchandising  
University of Central Oklahoma



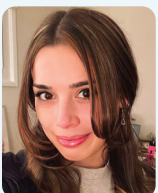
**Gabrielle Eck**  
Accounting  
Wichita State University



**Cayla Fenwick**  
Veterinary Medicine  
Texas A&M University School of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences



**Stephen Feron**  
Automotive Mechanic  
SUNY Alfred College of Technology



**Carly Ferrugia**  
Business or Law  
St. John's University



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



**Grant "Frank" Fouts**  
Business and Marketing  
The University of Iowa



**Bailey Fritz**  
Exercise Science  
Thiel College





**Halley Fritz**  
Chemistry  
Hiram College



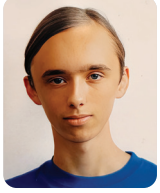
**Karen Fritz**  
Clinical Mental  
Health Counseling  
Kent State University



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



**Grady Gonsioroski**  
Mechanical Engineering  
Williston State College



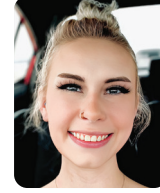
**Andrew Jones**  
Computer Science  
Hofstra University



**Natalie Jones**  
Education  
Marist College



**Caitlyn Lyons**  
Clinical Mental  
Health Counseling  
Western Connecticut  
State University



**Katelyn Manger**  
Social Work  
University of North Dakota



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



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



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



**Zion McKean**  
Management of  
Information Systems  
Clemson University



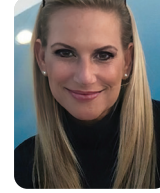
**Elizabeth McNamara**  
Hospitality and  
Tourism Management  
University of  
Massachusetts Amherst



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



**Mallory Mickel**  
Prerequisite course  
for Anesthesiology  
Assistant School  
Eastern Florida  
State College



**Amy Moorman**  
Legal Studies  
Pepperdine University  
Caruso School of Law



**Keara Page**  
Cognitive  
Neuroscience  
Union College



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



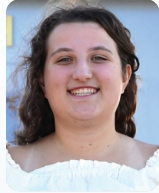
**Courtney Quiroz**  
Clinical Psychology  
Pacific University



**Katelyn Rice**  
Early Elementary Education  
Bridgewater State University



**Ryan Rice**  
Business  
Administration  
Bridgewater State  
University



**Marissa Sayles**  
Nursing  
Northern Michigan  
University



**John Schardt, Jr.**  
Business  
Marist College



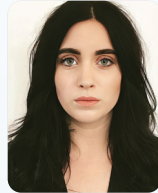
**Jaxon Schwindt**  
John Deere Ag Technician  
Southeast Community College



**Laini Scott**  
Criminology  
Cabrin University



**Lily Shaffrey**  
Pre-Physical Therapy  
University Of Health  
Sciences and Pharmacy  
in St. Louis



**Katherine Siller**  
Veterinary Medicine  
Iowa State University  
College of Veterinary  
Medicine



**Ryenn Sovich**  
Education  
Ursinus College



**Kadence Stroble**  
Pre-med  
University Of  
The Southwest



**Olivia Terry**  
Elementary Education  
College of Coastal  
Georgia



**Madison Tipton**  
Criminology  
University of Idaho



**Rebecca Townes**  
Sport Management  
University of New Haven



**Layne Vascoe**  
Human Resource  
Development  
University of Houston



**Joe Wach**  
Accounting  
Wayne State College



**Kate Wells**  
Counseling  
Walden University



◀ **NFFB  
Scholarships:  
How to Apply**

# Fire Service Community

## Preventing Line-of-Duty Death and Injury

### Online Training Platform Expands in Modules and Users

The Fire Hero Learning Network (FHLN) is the NFFF's online learning platform with training modules designed to engage firefighters and fire officers at the operations and leadership levels. Twenty-two modules are on the site, including seven new training modules added in 2023. The network experienced a 4.2% increase in learning hours during 2023.



*“The Safety in Training module will change how we train and ensure firefighters understand what is expected of them and their instructors. This has changed my thinking about being an instructor and how I can make change.”*

– Fire Hero Learning Network student

## Uniformed Peer Support Groups and Line-of-Duty Death Outreach: Working Together

The Uniformed Peer Support Groups provide support to incident commanders and fire officers directly impacted by a line-of-duty death. In 2023, the Uniformed Peer Support Groups were added to the mission of the Line-of-Duty Death Outreach program, which delivers training to better prepare fire departments that experience a line-of-duty death.

