



• *FIRST RESPONDERS FOUNDATION* •

# 2018 ANNUAL REPORT



*Our mission is to serve and honor all our First Responders and their families, build appreciation and respect for their work, and enhance public safety.*



• OUR LEADERSHIP •

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Jim Hanson, Jr., Chairman*  
*Ray Somberg, Chairman Emeritus*  
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*Charles V. Sederstrom, Esq.*  
*Gary Steiner*  
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*Mike Wagner, MD*

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

*Melanie Bates*  
*Omaha Fire Department*

*Tim McCaw*  
*Omaha Fire Department*

*Dan Stolinski*  
*Omaha Fire Department*

*Darci Tierney*  
*Omaha Police Department*



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

*The First Responders Foundation has had a year of exciting accomplishments and bittersweet moments as we said farewell to and honored our founder and Executive Director, Ray Somberg. We also welcomed our new President and CEO, Major General, (Retired), Allen Batschelet.*

*We continued our support to Omaha's Fire and Police Departments as well as the citizens of our communities, staying true to our proven causes, programs and commitments. We provided important and useful equipment to the Greater Omaha area's first responders as well as our friends and neighbors, valued in the tens of thousands of dollars – making our communities safer and our businesses more productive.*

*Building on our successes and legacy, we are focusing on an exciting new path, a path that will lead to a better place to live and work, raise a family, and do business in the Greater Omaha area. Next year is our Tenth Anniversary and it will prove to be an even more exciting and rewarding year of operation!*

*I would like to thank all the donors, volunteers and friends of the foundation for their generous time and support, with a special debt of gratitude to the first responders and their families who make our community safe.*

*It has been a pleasure to serve in the role of Chairman for the last two years. I look forward to serving many more years of active involvement with the First Responders Foundation.*

*James R. Hanson, Jr.  
Chairman*



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*This year began a new chapter for the First Responder Foundation, as Ray Somberg our co-founder and Executive Director transitioned his responsibilities to me. From Ray's earliest conception of the foundation until Oct 2017 he ably guided and led the organization, fulfilling the Vision, Goals and Objectives set out by the founders and board members.*

*As transitions provide opportunities, Ray's and the board's desire was to grow the role of the foundation in the Greater Omaha area, to meet the public safety needs of our communities first responders, and their families. Toward that end, we are moving forward with a strategy to grow the foundation, programmatically, geographically and to expand the served demographic of first responders.*

*I am proud of what we have accomplished this year. We opened the foundation's first office. We added programs to address issues of mental and emotional well-being for our first responders and their families and work is moving forward to establish chapters in the Greater Omaha area. The foundation is also well on its way to serving our communities as a thought leader and solution provider for issues of public safety, security and emergency management.*

*Our fundraising activities also continue to grow under the leadership of our Fundraising Co-Chairmen Gary Steiner and Charles Sederstrom. To meet the growing community demands, we continue to work on diversifying our sources of revenue consisting of events, grants, donors, fee for service, individual and corporate Booster Club memberships and selling of branded merchandise.*

*Next year we will celebrate our Tenth Anniversary and as a part of this celebration we plan to continue core programs and develop the next steps in the foundation's growth. I look forward to updating you as we continue to achieve our goals in 2019.*

*Thank you for making this year a success!*

*Allen W. Batschelet  
Major General, USA (Ret.)  
President and CEO*



## OUR CORE PROGRAMS: **POLICE AND FIRE SUPPORT**

**New!**

### First Responders Support Team

First Responders Foundation is dedicated to helping first responders struggling with PTSD and chronic stress. This year we expanded this effort to include the First Responders Support Team (FRST). FRST is a collective of specialty trained mental health providers who have dedicated themselves to working with first responders and their families. They offer “Stronger Together” workshops, private counseling sessions, peer meetings and serve as a source for referral.

**New!**

### JAVELAN

The First Responders Foundation has partnered with JAVELAN, Inc. to expand their valuable program support to wounded first responders. JAVELAN provides training for medical service dogs as well as supplies and support to first responders and military veterans with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), and other associated physical and mental injuries. To the maximum extent possible, JAVELAN utilizes rescue and shelter dogs, thus also saving these animals from possible euthanasia.





