



FIRST RESPONDERS FOUNDATION



IMPACT REPORT 2025

Mission

The mission of the First Responders Foundation is to serve and honor all our First Responders, Veterans and their families; build appreciation and respect for their work; and enhance public safety.

Vision

Be an organization critical to the maintenance and enhancement of public safety in our communities. To serve as a recognized social impact organization supporting First Responders, Veterans, and families.

This will be accomplished by providing caring support to communities and offering tailored individual and family wellness programs and services for First Responders, Veterans and their families.

By 2030 critical services will expand programs and services, having 20 Chapters in 10 states and national strategic collaborations and alliances.

Brand Purpose

We exist to honor, support and care for the overall well-being of first responders, veterans and their families. We are relentless in our service to First Responders, Veterans and their families out of an immense appreciation and respect for their work and contributions

Brand Values

HONOR

PARTNERSHIP

SERVICE

RESILIENCY

INTEGRITY

Brand Promise

To serve First Responders and Veterans with the same commitment with which they have served.

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MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

First Responders Foundation continued to grow in 2025 with new trainings, new chapters and new partners, all of which strengthened our organization and fueled our efforts to serve first responders, Veterans and their families at an even higher level.

Chapters were created in North Platte, NE, Randolph County, NC and Lawton, OK. All are doing well and serving the brave men and women in their communities.

Our JAVELAN program saw a dramatic increase in those needing service dog training. We constantly search for qualified trainers who help us meet the needs of Veterans and retired first responders. We are committed to being the absolute best resource for these individuals to get their lives back by having a fully trained service dog. In relation to for profit service dog providers, we've saved Veterans and retired first responders over \$7,000,000 in expenses by using their dog should they have one or using a rescue or shelter dog and providing the training at no cost.

Our expanded space for physical health, which was completed this year thanks to a Lowes Hometowns grant, has allowed us to serve our students in a much more trauma informed space. Our specialized curriculum consists of Bullyproof for children and Women Empowered which gives women the skills to protect themselves.

Our behavioral health services newest training, Sleep Recovery, has been heralded by those who have taken the training as transformational; it helps trainees achieve better sleep on a nightly basis, dramatically improving their mental and physical health.

We continue to partner with local municipalities to serve their first responders through behavioral wellness checks and advocate to have all municipalities invest in the mental health of their first responders.

New partners helped expand our reach and highlight the great work we do with new audiences. One was Operation Hat Trick with University of Nebraska athletics which provided an opportunity to be highlighted on the field of a Huskers football game in front of 85,000 fans. Another, Glazer's Beer and Beverage, promoted our partnership on in-store locations across Nebraska featuring Coors Banquet.

We hosted incredible events again this year to honor first responders, Veterans and children of first responders through Guns and Hoses Hockey event at Baxter Arena, First Responder racing, Awards of Excellence, our 9/11 Luncheon of Honor and Appreciation Lunches where we partnered with Chick-fil-A and Omaha Steaks to deliver over 1,100 meals to first responders. Our partnership with Girl Scouts allowed us to deliver nearly 600 cases of cookies to area first responders and Veterans.

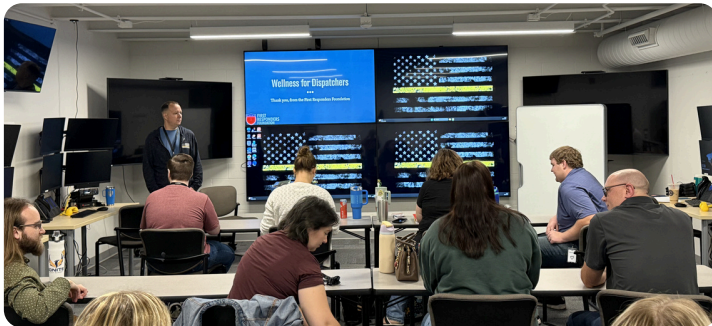
2025 saw our organization grow in new, meaningful ways with nearly 5,000 served. It's our honor to be the leader in care for this population of heroes and we are prepared to continue these vital services in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Todd Sears, President

Behavioral Health

Mental health challenges continue to impact first responders nationwide, yet stigma remains one of the greatest barriers preventing many from seeking help. At First Responders Foundation, we are working to change that culture by creating programs that normalize conversations around wellness, build trust, and provide practical tools for long-term resilience. Through specialized initiatives like Peer Support Training, which equips agencies to support their own from within, and our growing Sleep Recovery for First Responders training, addressing one of the most overlooked factors affecting physical and mental health, we are helping first responders prioritize wellness before crisis occurs.