*“I never thought I would experience a line of duty death, but I did, and thanks to the Taking Care of Our Own (TCOOO) program, I was prepared.”*

– TCOOO student and Uniformed Peer Support Group member

*“The Uniformed Peer Support program saved my life. After the loss of my firefighter, I was in a very dark place.”*

– Uniformed Peer Support Group member

## Line of Duty Death Outreach and Research Group

The Line of Duty Death Outreach and Research Group continued its efforts in preparing fire departments for the unthinkable by delivering the insightful “Taking Care of Our Own” Program fourteen times in Alaska, California, Colorado, Maine, Maryland, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Wisconsin. The four-person instructional cadre walks attendees through the aftermath of LODD experiences with first-person accounts from the fire chief and Fire Hero Family perspectives and delivers ready-to-use information on developing and Handling an LODD SOP, along with the behavioral impacts LODDs have on families and departments. The presentations touched over 500 firefighters and officers.

## The Story of Harrisonburg Tower 1

“The Story of Harrisonburg Tower 1” was produced and distributed by the NFFF in cooperation with the Harrisonburg (VA) Fire Department. The video recounts the events that led up to one of their members falling out of a truck during a response to a working fire, and the steps the department took to investigate how the incident occurred, management’s role in the incident, and how to prevent such an event from occurring again. The documentary has been viewed 34,000 times since it was posted on the NFFF YouTube page.

*“What an insightful, thoughtful internal review of something...that could have ended in tragedy.”*

*“This completely took me off guard. Never thought of this happening on a fire rig...Makes you look at riding on the rig completely different.”*



◀ View Harrisonburg Tower 1





## Training U.S. Air Force Firefighters in Japan

In July 2023, Advocates Michael Anderson and Kevin Sehlmeyer traveled to Misawa Air Base – an air base of the Japan Air Self-Defense Force, the U.S. Air Force (USAF), and the United States Navy. Courses delivered included Attributes of Leading, Courage to Be Safe, Leadership, Accountability, Courage, and Knowledge (LACK), and Leadership so Everyone Goes Home to an audience of USAF firefighters, USAF fire instructors, and their Japanese counterparts.



## Impacting Cultural Change Through Experiential Learning and Critical Decision-Making

The NFFF introduced a staff ride program modeled after similar programs from the United States Military and U.S. Forest Service. The staff ride program brings fire officers to a location where a firefighter fatality occurred and “immerses” the attendees in the experience through storytelling by those on the scene when the tragedy occurred. The NFFF also developed and implemented training targeting the decision-making process under stress, to improve how firefighters and officers react to the ambiguity and threats of the job.

*“I wanted to thank you for the opportunity to participate in the staff ride in Asheville. It was absolutely one of the most powerful things I’ve done as a firefighter, and it was an honor to be part of something so groundbreaking.”*

– Asheville, NC Staff Ride participant





# From Stairways to Fairways

## 9/11 Memorial Stair Climbs

There were 42 9/11 Memorial Stair Climbs in 2023, with nearly 13,000 climbers raising \$1,512,308. 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 due to a 9/11-related illness.

Thank you to the participants, coordinators, volunteers, and sponsors of all the 9/11 Memorial Stair Climbs. A special thank you to Pierce Manufacturing and everyone involved in the Green Bay 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb, which raised about \$135,000—the most successful 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb.

## Why I Climb

Stair climbers participate for many reasons – maybe they are honoring a loved one who died on 9/11 or maybe they just want to remind family members that their loss will never be forgotten. Here is an example of why climbers tell us they participate:



There were nearly  
**13,000 climbers**  
at **42 events**, and they  
raised **\$1,512,308.**

*“I have participated in twelve 9/11 Memorial Stair Climbs in Charlotte, North Carolina. Each year, I climb in honor of FDNY Engine 205/Ladder 118. Their company lost eight firefighters on September 11th. The photograph of their fire truck with six of their members driving over the Brooklyn Bridge toward the World Trade Center towers is one of the most memorable images from that tragic day. Every year, when I climb in their honor, I think of their brotherhood and the sorrow these firefighters may have felt climbing up those stairs, not knowing if they were going to make it out. Climbing at the 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb honors those who did not make it home. I will never let these firefighters be forgotten. I think of them every day.”*