## OUR CORE PROGRAMS: POLICE AND FIRE SUPPORT

### Material, Equipment and Other Initiatives for First Responders

We experienced a significant demand for support this year from businesses, public safety and law enforcement departments, academia and civic leaders to address immediate and future needs across a broad spectrum of issues. To address these needs we have created a Equipment and Education Fund where local law enforcement departments can apply for needed funding. This year we expanded our initiatives to the Greater Omaha area through the following:

- Provided Bleeding and Shock Kits for the Omaha Fire Department to be best prepared for mass casualty events.
- Purchased a stage for use at the Omaha Police Academy for graduations, ceremonies and other events.
- Purchased protective garment bags for the Omaha Police Department's Honor Guard.
- Purchased ice machines for Omaha Fire Department stations.
- Assisted with the updating of a prisoner transport van for the Omaha Police Department.
- Provided water to first responders who were working at the College World Series.
- Provided theatre seating for Omaha Fire Department Station #1.
- Sponsored an Omaha Police Department K-9 Officer at the National Interdiction Conference in Colorado, The conference was a high energy, criminal interdiction training, and networking conference highlighting the trends and techniques used by the criminals who destroy our communities, in addition to the techniques used to identify and apprehend them.





## OUR CORE PROGRAMS: **POLICE AND FIRE SUPPORT**

### **Kerries Causes**

The foundation oversees a memorial fund in honor of fallen Omaha Police Department's Officer Kerrie Orozco. This year over \$15,000 was raised and distributed to 10 local charities and service organizations to help Kerrie's legacy of humanitarianism live on in our community by ensuring the longevity of the causes closest to her heart. Groups supported were: Special Olympics Nebraska, Big Dogs Huge Paws, First Responders Foundation, Nebraska C.O.P.S., Iowa C.O.P.S., BPOA, UNO Foundation, Boy Scout Troop #97, and Boys and Girls Club of the Midlands.

### **Mounted Patrol**

The Mounted Patrol program was established to support the Omaha Police Mounted Patrol and other horse patrol units in the Greater Omaha area by providing needed equipment, care and training. Thanks to a generous gift from a donor, this year we were able to help expand the capacity of the mounted patrol law enforcement officers to address the growing need for large venue safety and security for events like the College World Series and Berkshire Hathaway annual meeting - through procuring and caring for horses.

### **Kobus Memorial Fund to benefit OPD's K-9 Unit**

In response to the community's loss of K-9 dog Kobus, we set up a Memorial Fund to support the Omaha Police Department's K-9 Unit and the Gary and Mary West K-9 facility. For the second year this fund continued its valuable support to help fund needed training and equipment for the K-9 unit.

### **Care for Alley the Arson Dog**

Our foundation was thrilled once again to have the opportunity to assist the Omaha Fire Department in providing necessary supplies, equipment and veterinary care for the long-term care of Alley the Arson Dog.

### **Awards of Excellence**

On April 26th, 2018, at Champions Run our Booster Club presented ten \$500 Awards of Excellence scholarships to high school seniors. Recipients must have a parent who is a first responder and have demonstrated outstanding commitment to community. Next year we plan to double the number of scholarships to twenty.

### **First Responder Appreciation Lunches**

On June 7, 2018 we successfully held our 8th Annual Appreciation Lunches Program with volunteers hand-delivering over 946 lunches to all the police and fire stations around town, often brown sack lunches decorated by grateful children, as a small, fun way to say "thank you." Sponsors included: Arby's, C&A Industries, First National Bank, Ideal Water, Omaha Steaks and Rotella Italian Bakery, Inc.



## OUR CORE PROGRAMS: **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

**New!**

### **UNO Capstone Public Administration Project**

The foundation worked with the University of Nebraska's School of Business and was one of many businesses and organizations who participated in their masters program's Capstone Project. Masters student, John Kelley developed an excellent report on the set up of FRF chapters or affiliates across Nebraska. The purpose of this course is to allow students to integrate their graduate public administration course experiences into a project that reflects the cumulative knowledge gained from their class instruction.

**New!**

### **Tri-County Fire Corps Exploring Program**

In cooperation with the Greater Omaha area fire departments, the Tri-County Fire Corps Exploring Program, and Metro Community College, we sponsored an unique opportunity that not only encourages students to consider careers in firefighting or volunteer service with local fire departments, but also increases community awareness of fire safety and first aid, and builds the students' confidence and leadership skills. Importantly, the program provides a pathway to post-secondary studies such as the Fire Science Technology courses at Metro Community College. The program held its inaugural session in Spring of 2018 and was a success, with 18 graduates. Given the success enjoyed and demand across the Greater Omaha area the program expanded, adding an additional Fall session. Next year the program hopes to hold three sessions per year with twenty students each.