In 2025, 200 First Responders and their families received counseling, including 162 wellness visits as required by the Omaha Police and Lincoln Police Departments. Our trainers presented 11 Peer Support related trainings and 15 mental health trainings. Our expansion of services included required wellness visits for all First Responders in the city of Fremont, as well as contractual relationships being considered with Lancaster County Sheriff's Office and Lancaster County Corrections. Our behavioral health program also received grant funding in the cities of Fremont and Bennington to train First Responders in Sleep Recovery, free of charge to the individual or department.

"I have had sleep issues for quite a while. I learned enough today to help me tackle those issues. I will also be encouraging others to take this class."



Attendees of Sleep Recovery Training participating in a sleep improvement and relaxation exercise

"I feel more prepared and empowered to be a member on the peer support team at my agency."

"I have attended numerous trainings in my 19 year career and this was clearly the most informative and helpful for my role as a first responder."

**Quotes from First Responders Foundation Training Attendees*

Physical Health



Gracie Jiu-Jitsu Omaha® continues to serve as the primary delivery partner for the First Responders Foundation Physical Health Program, providing structured, trauma-informed self-defense and wellness training designed to improve confidence, resilience, and long-term physical health. Through professionally led instruction rooted in the Gracie University curriculum, the program creates a safe and inclusive environment where first responders, families, adults, women, and youth can build practical self-defense skills while strengthening both physical and mental well-being.

In 2025, the Physical Health Program demonstrated strong and measurable growth, expanding overall participation by 18.3% while serving 251 individuals through trauma-informed self-defense and youth development programming. The program generated 7,175 verified class check-ins and maintained an average weekly attendance of approximately 138 participants, reflecting consistent long-term engagement. Strategic facility improvements from the Lowes Hometowns grant, expanded programming capacity, and sustained demand across both youth and adult services positioned the program for continued impact in strengthening the physical health, resilience, and overall well-being of first responders and their families.

In 2026, the Physical Health Program will continue building on this year's momentum by expanding partnerships that better integrate physical training with behavioral health and resilience programming. Future initiatives include exploring law-enforcement-specific training opportunities, and continuing to grow family and youth programming, allowing entire families to enjoy training and building resilience together.



Pictured: A family whose children began training at Gracie Jiu-Jitsu Omaha® in 2023. Both parents and children now train and they have been supported by our programs through the transition into law enforcement.



JAVELAN

Operation Hat Trick and University of Nebraska Athletics, supporting JAVELAN

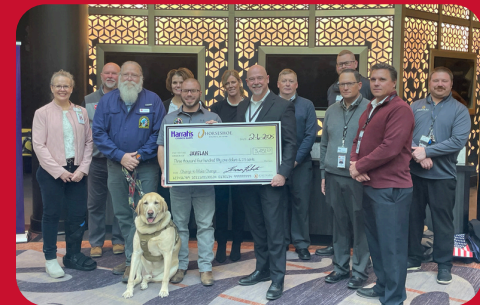
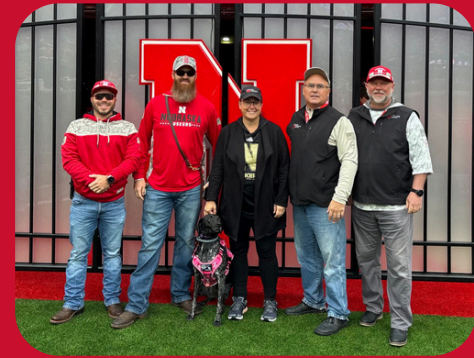


FIRST RESPONDERS FOUNDATION
JAVELAN | SERVICE DOGS FOR HEROES

The JAVELAN Service Dog Program continues to provide life-changing support to Veterans and first responders by pairing them with highly trained service dogs while empowering each handler to actively participate in their dog's training. This hands-on approach equips participants with the skills to strengthen the bond with their service dog and build confidence in managing future training needs.

In 2025, JAVELAN received 38 applications, with 40 handlers actively participating in training. During the year, 21 teams successfully graduated, including 19 Veterans and 2 first responders. Reflecting our commitment to giving deserving dogs a second chance, four service dogs were rescued from shelters and placed into the program, continuing JAVELAN's mission of changing lives for both handlers and the dogs who serve alongside them.

