



FIREFIGHTERS CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

Winter 2021

An Open Letter From Our President

Dear FFCF supporter,

I hope this letter finds you and your loved ones well during this pandemic affected time. It is my sincere wish that you have not suffered physically from the virus and that we can all get through this contagion. We here at FFCF have seen the effects of the virus throughout the nation. We constantly receive requests for grants and aid to assist families in need and firehouses whose income streams have reached dangerously low levels.

Most volunteer fire departments rely heavily on community social events such as pancake breakfasts, chicken dinners, and golf outings to raise funds necessary to provide vital services, to establish a critically important relationship with the community and to achieve fire prevention outreach.

This year, for the first time in a decade, we were forced to cancel our two main events: our Spring Golf outing and our Annual Gala Dinner. One of the important features of our Gala Dinner is the opportunity to highlight the accomplishments of individuals who have gone to extraordinary lengths, sometimes otherwise unnoticed, to assist the less fortunate among us or to help show a path through to those who seem to have lost their way.



Every year we honor a Humanitarian of the Year and we present the Foundation's Hero's Award to selfless individuals whose unheralded, gratuitous acts of kindness further the Foundation's mission. Our honorees have included individuals like Hon. Peter T. King, a staunch supporter of firefighters, who fought tirelessly to secure benefits for 9/11 responders, and Marty Lyons, former NY Jet, who formed his own foundation, and has helped hundreds of children in need. As part of our annual Dinner, we publish a Journal which gives us an opportunity to inform our friends about the deeds of our honorees and allows our supporters to show their love and appreciation for our honorees.

This year there is no Dinner and no Journal, but luckily, there are still humanitarians and heroes. This year, the FFCF Board chose to honor Dave Lemanczyk and Bill Staples. Unfortunately, we will have to wait to present them with awards, but we could not wait to share with you the story of their accomplishments, and provide an opportunity for you to acknowledge them also.

Dave Lemanczyk is the Foundation's choice for 2020 Humanitarian of the Year. Dave is a former Major Leaguer, who pitched for the Tigers, Angels and Blue Jays, during his eight-year career, and served as a scout for the Yankees.

(Continued Next Page)

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

He is a 1973 graduate of Hartwick College and was inducted into its Athletics Hall of Fame in 1995. He is also a 2006 inductee of the Greater Syracuse Sports Hall of Fame. For the past thirty years Dave has run his own baseball academy in Lynbrook, NY, which he calls his "slice of heaven."

Dave has persevered through life-threatening illness and personal loss and has continued to provide instruction to thousands of aspiring young athletes, never letting an inability to pay stand in the way. In addition, quietly, Dave lends his time to dozens of charities and has contributed thousands to charitable causes, including the Foundation. He is a treasured friend of the Foundation.

Billy Staples is the Foundation's choice to receive the 2020 Hero's Award. Billy is a teacher, motivational speaker, author, and baseball historian. After growing up in New Jersey and meeting many of his major league idols, he followed his calling to teaching. As an English teacher, he motivated his students by taking them to meet the same baseball stars that made an impression on him as a young man. He earned two nominations to Disney's "Teacher of the Year."



Later, he founded BEST Scholars, a nonprofit that helps underprivileged youth achieve their college dreams by providing scholarship assistance. Billy uses his personal and professional experiences to change the minds of young people.

We are very proud of this year's honorees and can't wait to present them at next year's Dinner. You can acknowledge their accomplishments by making a much-needed donation to the Foundation in their honor and sending it to us with a congratulatory note to Dave and/or Billy. We will compile all of the notes to our honorees and present them to them in book form together with an acknowledgment of the donations made in their honor.

Sincerely,
Frank R. Tepedino, President.

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Past Honorees

Humanitarian Award

2019 Deborah Barbieri and Al Barbieri , Organ Donor
2018 Joseph Mottola, AIA,H2M Architects and Engineers
2017 Geni Barish, Long Island Breast Cancer Action Coalition
2016 Kevin Hecker, Slomins Inc.
2015 Martin Silver, Star Industries, Georgi Vodka
2014 Bo Orlando, former NFL Player
2014 Darrell Evans, Darrel Evans Bucket List Foundation
2013 Gene Michael, The Gene Michael Celebrity Golf Classic
2012 Frank Catalanotto, The Frank Catalanotto Foundation

Hero's Award

2019 Brian Clooney, NY Port Authority PD, Organ donor
2017 Sal Ferro, Alure Home Improvement
2016 Mark Baisch, Landmark Properties
2015 Tom Verducci, Sports Illustrated
2014 Honorable Peter King, Former US Congressman
2013 John Feal, Founder 9/11 Foundation

We Get Letters

Thanks for the donation to our Department. Be assured that your donation will be used to help us protect the lives and property of our community. Your donation will be used to replace gloves that need to be taken out of service. Thanks for protecting our firefighters

Senecaville Volunteer Fire Department
Senecaville, Ohio

The Barton Hose Co. No. 1 would like to thank you for your donation. We appreciate the donation very much and the concern that your foundation has for the small fire companies in our country. We recently purchased an air cascade system and this money will go towards the payment of this equipment.

John J. Shuhart, Secretary
Barton Hose Co No 1, Inc
Barton, Maryland

Thank you for your recent donation to our department. This donation will help us purchase an electric ventilation fan for our engine and will help us safely and effectively serve our community. We appreciate your support.

Sam Hahn
Fire Chief
Alvord Fire Department
Alvord, Texas

Carrie Tingley Hospital Foundation would like to express our sincerest appreciation to the Firefighters Charitable Foundation for your recent grant. As we pause to reflect on another year of service to the children and families of New Mexico, we'd like to share our gratitude for your support in making it all possible. Because of you, the children and families continue to receive the programming, quality care and emergency assistance that is so needed. This season and all year long, every gift you honor CTHF with makes a real and lasting difference in the lives of children across New Mexico! Thank you for being an integral and treasured part of the CCTHF family.

With Gratitude,
Monet Silva
Executive Director
Carrie Tingley Hospital Foundation
Albuquerque, New Mexico

CUSTER, SD 57730

Dear Firefighters Charitable Foundation,
There are no words to describe how thankful the girls and I are for the generous grant. The money has helped with bills/day care. We truly cannot thank you enough. Not only is our community here in Custer, SD but it extends to New York. It is overwhelming of all the love & support we have received from the community, family, & friends.

Thank you again,
Jenny, Olivia, & Sophia

SEP 21 2020



Safety TIPS

Firefighters Charitable Foundation is dedicated to assisting victims of fire and disaster. We are committed to providing programs and information to promote fire safety and first aid to all. Our web site www.ffcf.org has a section dedicated to safety tips that can help keep you and your family safe and healthy. Please be sure to check it often.



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

WINTER FIRE SAFETY

1. HAVE WORKING ALARMS.

Have smoke alarms & carbon monoxide detectors on every level of the home. Install alarms in sleeping areas. Replace smoke alarms that are 10 years old or older.

2. HEAT WITH CARE.

Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from a heating source. Turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.

3. PLAN YOUR ESCAPE.

Have two ways out of every room in the home if possible and a designated outside meeting place. Ensure everyone in the household can unlock and open all doors and windows

4. CLOSE THE DOOR.

A closed door hinders flames and smoke from spreading. Close the bedroom door when sleeping, if possible. Close doors behind you when escaping a room/building that's on fire.



Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives
Test Yours Every Month!