**New!**

### **Crisis Intervention Support (CIT)**

The foundation has begun to work with the Heartland Crisis Intervention Team to provide Mental Health professional co-responders to assist law enforcement officers responding to individuals with a mental health incident. During the next three years we will provide support necessary to increase the number of CIT sessions offered to first responders, to included the expansion to provide Mental Health First Aid to officers, Mental Health Assessment training for all officers, and CIT refresher courses to keep the practice current.

**New!**

### **BluePrint NE Participation**

The foundation is a member of Blueprint Nebraska's Community and Vitality Industry Council.





## OUR CORE PROGRAMS: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### Public Outreach and Education Program

We served as a liaison between first responders and community leaders to support community-wide events, education programs and other public relations activities, to build respect and appreciation for first responders. Some of these events were:

#### Inquoris "Inky" Johnson Motivational Speech

On May 14th we partnered with OPD to sponsor a presentation by Inky Johnson. Mr. Johnson is an American motivational speaker and former college football player. The event positively affected more than 700 young people in North Omaha. His presentation focused on ways to positively influence kids to see their worth and long term possibilities through an individual they can relate to and can make an impression.

#### First Responder Tribute Statue

The foundation and several of its board of directors contributed to a statue honoring first responders and was placed in Ralston, NE. This project was that of Boy Scout, Tyler Richards, Troop 282, for his Eagle Scout Project.

#### Community Events

Special thanks to our many dedicated volunteers who gave their time and commitment so we could have a community presence at the following events:

- Cocoa with a COP
- First Responders Hockey Night with the UNO
- Mavericks at Baxter Arena
- Keep Kids Alive 25 Drive Walk
- 55th Security Forces Police Week Golf Outing
- American Red Cross Smoke Detector Install
- National Police Week Memorial Service
- Honor and Sacrifice Flag Presentation
- First Responders Night at I-80 Speedway
- First Responders Night with the Storm Chasers at Werner Park
- Baxter Arena Car Show/First Responders Foundation
- Scout Day
- Aksarben Village Pet Festival
- KerrieOn 5k
- Creighton University Soccer Game
- Visit with Santa at OPD Southeast Precinct
- Cops and Bobbers
- Bomb Pop with a COP





## OUR CORE PROGRAMS: **PUBLIC SAFETY**

**New!**

### Public Safety and Security Roundtable

On October 29, 2018, the foundation hosted its first Public Safety and Security Roundtable sponsored by Security National Bank. Omaha Police Chief Todd Schmaderer, Omaha Fire Chief Dan Olsen and Douglas County Sheriff Tim Dunning were the guest speakers. Over 30 Omaha business leaders came together in a frank, off-the-record discussion with guest speakers to discuss a broad range of issues concerning their fields. Similar events will be held quarterly.

**New!**

### Home Safety Program

We continued to partner with the Omaha Fire Department, the American Red Cross, and the Eastern Nebraska office on Aging, and installed free tamper-proof, and long-lasting combination alarms in every home in under-served areas within the Greater Omaha area. Our goal is for Omaha to be the first city in the country to have all the homes in low-income areas protected with this critically important device that saves lives and keeps people safe in their homes. Next year we plan to expand the scope of this program to include safety railings, access ramps and other home safety equipment. Additionally, volunteers will provide in-depth home and fire safety education, both in English and Spanish.

**New!**

### Community Safety Program

This new program, currently in the planning phase, will begin in 2019. This would not have been possible without the generous grant from the Hartford Insurance Company. Coordinating with the Omaha Public Schools, we will combine two educational programs developed by the American Red Cross (ARC) and Omaha Fire Department (OFD), to educate elementary school students on fire safety and prevention, and emergency preparedness.