JAVELAN was proud to experience meaningful partnerships within the community in 2025. Events benefitting JAVELAN included the K Rush Golf Tournament, River Runners Offroad event, and Tee it up for the Troops Golf Tournament. JAVELAN was also excited to be featured by Operation Hat Trick and UNL, who provided funding and recognition on the field at a Nebraska football game. With the continued support of these community events, JAVELAN will continue helping retired first responders and Veterans in 2026.



Chapter Development & Growth



*Lincoln Chapter Golf Fundraiser
\$40,000 raised*



*Sioux Falls Chapter Golf Fundraiser
\$15,342 raised*

In 2025, the First Responders Foundation continued to strengthen and expand its chapter network, adding three new chapters in Randolph County, North Carolina; Lawton, Oklahoma; and North Platte, Nebraska, bringing our total number of active chapter locations to 8 nationwide. This growth reflects our continued commitment to building local support systems that empower communities to directly serve the health, wellness, and resiliency needs of First Responders, Veterans, and their families.

Throughout the year, FRF Chapters led impactful community-driven initiatives including fundraising events, equipment support for local agencies, peer support training sponsorships, mental health initiatives, and direct financial assistance for First Responders in need. As our chapter network continues to grow, these local leaders remain a vital part of expanding FRF's mission and creating meaningful, lasting impact in the communities they serve.

Events, Community Collaborations & Fundraisers

Foundation Events

Awards of Excellence - Awarded to 30 children of First Responders
5th Annual Guns & Hoses Hockey Challenge
9th Annual 9/11 Luncheon of Honor
16th Annual Appreciation Lunches

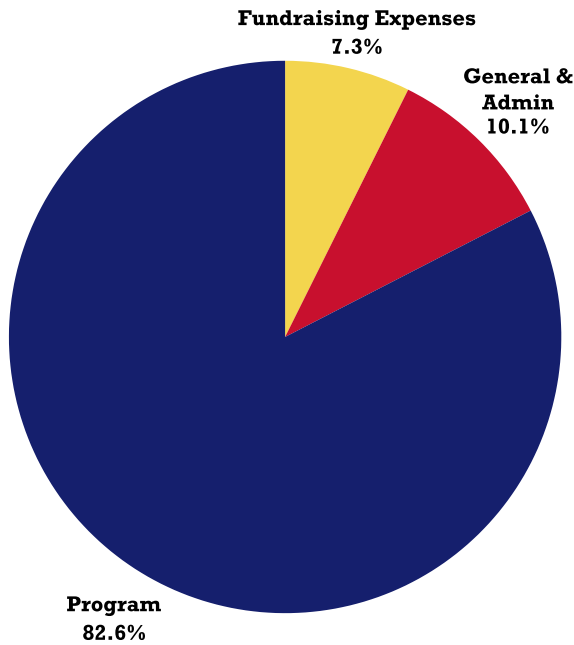
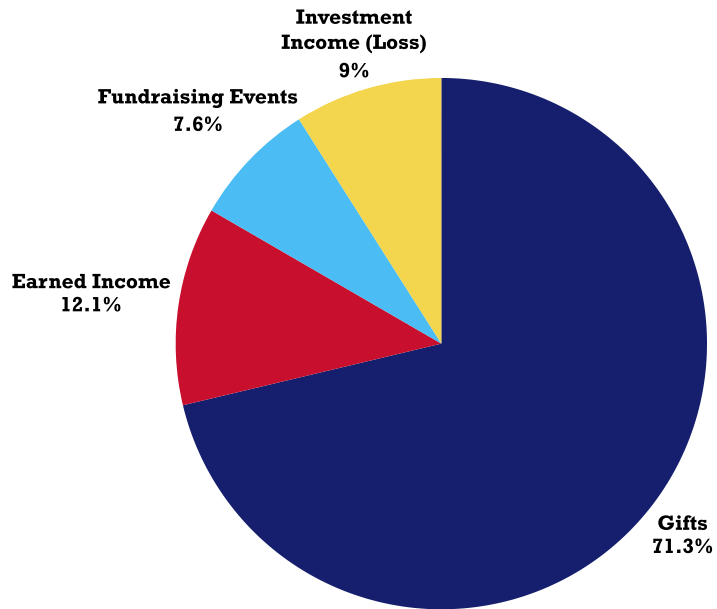
Community Collaborations & Fundraisers