– Janet Davis – top fundraiser, volunteer, and participant at the Charlotte 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

### 2023 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

9/11 Memorial Stair Climb at Discovery Park of America  
Baltimore 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb  
Binghamton Fire 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb  
Black Hawk 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb  
Central Kansas 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb & 5K Walk  
Central Pennsylvania 9/11 Memorial Firefighters Stair Climb  
Charlotte Firefighters 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb  
Chicagoland 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 & Walk  
Crosby Volunteer Fire Department 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb  
Denver 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

Dickinson 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb  
Estes Park 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb  
Fayetteville 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb  
FDIC 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb  
Firehouse Expo 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb  
Four Corners 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  
HCESD2 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb  
Knoxville 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb  
Lancaster 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb  
LION Gem City at UD Arena 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb  
Nashville 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

National Capital Region 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb & 5k Walk  
National 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb  
Nebraska 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb  
New Hampshire 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb  
NYSAC FIRE 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb  
Ocean City Memorial Stair Climb  
Philadelphia 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb  
Roanoke 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb  
Rochester 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb and 5K Walk  
Salt River Firefighters 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb  
Sheridan High School 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb  
Springfield Area 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb  
Tri-Cities 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb  
VCOS 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb





## National 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb Moves to US Open Grounds

The National 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb for Fallen Firefighters moved to the Louis Armstrong Stadium at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center. After FDNY Fire Commissioner Laura Kavanagh participated in the climb, she said, "It feels like we're climbing with their strengths on our back." The Development and Marketing divisions collaborated on sponsorships, attendee participation and fundraising efforts, and meeting day-of-event needs.



◀ Watch The National 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

FDNY Fire Commissioner Laura Kavanagh joins in at National 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb



NFFF Board Member Bill Webb and golfers from the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Utah Golf Tournament

*Hosting and participating in the Annual Utah NFFF Golf Tournament shows our continued love and support for the families of our fallen heroes. As a department that has experienced the tragic loss of one of our own in the line of duty, I have seen firsthand what the NFFF does for the families—and I will do all I can to support the Foundation in this important work.*

## Memorial Golf Tournament

The National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Golf Tournaments raise awareness and help sustain the programs of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. In 2023, there were 12 golf tournaments with 2,096 participants, raising \$471,317 – more than \$150,000 than in 2022. See how you can get involved at [www.firehero.org/events](http://www.firehero.org/events).

### 2023 Golf Tournaments

- 4th Annual Metro Atlanta Firefighter Classic
- 8th Annual Southern Maryland Volunteer Firemen's Association Golf Tournament
- 9th Annual Greater Pittsburgh National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Golf Tournament
- 10th Annual Protectowire Golf Open
- 14th Annual Geneva National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Golf Tournament
- 14th Annual Greater Cincinnati Regional National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Golf Outing
- 16th Annual Central Ohio Fallen Firefighters Golf Tournament
- 16th Annual National Fallen Firefighters Golf Tournament hosted by Raleigh Fire Department
- 16th Annual Greater Monroe County National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Golf Tournament
- National Fallen Firefighters Topgolf Tournament
- National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Utah Golf Tournament
- Wiley Gunter's Player's Open for the National Fallen Fire





# Partners and Donors

Our sincere thanks to our partners and donors for their incredible generosity as we 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 Brick of Honor donations.

## Thank You To Our Federal Partners For Their Continuing Support

**Assistance to Firefighters Grant Fire Prevention & Safety Grant**

Department of Homeland Security

**Bureau of Justice Assistance**

Department of Justice

**Emergency Preparedness and Response Directorate**

Department of Homeland Security

**U.S. Fire Administration**

Department of Homeland Security



### TRIBUTE SPONSORS

**\$250,000.00+**

Estate of Mary Jane Purcell  
Motorola Solutions Foundation

### LEGACY SPONSORS

**\$100,000.00+**

5.11 Tactical  
Cintas Fire Protection  
Knox  
Pierce Manufacturing, Inc.  
State Farm Fire & Casualty Company  
Whelen Engineering Company

### GOLD SPONSORS

**\$50,000.00+**

DuPont  
International Association of Fire Fighters  
Motorola Solutions, Inc.  
National Fire Sprinkler Association, Inc.  
Paul Davis Restoration, Inc.  
Safety Components First Responders  
911 Foundation