## DEVELOPMENT

The First Responders Foundation's Development Committee is responsible for obtaining charitable donations that constitute a large percentage of the foundation's revenue generation. The foundation does not receive funding from government sources. With an increase in general donations this year, charitable giving and funds raised at events like Guns N Hoses and our Dinner of Honor remain the foundation's major source of unrestricted operating funds. To keep up with increased demand from first responders and the community, the foundation began to diversify our sources of revenue consisting of events, grants, donors, fee for service, individual and corporate Booster Club memberships and selling of branded merchandise. Our first annual fundraising plan was also developed to guide us towards our financial goals. Improvements to the website and a "ways to give" section created new pathways for donors to show their support for the foundation's core programs and initiatives.

**New!**

### Vehicles for Charity

This new fundraising initiative was rolled out in the Spring and will make arrangements to pick up your vehicle or have it towed free and provide you with a tax-deductible receipt at no charge to you.

### Booster Club

The foundation continues to offer the public the opportunity to support the Greater Omaha area first responders through direct financial donations. Membership remained steady. Next year we hope to expand membership benefits to include a newsletter and a category for community organizations and local businesses to show their support for first responders.

### Guns & Hoses

On April 28th, 2018 the foundation held its 2nd annual Guns & Hoses charity boxing event at Baxter Arena raising over \$100,000. Attendance peaked 4,000. Special thanks to our Honorary Chairman, Mike Cassling and this year's sponsors: Mantality Health, NP Dodge, Applied Underwriters, Scheels, Omaha Track, Brickhouse Tavern, and OrthoNebraska. In-Kind Sponsors were: Sure Lights and Sound, LAMAR, NRG, CHI, and PIP Printing and Signs.

### Dinner of Honor

On September 27th, 2018 at the Omaha Marriott Downtown in the Capital District we held our Inaugural Dinner of Honor. Over 200 attendees, lead by c-chairman Hal and Mary Daub helped us honor and induct our first honorees into the National Society of Saints Florian and Michael. This year's inductees were Deryl Hamann, Nelson and Linda Gordman, Ray Somberg and Mary West.

**New!**

### National Society of Saints Florian and Michael

This year we created The National Society of Saints Florian and Michael and presented awards on two levels. The Honorable Order of Saints Florian and Michael is awarded to those individuals who have demonstrated the highest level of financial support to the First Responders Foundation in support of the foundation's vision, mission and programs. The Ancient Order of Saints Florian and Michael is reserved for those members of the community who have provided long-term and exceptional service to first responders and their families through their enduring and exceptional acts of giving or acts of selfless volunteerism.

**New!**



## BALANCE SHEET

**FIRST RESPONDERS FOUNDATION  
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (MODIFIED CASH BASIS)  
DECEMBER 31, 2018**

**ASSETS**

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 429,258
Property and Equipment	
Furniture and Equipment	8,572
Horse	6,500
Less accumulated depreciation	<u>(1,605)</u>
Property and Equipment, Net	<u>13,467</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ <u>442,725</u></b>

**LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS**

**LIABILITIES**

Credit Cards Payable	\$ 9,836
Payroll Liabilities	4,616
Sales Tax Payable	<u>47</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>14,499</b>

**NET ASSETS**

Without Donor Restrictions	230,650
With Donor Restrictions	<u>197,576</u>
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b><u>428,226</u></b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ <u>442,725</u></b>



## INCOME STATEMENT

### FIRST RESPONDERS FOUNDATION STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES (MODIFIED CASH BASIS) FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018

	WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS	WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS	TOTAL	
<b>REVENUE</b>				
Contributions	\$ 120,769	132,333	253,102	
Special Events Revenue	186,592	-	186,592	
Less: Costs of Direct Benefits to Donors	(93,375)		(93,375)	
Net Revenue from Special Events	93,217	-	93,217	
Interest	533	-	533	
Miscellaneous	6	-	6	
Merchandise Sales, Net	(12,021)	-	(12,021)	
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>202,504</b>	<b>132,333</b>	<b>334,837</b>	
<b>NET ASSETS RELEASED FROM RESTRICTION THROUGH SATISFACTION OF DONOR REQUIREMENTS</b>	<b>58,513</b>	<b>(58,513)</b>	<b>-</b>	
<b>TOTAL REVENUE AND NET ASSETS RELEASED FROM RESTRICTIONS</b>	<b>261,017</b>	<b>73,820</b>	<b>334,837</b>	
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Fundraising Expenses	99,587	-	99,587	28.3%
General & Administration Expenses	101,100	-	101,100	28.7%
<b>Program Expenses</b>				
Police and Fire Support	107,546	-	107,546	30.5%
Community Engagement and Awareness	28,205	-	28,205	8.0%
Public Safety	15,919	-	15,919	4.5%
<b>Total Program Expenses</b>	<b>151,670</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>151,670</b>	<b>43.0%</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>352,357</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>352,357</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Change in Net Assets	(91,340)	73,820	(17,520)	
<b>NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	<b>321,990</b>	<b>123,756</b>	<b>445,746</b>	
<b>NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 230,650</b>	<b>197,576</b>	<b>428,226</b>	