Colbalt Credit Union Golf Tournament
College World Series of Omaha, INC - Awards of Excellence Honorees
Columbus Trunk or Treat
Council Bluffs Wellness Fair
First Responders Bowl
First Responders Race Team
Girl Scouts Spirit of NE
Glazers Beer & Beverage
Harrah's Casino
Hero Fest at SAC Museum
Herostock
Horseshoe Casino
ICAN Conference
John Sing Memorial TMA Training Day
K Rush It Golf Tournament, honoring Kevin Rush Spl Agent/Fire Investigator
Kim Foundation - Behavioral and Mental Health Resource Fair
Lowes Red Vest Day
Makers Mark Private Selection First Responders Barrel
Mutual of Omaha
Nebraska Eagles
Northwestern Mutual
NU Athletics
Omaha Baseball Village
River Runners Offroad/Barricade Go Topless Day
Sarpy County Wellness Fair
Share Omaha - Do Good Week & Giving Tuesday
Southern Glazers Wine and Spirits
Tee It Up For The Troops Golf Tournament/JE Dunn Construction
Trevor Forever Golf



2025 Financials

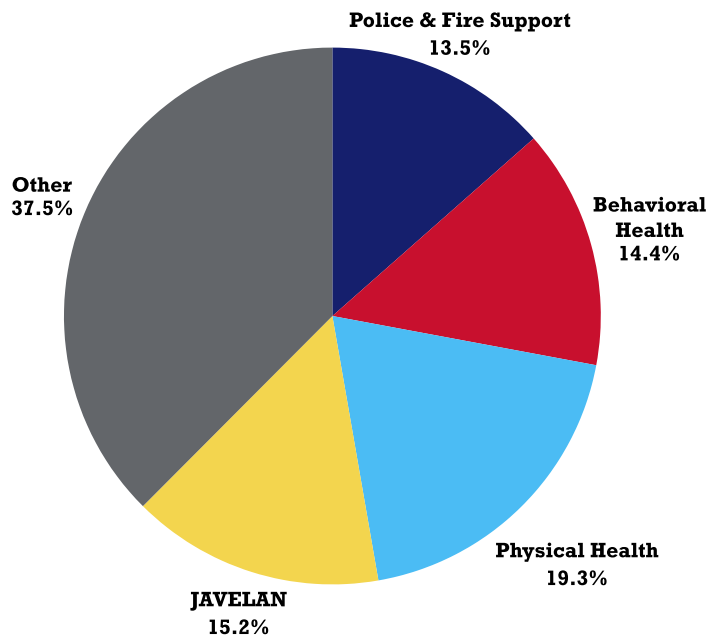
Total Revenue
\$1,472,902



Total Expenses
\$1,308,637



Total Program Expenses
\$1,080,478



TOP DONORS OF 2025



***Sherwood Foundation
Linda and Nelson Gordman
Hawks Foundation
Rod Rhoden Foundation
Anonymous
Lowe's Hometowns
Roy & Gloria Dinsdale Foundation
Operation Hat Trick
Farm Credit Services of America
Woodmen of the World
Walmart
SAC Foundation
Thrivent
Access Bank
Fiserv
Charles & Mary Heider Family
Foundation
Nebraska Soldiers Foundation***

Every gift is important to us and greatly appreciated.

TOP DONORS BY EVENT

GUNS & HOSES HOCKEY CHALLENGE:

URGENT CARE CLINIC OF LINCOLN

WOODMENLIFE

CHI HEALTH

BLUE CROSS & BLUE SHIELD OF NEBRASKA

9/11 LUNCHEON OF

HONOR:

FISERV

WOODMENLIFE

CHI HEALTH



AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE:

*COLLEGE WORLD SERIES OF
OMAHA*

TIMOTHY & JONNA HOLLAND

ROBERT & BETSY NELSON

ROTARY CLUB OF OMAHA

NORTHWEST

CHARLES SEDERSTROM

CAROL STOLP

APPRECIATION LUNCHESES:

CHICK-FIL-A

OMAHA STEAKS

I-GO VAN & STORAGE

NFM

PREMIER MIDWEST BEVERAGE



FIRST RESPONDERS FOUNDATION

10605 Burt Circle Omaha, NE 68114
402-218-1234

Chapters

Council Bluffs, IA Chapter

Papillion, NE Chapter

Lincoln, NE Chapter

Sioux Falls, SD Chapter

Douglas County Corrections, NE Chapter

Randolph County, NC Chapter

Lawton, OK Chapter

North Platte, NE Chapter

To learn more about our impact and how to support our mission visit:

www.firstrespondersfoundation.org