### SILVER SPONSORS

**\$25,000.00+**

10745 Town Center Boulevard, LLC  
3M Scott Fire & Safety  
Center for Public Safety Excellence, Inc.  
Henry Repeating Arms  
Homes for Heroes Foundation  
IamResponding.com  
Johnson Controls Foundation  
Mission BBQ  
MissionSquare Retirement  
National Association of State Fire Marshals  
National Fire Protection Association  
Protectowire Fire Systems  
Supporting Heroes, Inc.  
Turtle Plastics  
Underwriters Laboratories  
VFIS

### BRONZE SPONSORS

**\$10,000.00+**

1-800-BOARDUP  
AFSA - Chesapeake Bay Chapter  
APS Firehouse Alerting

AXIS Accident & Health  
BFPE International  
Burton & Sandra Zipser Foundation  
Carrier Foundation  
Centura Health  
Crosscreek Photography  
Dyne Fire Protection Labs  
FACETS Consulting  
FM Global Foundation  
Gordon Bernard Company, LLC  
Greater Tucson Fire Foundation  
HR Bristol, LLC  
LION Group, Inc.  
Milliken & Company  
Misawa AB Fire & Emergency Services  
Of Love & Regret  
Ohio Chapter of AFSA  
OSHKOSH Corporation Foundation, Inc.  
PBI Performance Products, Inc.  
Plexus Worldwide  
Provident Agency, Inc.  
Rising Star Casino and Resort  
Runner's Depot



## OUR PARTNERS COUNCIL

### Jason Cannon Trent Smith

3M Scott Fire & Safety

### David Halfpenny

AXIS Accident & Health

### Nick Pickens

Cintas Fire Protection

### Robert Leonard

DKC

### Julie Bunch

Dyne Fire Protection Labs

### Mark Spaniol

Dyne Technologies

### Peter Matthews

Firehouse Magazine

### Daniel Seidberg

lamResponding.com

### Karl Fippinger

International Code Council

### David Levy

Kirkland & Ellis LLP

### Joanne Trempala

Chris Rovenstine

### Neal Zipser

The Knox Company

### Steve Schwartz

LION Group, Inc.

### William Kraus

Steve Newton

Mission BBQ

### Lynne Ford

Aprile Pritchett

MissionSquare Retirement

### Chris Lonnett

Gabriela Williams

Motorola Solutions, Inc.

### Karem Pérez

Wesley Touhy

Motorola Solutions Foundation

### Bill Lawson

Catalina Ciobanu

Bryan Bolden

PBI Products

### Jim Johnson

Dan Meyer

Pierce Manufacturing, Inc.

### Daren D'Ippolito

Jeffrey Siegrist

Provident

### Tom Sri

Raytheon Technologies

### Joey Underwood

Safety Components

### Sylvia Holmes

Safety Components

First Responders 911 Foundation

### Abigail Dreher

Stanley Black & Decker

### Aaron Freund

Mary Ellen Giangiulio

Streamlight, Inc.

### Todd Katz

Tom Smith Fire (TSF) Equipment, Inc.

### Liz Paintiff

Dennis Hildebrandt

Turtle Plastics

### Kirk Alland

Unication

### Scott Harkins

VFIS

### Mark Youngs

Youngs Financial Plannin

Streamlight, Inc.

Tablet Command Inc.

The Arthur J. and Lee R. Glatfelter  
Foundation\*

The Presto Foundation

The Slafkes Family Charitable Giving  
Fund\*

Utah State Fire Chiefs Association

Witmer Public Safety Group, Inc.

## PEWTER SPONSORS

\$5,000.00+

Affliction Holdings, LLC

Ameristar Casino Resort Spa Black Hawk

Dan Anderson\*

Andrew and Jaime Sullivan Family  
Foundation\*

Assistant Chief Richard C. Bacon  
Charitable Trust

Axemen M C New York Chapter 5, Inc.

Bon Secours Mercy Health

Cape May County Fire Chiefs Association

Cintas Corporation - Fletcher, NC

City of Charlotte

CNY Memorial Stair Climb

Contravisory Investment Management

Grayce Cramer\*

D.G. Yuengling & Son

Darley Family Foundation\*

Dunlap, Bennett & Ludwig, PLLC

ESO Solutions

Estate of Kenneth D. Wilson

Family Heritage Life Insurance Company  
of America

Fire & Safety Services LTD

Gail M. Fowler\*

Galls, LLC

Garlic Knot NY Pizza

GP Rochester, Inc.