## MAJOR DONOR LIST

### \$25,000 & ABOVE

Nancy Mammel  
Mary West

### \$10,000 - 24,999

BRPC, LLC  
Mantality  
Michael Cassling  
Farmers Insurance  
The Hartford

### \$5,000 - 9,999

Anonymous Donor  
Applied Underwriters  
CHI Health Medical Center  
Mike Fahey  
H. Lee and Carol Gendler Charitable Fund  
Mutual of Omaha  
Nebraska Medical Center  
NP Dodge Real Estate  
Debbie Bremer/Pip Printing & Marketing  
Hector Orozco  
Omaha Police Officers' Association  
Omaha Track Inc.  
OrthoNebraska  
Jaime Rorie  
Mary Rosenthal  
Charles Sederstrom  
Sure Sound & Lighting  
Slosburg Family Charitable Trust  
Valmont Industries Inc.

### \$1,000-\$4,999

13th Street Brickhouse  
Arby's  
Keith Basham  
Allen Batschelet  
Mogens Bay  
Berkshire Hathaway Energy  
Bucky's Convenience Stores  
C&A Industries, Inc.  
City of Omaha Police Department  
Commercial Flooring Services  
John E. Corrigan  
Cubby's  
Hal Daub  
Douglas County Board of Education  
Downtown Omaha, Inc. Foundation  
Ed M. Feld Equipment, Company, Inc.  
Erickson & Sederstrom  
Nitin Garg  
FireGuard  
Ike & Roz Friedman Foundation  
GetMe Registered  
Government Systems Software & Svcs  
Heartland Strategy Group  
Hemphill Search Group  
Rick Homan  
Ideal Water  
Steven Idleman  
Petra Koslosky  
LaRue Coffee Charitable Foundation  
LAMAR  
MECA, Inc.  
Moglia Family Foundation  
Robert Nelson

Murray Newman  
Northern Natural Gas  
NW Rotary of Omaha  
Jay and Nancy Noddle  
Omaha Firefighters Local 385  
Omaha Police Federal Credit Union  
OPPD  
Omaha Steaks  
Order of the Sons of Italy, Nebraska  
Chapter  
Dr. Paul Paulman  
Sharon Rassmussen  
Silvia Roffman  
The Scoular Foundation  
Scheels  
PJ Schenarts, MD  
Security National Bank  
Todd Simon  
Ray Somberg  
Leonard Sommer  
Stack Sports  
Gary Steiner  
Chris O'Sullivan  
United Seeds, Inc.  
University of Nebraska Foundation  
Milton & Miriam Waldbaum Family  
Foundation  
Tiffany and Ryan Wade  
Mike Wagner, MD  
Walmart  
Young Chiropractics



## YOUR GIFT SUPPORTS OUR MISSION

The First Responders Foundation has been designated as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization by the Internal Revenue Service. Accordingly, donation to the foundation are tax-deductible.

A donation of securities is a great way to make a significant difference in the lives our first responders, while reaping some tax benefits. Your gift can be in the form of shares, bonds or mutual funds. Please contact us so we can assist you with your gift.

First Responders Foundation  
2800 South 110th Court  
Omaha, NE 68144  
412-218-1234  
firstrespondersomaha.org

To donate, visit our website or send in the form below with your gift.

☐

☐

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

☐ YES! I accept the invitation to support the First Responders Foundation.

I would like to make a gift today (circle one)    \$1000    \$2,500    \$5,000    \$10,000    Other \_\_\_\_\_

☐ This is an anonymous gift

☐ Check enclosed payable to the First Responders Foundation

☐ I'd like to pay by credit card (please complete below)

Charge my credit card (circle one)    Visa    MasterCard    Discover    American Express

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_

Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_



• *FIRST RESPONDERS FOUNDATION* •

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