



Helping Children of First Responders

History

First Responders Children's Foundation was founded 23 years ago following the tragic events of September 11, 2001, when 800 children lost a first responder parent responding to the worst terrorist attack in U.S. history.

“ Nothing is more important than our children. We have a duty to protect the children of first responders because of the risks their parents take every day for all of us. ”

– AL KAHN, Founder and Chairman, First Responders Children's Foundation

Mission

The First Responders Children's Foundation helps the children of first responders and their families heal, grow, and thrive in the wake of hardship, injury, and tragedy. We also aim to create positive relationships between first responder agencies and the communities they serve.

First Responders We Serve

FIREFIGHTERS

LAW
ENFORCEMENT
OFFICERS

CORRECTION
OFFICERS

EMT/
Paramedics

911
DISPATCHERS

FEDERAL/
STATE
AGENCIES



The Need

We address the unique challenges that over 4.6 million first responders and their families in the U.S. face every day.

Over 1,300 Line of Duty Deaths and more than 575 suicides over the past three years.

90+ days before family benefits are awarded after LODD.

A child of a first responder is twice as likely to drop out of school after death of a parent.

First responders children are at higher risk to experience depression and anxiety.

★ Most families find it difficult to send their children to a four-year college that cost on average over \$100,000.

Average Base Salaries



★ 70% of fire fighters, EMTs, and paramedics are unpaid volunteers.

A pipeline of new first responders is key to addressing attrition and burnout.

- ★ 1/3 of EMS workers quit after less than a year.
- ★ 18% increase of police officers resigning in last two years.
- ★ 45% increase of police officers retiring.
- ★ 25% of firefighters leave within the first few years of service.

Program Overview

Emergency Financial Assistance Grants



Scholarships



Mental Health Resiliency Program



Community Engagement Programs





Emergency Financial Assistance Grants

Offering a financial lifeline when unexpected circumstances arise.

- ★ **Bereavement Grants:** financial awards that provide a lifeline when a first responder dies in the line of duty.
- ★ **Financial Hardship Grants:** financial awards that provide allowances for household expenses, such as childcare expenses, mortgage payments, and utility bills.
- ★ **Natural Disaster Response Grants:** financial awards that help families feel safe and provided for while their first responder parent is out saving others.

“ I was beside myself, scared of how we were going to survive after my husband unexpectedly passed away at the age of 42—leaving me and my three young children. FRCF’s bereavement assistance meant I could be there for my children and allow myself to grieve, rather than being distracted by the bills that had stacked up. ”

– Christine, wife of a FDNY firefighter

Scholarships

Our Scholarship awards are more than just financial aid.

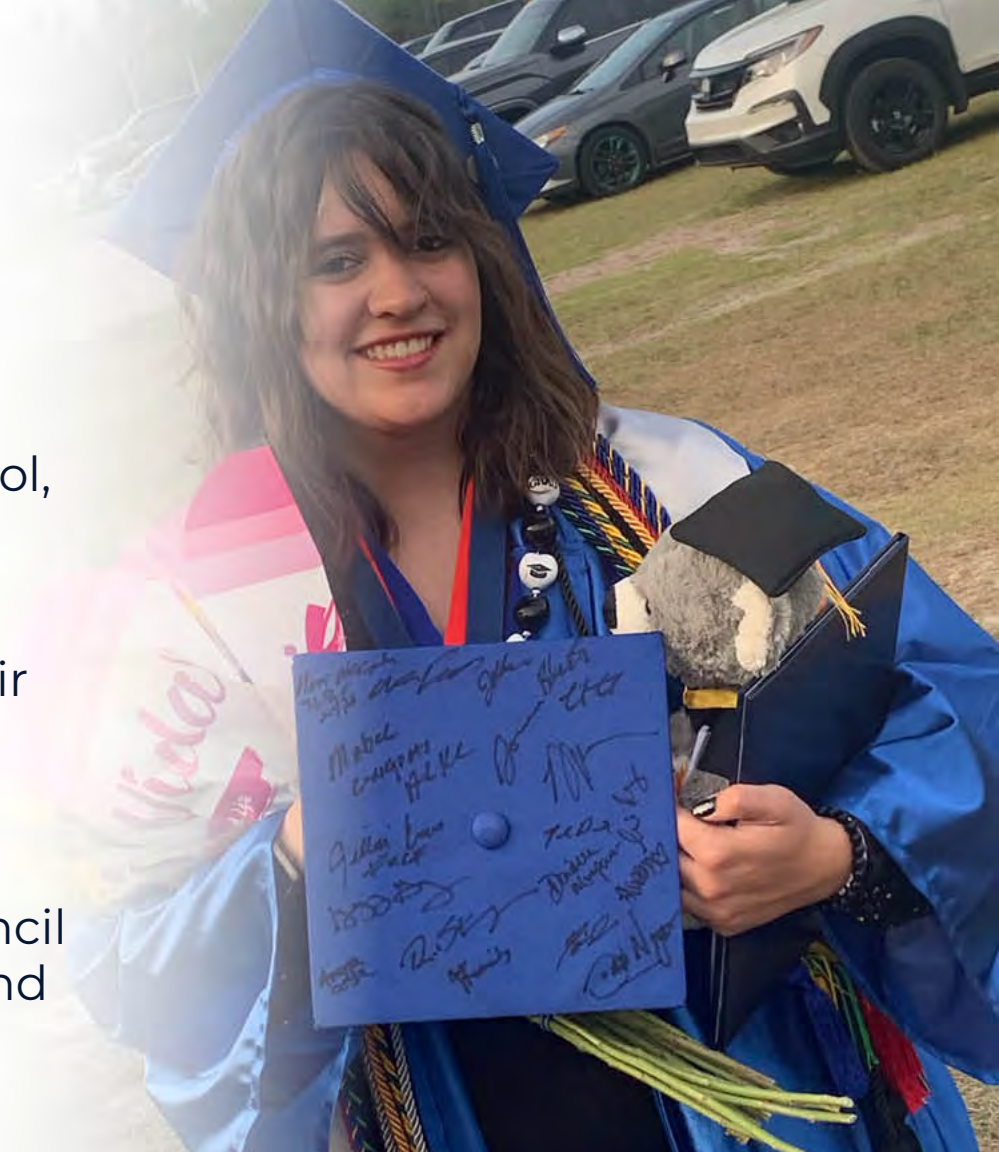
- Catalysts for personal transformation.
- Used to pursue higher education at a college, trade school, or graduate program.
- Alleviate the financial burden of tuition fees.
- Empower first responder children to fearlessly follow their passions.

Scholars Council – A Powerful Community Network

Each Scholarship recipient becomes a member of the Council and gains access to a network of influential professionals and industry leaders who share their personal and professional stories through a series of virtual presentations.

“ The FRCF scholarship allowed me to realize my dream of becoming a nurse. Now I can honor my dad’s sacrifice. ”

– Samantha, daughter of a firefighter battalion chief who died in the line of duty



Mental Health Resiliency Program

Children of first responders carry unique emotional burdens. Our mental health Resiliency program empowers children to:

- **Cope with stress**
- **Manage their fears**
- **Build mental resilience**

We partner with mental health experts in California, Florida, Hawaii, New Jersey, New York, Tennessee, and Texas to provide:

- Free and confidential short-term counseling from licensed culturally competent mental health professionals who specialize in working with children of first responders.
- Family retreats and workshops guided by first responder treatment clinicians, public safety peer support professionals, and child and adolescent specialists.

“ I know when my father leaves for his shift, there’s always a chance I may never see him again. ”

– Delaiah, daughter of a police officer





Community Engagement Programs

Forging healthy relationships and strengthening bonds between first responders and children in the communities they serve.

JUNIOR FIRST RESPONDER CAMPS

- Meet their local first responder heroes.
- Inspires a new generation of first responders.
- Establish positive bonds through activities that focus on teaching kids what first responders do to keep their communities safe.

“ I knew I wanted to be a firefighter when I was six or seven. Even though I'm still a kid, I got to do some of the stuff firefighters do! My favorite part was when you would take out the hose and then advance it to put out a fake fire. ”

– Ethan Hutchinson, Junior First Responder

Community Engagement Programs

TOY EXPRESS

During the holiday season, we help first responders spread joy to children in need. Our distribution events give first responders a chance to bring joy into communities and a much-needed reprieve from the daily stress and trauma that comes with the job.

“ I’ve been in police work since 1989. These last three years of receiving toys for kids and disseminating them is by far the most special moments I’ve been a part of in my entire career! ”

– Tom VanDerWoude, Chief of Police, Village of Decatur, Illinois

2023 National Impact

- **29** Bereavement grants totaling **\$155,000**.
- **415** scholarships totaling **\$1,140,000**.
- **153** first responder children received **754** hours of mental health counseling in six states.
- **54** Financial Hardship grants totaling **\$125,584**.
- **142,000** toys were delivered to over **260** first responder agencies and first responder families.

Over the last **23** years, we have impacted more than **700,000** families and **1.4 million** children through our direct service, grants, and community engagement programs.



Annual Events

Highlighting our partnerships and bringing awareness to our mission and the first responder community.

Thanksgiving Day Breakfast & Parade Viewing

Our annual Thanksgiving Day Breakfast event lifts the spirits of first responder families during an often-difficult time of year. We honor lost heroes and give thanks to active first responders and their families who sacrifice year round to keep us safe.

- Breakfast at the Bryant Park Grill
- Family Fun Zone on 40th Street
- Recognize our scholars
- Messages from partner and agency leaders
- VIP viewing of the Macy's Parade



Annual Events

National First Responders Day

In September 2017, the U.S. House of Representatives designated October 28th as National First Responders Day. Our “Roll Call of Heroes” event in Times Square honors a first responder from each first responder profession. Each first responder receives an award on behalf of all first responders in their fields.



Media Impressions

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.



yahoo!finance

billboard

5,270 Media Hits

\$686,671,175 Ad Value Estimate

3,869,750,639 Possible Impressions



Unborn 'miracle' child of slain NYC cop Jason Rivera gets \$20K scholarship



Patrick Cantlay joins First Responders Children's Foundation as official ambassador

2 Min Read Impact



Corporate Partners



Mackenzie Scott
National Philanthropic
Trust



The Rosewood
Foundation



MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS
FOUNDATION



Turken Heath
& McCauley
LLP
ATTORNEYS
AT LAW
ADVOCATES SERVING THE 9/11 COMMUNITY



PWC Charitable
Foundation



THANK YOU



Jillian Crane
President & CEO
323-440-8097
jillian@1strcf.org

Randy Acosta
Chief Philanthropy Officer
410-937-2986
racosta@1strcf.org