Lynn G. Hagman\*

Headwall, Inc.

Heidelberg Distributing

Heritage Waste, Inc.

Huntingtown Volunteer Fire Department  
and Rescue Squad

J. C. Cannistraro

Kelmann Cares Foundation

Kevin and Cheryl Kuntz\*

Library Volunteer Fire Company

Live. Give. Run. Foundation

Mason-Dixon Council Boy Scouts of  
America

Melnor Incorporated USA

Brock Naeve\*

National Firefighter Softball Conference

New England Assoc. Fire Protection  
Systems Designers

Oaktree Capital Management, LP

Rockland Trust

Brad and Derain Roper\*

Jory Rubino\*

SAFE-T

Denise Smith and Pat Fehling\*

John and Darcey Steel\*

The Mariner Foundation

Trinity Air Medical

UPPAbaby

Verisk

W.L. Gore & Associates, Inc.

W.S. Darley & Co.

Matt Woodie\*

\* Denotes NFFF Giving Circle Members. To learn more about this prestigious group for individual donors, please visit [FireHero.org/nfff-giving-circle](http://FireHero.org/nfff-giving-circle).



**Troy Markel**  
VFIS  
Chairman of the Board



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

# Board of Directors and Advisory Committee



**Robert Jacobs**  
Maryland State  
Firemen's Association  
Treasurer of the Board



**Chief Joanne R. Rund**  
Baltimore County  
Fire Department  
Secretary of the Board



**Lorraine Carli**  
National Fire Protection  
Association



**Deputy Chief  
William Goldfeder**  
Loveland-Symmes  
Fire Department



**Dr. Sara Jahnke**  
Center for Fire, Rescue  
& EMS Health Research  
NDRI-USA, Inc.



**Edward A. Kelly**  
International Association  
of Fire Fighters



**Michael Leonard**  
Motorola Solutions, Inc.



**David Levy**  
Kirkland & Ellis LLP



**Chief Ernest (Ernie)  
Mitchell, Jr.**  
Fire Chief/U.S. Fire  
Administrator (Retired)



**Dr. Lori Moore-Merrell**  
U.S. Fire Administrator  
Ex-Officio Member



**Chief Kevin D. Quinn**  
National Volunteer  
Fire Council



**Victor Stagnaro**  
National Fallen  
Firefighters Foundation  
Chief Executive Officer



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 preventing 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 related programs for the families of fallen firefighters.

Advisory Committee



**Liza Aunkst**  
Fire Hero Family Member



**Chief G. Keith Bryant**  
Oklahoma State  
Fire Marshal U.S. Fire  
Administrator (Retired)



**Chief Kevin E. Cooney**  
Volunteer and  
Combination  
Officers, IAFC



**Thomas Harbour**  
HarbourFire, LLC  
U.S. Forest Service  
(Retired)



**Matt Kraycinovich**  
Kraycinovich  
Communications, LLC



**Liz D. Paintiff**  
Turtle Plastics



**Nick Pickens**  
Cintas Fire Protection



**Vickie Pritchett**  
National Fire  
Sprinkler Association



**Stephen A. Schwartz**  
LION Group, Inc.



**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.*

# Other Noteworthy NFFF Happenings

## Fallen Firefighter's Widow Leaves NFFF a Generous Legacy of Giving



On December 17, 2000, after playing Santa Claus earlier in the day at the firehouse, Keith Purcell of the Southold Fire Department (SFD) responded to a fully involved garage fire. Purcell, a 16-year SFD member, suffered a cardiac event and died on the scene. Keith and his wife, Mary Jane, had amassed a vintage fire truck collection while they both volunteered with the SFD. Keith was honored at the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial, and Mary Jane became part of the NFFF community.

After Mary Jane died on February 19, 2021, the NFFF learned that she had designated the NFFF in her estate planning, gifting the

NFFF with the vintage fire apparatus collection and her antique collection, including furniture, china, and glassware. Mary Jane intended that the proceeds from the sale of her estate would go toward supporting programs for families of fallen firefighters.

In early 2023, NFFF staff transported the estate to Maryland for an online auction to benefit NFFF programs. The auction raised significant funds to support NFFF programs like the ones that Mary Jane attended after the loss of her husband. The NFFF is deeply humbled to be remembered by Mrs. Purcell and is forever grateful for her generosity.



**Make a Big Impact With a Future Gift**

When you include the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation in your estate plan, your generosity helps honor America's fallen fire heroes and support their families, colleagues, and organizations. Thank you for ensuring that the NFFF can impact those we serve well into the future.



### Sample Language for Your Will

Get the legal language to share with your attorney to make a gift in your will or living trust.

Federal tax ID number: 52-1832634

[Get Sample Language →](#)



### 3 Must-Have Resources

These free guides can help you secure the future for the people and causes you care about.

[Free Resources →](#)



### Not Sure How to Begin?

To get started, answer a few simple questions.

[Get Started →](#)

## New Planned Giving Website

Learn how to include the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation in your estate planning to ensure the NFFF can continue to help those we serve.



◀ [Explore the NFFF Legacy website](#)

## 2023 Congressional Flag Presentation Ceremony

On April 19th, the NFFF, the Congressional Fire Services Institute (CFSI), and the Congressional Fire Services Caucus conducted the 11th Annual National Fallen Firefighters Congressional Flag Presentation Ceremony at DC Fire and Emergency Medical Services Engine 3. During the ceremony, the leadership of the Fire Caucus presented 144 American flags flown over the US Capitol to the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF). The flags represented each of the firefighters on the 2023 Roll of Honor, which included 79 firefighters who died in the line of duty in 2022 and 65 who died in previous years. Senator Jon Tester (MT), Chair of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, and Senator Lisa Murkowski (AK), Co-Chair of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, presented the flags to the Foundation.





## U.S. Fire Administrator's Summit on Fire Prevention and Control

The NFFF was honored to again partner with the U.S. Fire Administration on the U.S. Fire Administrator's Summit on Fire Prevention and Control on October 10, 2023. National fire service leaders and federal government members – along with a virtual audience – addressed the critical issues of the fire service. Presentations were given on the progress of working groups about codes and standards, EV and energy transition, firefighter cancer, firefighter mental health and well-being, fire service recruitment and retention, impact of climate change and the whole-of-government approach.



◀ Learn more about the annual USFA Summit

Throughout the year, the Foundation partners with the U.S. Fire Administration to promote firefighter safety and fire prevention for communities across the United States. In October, the 2nd U.S. Fire Administrator's Summit on Fire Prevention Control was held on the campus of the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD.

## Every Brick Tells a Story

The National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Park in Emmitsburg, Maryland, is a place of great reverence to honor our nation's fallen heroes. One of the components of Memorial Park is the Walk of Honor®. The Walk of Honor pathway has bricks inscribed with personal tributes to honor loved ones, celebrate important milestones like a graduation or anniversary, or show appreciation to others. The Walk of Honor is where stories are shared, connections are made, and memories are preserved.



◀ Be part of the Walk of Honor® tribute





# Looking Ahead

The Foundation's work will always focus on demonstrating our commitment to fulfilling the organization's mission by supporting our Fire Hero Family and memorializing our nation's fallen firefighters. This year, we will continue to create useful programs and resources for our Fire Hero Family members and the fire service to demonstrate that our nation's fallen firefighters will always be remembered.

Below are some of our goals for 2024-2026 based on our most recent strategic plan:

- ▶ Refine and evolve our services offered to meet the growing and changing needs of Fire Hero Families, including families impacted by firefighters who died by suicide.
- ▶ The Fire Hero Family Conference, which will be held in September 2024, will bring together spouses, significant others, parents, siblings, and adult children of firefighters to attend workshops on a variety of topics related to grief, wellness, and self-care.
- ▶ Aspire to customize our approach to service based on the individual needs of each family and fire department impacted by the loss of a firefighter.

## Select 2024 Fire Programs Events

**July 12-14, 2024**

5th annual High School Fire and EMS Cadet, Detroit (MI)

**August 26-30, 2024**

Firefighter Life Safety Summit, 20th anniversary

### Taking Care of Our Own® Training

Taking Care of Our Own® helps fire departments prepare for a firefighter injury or serious injury. The training covers pre-incident planning, survivor notification, family and co-worker support, and benefits and resources available to the families. The Training is available at no charge to fire departments through a U.S. Department of Justice grant.



▶ Attend upcoming Fire Programs Events

Maitland (FL), March 25, 2024

Perryville (MD), April 9, 2024

Easthampton (MA), April 13, 2024

Durham (NC), April 20, 2024

Fords (NJ), April 27, 2024

Miami-Dade (FL) June 20, 2024

- ▶ Create additional resources and training materials for fire departments to be effective tools in preventing preventable deaths.
- ▶ The 20th anniversary of the first Firefighter Life Safety Summit will culminate in a summit in St. Louis, Missouri, in August 2024.
- ▶ Grow our community by collaborating with individuals, corporations, nonprofit organizations, and federal partners to support our mission.
- ▶ Build our toolbox of grief support to serve as a critical resource for like-minded organizations.
- ▶ Expand our Kids Camp capabilities so that all children who wish to may attend.

## 2024 Fire Hero Family Events\*

**May 3-5, 2024**

**National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend**

**June 21-23, 2024**

**Comfort Zone Camp in Memory of Hal Bruno, Camp for Children of Fallen Firefighters for ages 7 - 17**

**June 21-23, 2024**

**Camp HAL (Healing After Loss) for ages 4 - 6**

**September 2024**

**Fire Hero Family Conference**

**December 4-7, 2024**

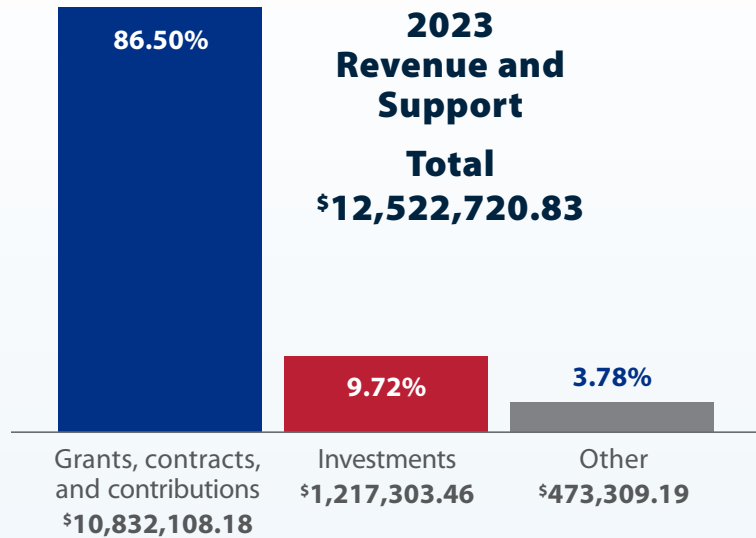
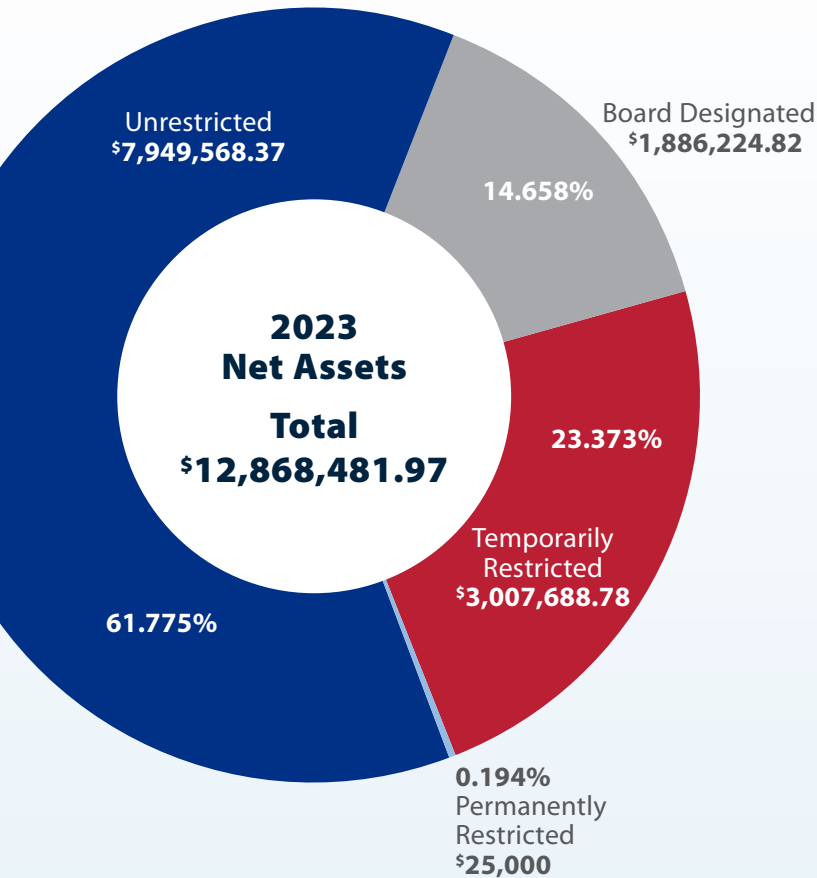
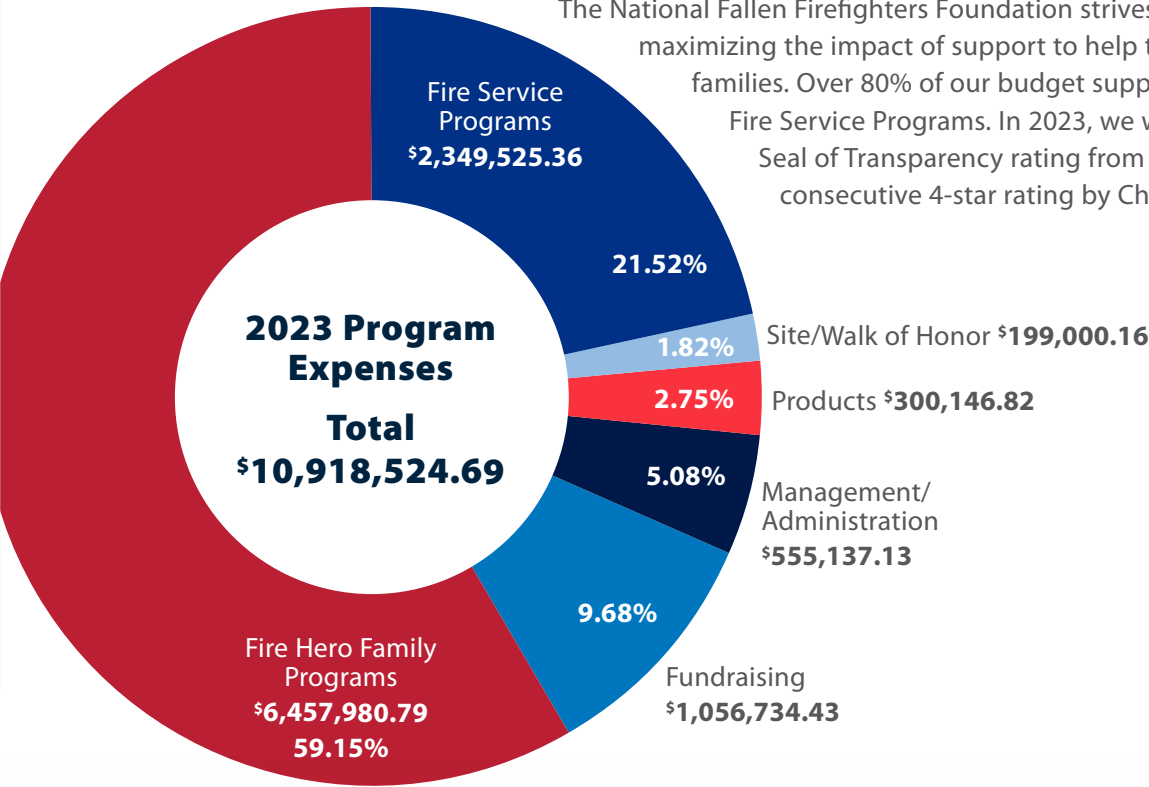
**Fire Hero Family Winter Retreat and Tree Lighting**

\*Dates as of March 25



# Financial Stewardship

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation strives to be a good steward, maximizing the impact of support to help the fire service and their families. Over 80% of our budget supports our Fire Hero Family and Fire Service Programs. In 2023, we were proud to earn a Platinum Seal of Transparency rating from Candid and our seventh consecutive 4-star rating by Charity Navigator.







[WWW.FIREHERO.ORG](http://WWW.FIREHERO.ORG)



**EMMITSBURG**  
PO DRAWER 498  
EMMITSBURG, MD 21727  
**301-447-1365**  
**301-447-1645 (FAX)**

**CROFTON**  
2130 PRIEST BRIDGE DRIVE  
SUITE 6 CROFTON, MD 21114  
**410-721-6212**  
**410-721-6213 (FAX)**

NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION