

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

### FIRST RESPONDERS FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Committee:
Gary Steiner, Chairman
Steiner Consulting Inc.
Director since 2014

Allen Batschelet, First Responders Foundation President & CEO Since 2018

Mary Rosenthal, Vice President NP Dodge Real Estate Director since 2016

Debbie Bremer, Secretary PIP Marketing, Signs & Print Director since 2014

Mike Corrigan, Treasurer Access Bank Director since 2021

Jim Hanson, Chairman Emeritus InTouch Communications Director since 2011 Members:
Gary Gates
Kathy and Gary Gates Fdn.
Director since 2019

Mike Fahey Retired Title Insurance Executive and Former Omaha Mayor Director since 2014

Charles V. Sederstrom Erickson Sederstrom Director since 2014

Dr. Paul J. Schenarts, M.D. UNMC Director since 2018

Dr. Mike Wagner, M.D. CHI Health Director since 2018

Christian Bohrer Verizon - Public Sector Director since 2019 Leria Bray NP Dodge Real Estate Council Bluffs Chapter Chairman Director since 2019

Todd Sears Omaha World Herald Director Since 2020

Ex Officio Members: Assistant Chief Tim McCaw Omaha Fire Department

Capt. Sherie Thomas Omaha Police Department

## A New Home For The First Responders Foundation



The highlight of 2020 was a new First Responders Foundation facility! The new Wellness Center opened in March at 10605 Burt Circle in Omaha. The Wellness Center houses administrative offices, Behavioral Health Services through our FRST Program (First Responders Support Team), the JAVELAN Program that provides funding for training service dogs, and a new Physical Health/Fitness Department, all uniquely designed and exclusively for first responders, veterans, and their families. All classes and programs are provided to help these individuals to be emotionally strong, physically fit, financially secure, and spiritually sound.

"Making the move and getting "set up" has taken a lot of time, energy, and resources provided by some amazing businesses, organizations, volunteers, staff members, families, and board members. We would not be where we are today without all of those who have made this possible." Al Batschelet, President and CEO

## A year's overview

### LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO AND BOARD CHAIRMAN

We are proud to be a part of the First Responders Foundation and share with you our recent news and successes! For over 12 years, we have collectively addressed community safety issues and funded equipment solutions for our community. In 2020, we expanded our programs and services to better address behavior and physical health issues in first responders and their families, as well as opened a new First Responders Facility. This new location will hold programs geared toward first responders and their families maintaining the ability to keep overall mental, physical and spiritual well-being.

This is a time like no other in our communities. COVID -19 continues to produce uncertainty and trauma in our communities. Social unrest has provided another level of stress to our first responders and their families. By now, we have all been impacted by this virus or an injustice, which has been devastating for so many. Despite the challenges we are all facing every day, this is also a time that is bringing out the best in many people—from the healthcare staff and first responders fighting on the front lines, to the community providing donations. We are proud to play a critical role in this fight by partnering with first responders and supporting our community.

It is our goal to serve and honor all our first responders and build appreciation for their work. The Foundation is here to support those on the front lines when they need it and to enhance public safety. We have made strides towards these goals, but unfortunately, gatherings made opening the doors to a new location unpredictable, and we haven't yet been able to fulfill our goal completely.

When the pandemic and social unrest erupted, we took immediate steps to ensure the support of our first responders. We have ramped up physical health equipment, brought on new team members, and maximized the facility space to provide virtual and in-person services.

We are all in this together.

This year has been particularly difficult as it has been for many social impact organizations. Without the physical gatherings for fundraising events, Guns and Hoses, and the 9/11 Luncheon of Honor, our operating dollars have been strained. Your support has been and is now appreciated more than you will ever know, and allows us to continue our programming. We thank the private citizens, the organization, and the businesses who have supported the Foundation this year making it possible to make a difference in the lives of first responders and their families.

In 2021, we hope all continue to support those who cross your path. Continue to donate supplies, continue making financial contributions, and say "thank you" to those serving.

Sincerely,

Allen W. Batschelet, Major General, USA (Ret.)

President and CEO

Gary Steiner

Chairman











Impact #1 in 2020 - Ambassadors of The Community Omaha Police
 Chief Todd Schmaderer thanks the First Responders Foundation for being
 ambassadors of first responders in the Omaha metro and surrounding
 areas. Chief Schmaderer shares how the Foundation has positively
 impacted first responders. We thank Chief Schmaderer for his support of
 the Foundation.

"They [First Responders Foundation] provide solid motivation and understanding of what we do. They [First Responders Foundation] push our mission to a degree that is impactful to the hearts and minds of the Omaha area." - Chief Todd Schmaderer

 Impact #2 in 2020 - Hand Sanitizer Project, providing hand sanitizer to those in need. The First Responders Foundation partnered with Patriarch Distillers/Soldier Valley Spirits to provide hand sanitizer to first responders and other organizations, making an impact in the community and providing for those in need.

In April and May 2020, 84 different first responders organizations and others from Corrections, Sheriffs, Police, Fire, EMS, State Troopers, Dispatch, long term care, assisted living, dialysis clinics, dentists, physical therapists, rehab centers, VNA, DCH, United Health Care, One World, and homeless shelters were assisted, for a total of 13,900 people assisted and 675 gallons of hand sanitizer distributed.

This collaboration reached geographically more than 20 communities, as far a North Platte, NE, and into Iowa. The trucking company, Greater Omaha Express, assisted with distributing the hand sanitizer.

Calls began to come in from all over the state of Nebraska and some in Iowa. Diann Swigart, FRF Coordinator of Community Engagement, tells of a call that came from Lincoln, where the woman became overjoyed when she was told she would be getting the hand sanitizer.

Diann said, "It sounded like she started to cry when I told her about the sanitizer. This project has been quite emotional for me and others."

• Impact #3 in 2020 - The National Society of St. Florian and St. Michael.

The National Society of St. Florian and St. Michael is a way to honor the Hero in your Life. First Responders are inducted into the National Society and they receive a challenge coin and certificate. The challenge coin is two-sided - one side is the patron saint of firefighters, St. Florian, and the other side is St. Michael, the patron saint of law enforcement. A recent inductee is Deputy Chief Ken Kanger of the Omaha Police Department. Deputy Chief Kanger was nominated for his commitment to public safety for nearly 25 years serving the Patrol Unit, Homicide, Crime Analysis, Gang & Narcotics, Special Operations, and the Criminal Investigations Bureau. Others inducted in 2020 are Lt. Robert Jones, Douglas County Sheriff's Office, Jen Wolsleben, Firefighter, Cedar Bluffs Fire & Rescue, and David Sobotka, Omaha Police/Omaha Fire and handler of Alley, the Arson Dog.











- Impact #4 in 2020 Opportunities for first responders to be Physically Fit and Spiritually Sound. These are two goals the Foundation focused on this year. An independent class held at the Foundation fulfilled both goals. Rock Solid for Jesus is a class for women, who meet on 12 consecutive Saturday mornings for exercise and devotions, in the new Wellness Center. The class gave these women an opportunity to be both physically fit and spiritually sound. This generous group of women also donated \$500 to assist with utilities.
- Impact #5 in 2020 #Support Blue, Supporting Law Enforcement! 2020 was very eventful for law enforcement in the metro area. The First Responders Foundation and the community rallied around the police and sheriff's departments to show support and appreciation. A huge thank you to the community, organizations, and businesses, for all the donations that the Foundation was able to disperse throughout the metro and surrounding areas. The support was overwhelming.

Jodi Teal, FRF VP of Operations and Development shared, "A simple note was put out on our social media sites announcing the collection of items for first responders. Immediately the outpouring of supplies began to roll in. The Foundation collected 1000's of cases of water and sports beverages, protein bars and beef jerky, hundreds of different snack items, sunscreen, lip balm, and more! Along with these very necessary items, were cards and well wishes from all ages thanking first responders and letting them know they care."

• Impact #6 in 2020 - Appreciation Lunches to First Responders. The First Responders Foundation was proud to show appreciation and provide lunch to approximately 1,000 first responders this year, during the 11th Annual Appreciation Lunches. Special thanks to Chick-fil-A, Omaha Steaks, Premier Midwest Beverage, and Nebraska Furniture Mart for providing food, drink, and storage to make this day possible. The lunch bags were decorated by school children from Picotte, Joslyn, Standing Bear, Sunny Slope and Ezra Elementary Schools

Jim Hanson, FRF Chairman Emeritus reported,

"To get kids involved, every year we reach out to different schools to decorate lunch bags for us to put the lunches in for delivery. The lunch bags highlight the impact that first responders have on our youth. The pictures that the kids draw, and the messages of admiration and appreciation are inspiring. We have been told by the first responders that this is one of the things they look forward to the most each year."

Impact #7 in 2020 - Mask for Many Project. In 2020 the Foundation had
the wonderful opportunity to partner with the Douglas County Health
Department, Omaha Fire Department, Omaha Police Department, CHI
Health, and the Medical Reserve Corps-Eastern Nebraska, to provide
masks for those most vulnerable to COVID-19 in our community. Nearly
150,000 masks were distributed! To help support the program financially
the Foundation also sold reversible #SupportRed/#SupportBlue masks.









- Impact #8 in 2020 Free Golf Event for First Responders. The First Responders Foundation partnered with Lance Juett Insurance Agency Inc., Farmers Insurance Group, and Chad McMahon owner of The Good Life Sports Bar and Grill, to sponsor a free golf tournament for first responders. This was to show appreciation to first responders for all they do for the community every day. One hundred and forty-four first responders enjoyed an amazing day of golf, representing departments all over the metro area. Special thanks to Lance and Chad for providing the golf day and the following hole sponsors for making the day even more fantastic!
  - o OrthoNebraska
  - Everyday Grind Coffee
  - Bio-One of Omaha & Omaha Hoarding
  - Patriarch Distillers/Soldier Valley Spirits
  - FireGuard
  - Graphite Lock
  - Nebraska Medicine
- Impact #9 in 2020 Assisting retired first responders and veterans with training service dogs through our JAVELAN Program. The JAVELAN Program provides funding for service dog training for our nation's heroes. This unique program many times uses rescue dogs and the recipient assists with the training. This significantly lowers the cost which is approximately \$3,500 per team. It also reduces the time it takes to get the dog into the first responder/veteran's life. In 2020 the Foundation featured Team Suz and Ginger. Suz knew that something had to change. She was not doing the activities she loved and she was not enjoying life. Then along came Ginger! Ginger helps Suz survive the PTSD, along with anxiety, depression, and some physical disabilities she suffers from due to her time in the military.

JAVELAN graduated 19 teams in 2020.

"Javelan provides our nation's heroes with trained medical service dogs as well as a support team to assist in their journey to independence and reintegration to society and their community, regardless of ability to pay."

Tim McAlpine Director of the Javelan Program

• Impact #10 in 2020 - The First Responders Foundation Boosters. The Boosters make a difference in the lives of local first responders. Too often we don't think to thank first responders until a tragedy strikes. Memberships help us proactively support and assist our first responders through scheduled events and programs. Most importantly, the Boosters is a simple way to thank first responders for risking their lives for us each and every day. This group of donors helps the Foundation continue with programming for first responders, veterans, and their families. Monthly Memberships start at \$5/month. Corporate memberships are also available.









• Impact #11 in 2020 - Offering Behavioral Health Services for First Responders. In March 2020 the Foundation hired Jason Workman as the full-time Director of Behavioral Health and the FRST Team (First Responders Support Team). Jason is a licensed clinician and is one of many clinicians working for the FRST Team specializing in working with first responders, first responder's spouses/significant others, and adolescents of first responders. In 2020 Jason served 42 individual clients, 28 individuals participated in workshops, 60 people received crisis intervention. 49 spouses were served, 191 individuals received Peer Support Training, 140 received Suicide Prevention Training, 63 attended Unit Educational Sessions, and 27 people participated in Equine Assisted Activities.

Jason shared, "2020 has been a difficult year for everyone, Covid, societal unrest and the decrease in respect to those who serve our communities. Many would say 2020 is the worst year to open a wellness center for first responders. I would say it is the perfect time, as we are now seeing established services meeting the needs of our first responders' mental and behavioral health needs during one of our nation's most challenging times"

• Impact #12 in 2020 - Being part of the Tri-Country Fire Corp. The Tri-County Fire Corp program is for students ages 16-19 to learn about careers in fire services through classroom instruction and hands-on experience. The students meet for ten weeks on Saturday morning at different locations and fire stations. Students are trained in CPR/AED, fire extinguishers, ropes and knots, hose rolls, search and rescue, ladders, HAZMAT awareness, and ventilation. The program concludes with a graduation ceremony where each student receives two certificates, one for CPR, and one for Stop The Bleed. The Foundation is proud to be a part of this fantastic program that is a collaboration between local area fire departments and businesses.

In 2020 the Foundation shared a story about Hannah, a graduate of the Tri-County Fire Corp Explorers program.

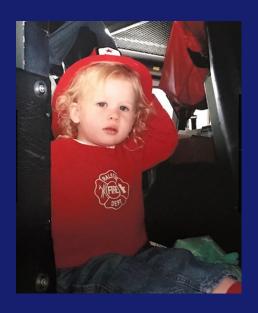
Hannah told us, "This program has been beneficial to me in many ways. When I took the class, Firefighter 1 at MCC, I already had a general knowledge of most of the things that were taught in class. That was very helpful. It also helped me decide to pursue my career as a firefighter."

Tim McCaw, OFD Assistant Chief explains, "I hope this program lights a fire under the cadets for a career in fire. This is a great way to prepare for the future."

<u>Impact #13 in 2020 - Providing care and equipment for Alley, the Arson</u>

<u>Dog.</u> The Foundation is honored to have a fund that helps provide for Alley's training, training aids and certificates, her veterinary care, and food. Alley helps keep our community and firefighters safe. As an accelerant sniffer, she is able to detect even minute amounts of accelerants used to start fires.









## 20 impacts in 2020

• Impact #14 in 2020 - Awards of Excellence for children of first responders. The First Responders Foundation Awards of Excellence program has existed for four years. This year 32 high school seniors who are children of local area first responders were recognized. These students demonstrate good character, balanced achievement, and outstanding commitment to the community. Department represented in 2020 included Omaha Police Department, Omaha Fire Department, Douglas County Sheriff's Office, Papillion Fire Department, Council Bluffs Police Department, and Crescent, IA, Volunteer Fire Department.

"The Awards of Excellence rewards these talented young people with a check for \$500 presented at an annual awards ceremony for them and their families. As we review each application and the many things these students have accomplished so far in their young lives, it should give us all hope for the future. And, to the recipients, the Awards of Excellence gives each the taste of success, and hopefully an encouragement to pursue their dreams." Bob Nelson, Chairperson of the AOE Committee.

"I am reminded of all the ways my dad's occupation has impacted my life. From the time I was a baby, I participated in training drills for fire departments and paramedics. I don't think I'll ever be fighting fires or rescuing people from burning buildings, but I still want to make the world around me a better place with how I spend my time." Noelle, AOE 2020.

Impact #15 in 2020 - Providing smoke/carbon monoxide detectors to those in need in our community! Smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and other home safety equipment are essential for a family's safety. There are many elderly people and low-income families in need of these items. The Foundation is proud to partner with local fire departments to install combination detectors for those in need. Over \$23,000 worth of detectors were purchased this year. This program is 100% donor/grant-funded.

"Keeping people safe in their homes is an important part of the work that we do." -Al Batschelet, President & CEO

• Impact #16 in 2020 - Programs and Workshops offered by the FRST Team. The First Responders Support Team (FRST) offers many programs and workshops for first responders and their families. Some of the programs are Peer Support Training & Groups, Suicide Awareness, With Honor Workshops for retiring first responders, Substance Use Support Groups, Yoga, Individual Counseling, Spouse Support Groups, and Spouse Workshops, Stronger Together Workshops, and more. Due to COVID many of the programs were held via Zoom. Video conferencing will continue in the future when being together in person is not an option.

Kevin and Kay Erickson are both first responders and attended the Stonger Together Workshop. Kevin who is law enforcement, said "I am fortunate with Kay having experience in medicine and working in the ER that "she gets it". The workshop helped us identify new ways to communicate in a more civilized manner when disagreements occur, and how to see the other person's perspective. We also learned communication strategies that work for us during crisis and non-crisis situations, from other couples in the workshop."









- Impact #17 in 2020 Supporting Firefighters/#SupportRED. 2020 was a tough year for firefighters (and police officers) for many reasons including COVID 19 and civil unrest. The FRST (First Responders Support Team) provided training and workshops for fire departments throughout the year. With the help of the community and many businesses and organizations, it has been our pleasure to provide snacks and beverages to local fire departments. Also, we partnered with Verizon to "Feed the Frontlines" and set up deliveries to 100 frontline first responders for 21 days. A total of 2100 meals were delivered to first responders and medical front-line workers to show appreciation for their dedication and commitment to our communities 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, even during a pandemic.
- <u>Impact #18 Serving Dispatchers</u> Part of our mission is to show appreciation and respect to Dispatchers. We were happy to be able to do that in 2020 in various ways.

Here is what 911 Operator Lindsay had to say about FRF. "The FRF has been a bright light to 911 operators and dispatchers through providing occasional lunches and through events. Some highlights this year include the night of Honoring Female First Responders. We had lots of fun learning self-defense moves. First Responder Yoga nights are also a great way to slow down and move better. My favorite part of yoga is the sweetest dog, Minnie (FRF Office Dog), who likes to join! "

Dispatchers are a lifeline every day, a calm voice walking hurting people through emergencies and tragedies. We thank Lindsay and all Operators/Dispatchers for their lifesaving service to our communities 365 days a year.

• Impact #19 in 2020 - Suicide Prevention Training for First Responders.
One of the most important trainings our FRST program provides is Suicide Prevention Training. The FRST trains individuals, departments, organizations, and also trains the trainer for suicide prevention. Suicide prevention is most effective when first responders can lean on their own teammates. Unfortunately, first responders are more likely to die by suicide than in job-related or line of duty deaths. Omaha Firefighter, Justin, lost one of his best friends and co-worker, fellow Omaha Firefighter Jeremy, to suicide.

"Jeremy was struggling and never talked to anyone about it. No one could have predicted it, not the closest people in his life. Having the First Responders Support Team has been so helpful for me in my journey." - Justin Cooley, Omaha Firefighter

• Impact #20 in 2020 - Improving Public Safety in the Community. Hal Daub, former mayor, and community leader praises the Foundation's public-private partnership for the positive impact it has on the community. The programming and financial assistance of the Foundation have improved public safety for the metro area and beyond.

"First Responders Foundation is a big deal in Omaha. The First Responders Foundation is unique in the country. It's a model, one that is growing in importance."

Hal Daub, Attorney, former Omaha Mayor and U.S. Congressman

## DONORS

#### \$25,000 & ABOVE

DHHS - Response & Recovery ACT

Fahey, Mike

Kim Foundation

Omaha Community Foundation DC

Stabilization

**Sherwood Foundation** 

Small Business Administration

Woodmen of the World

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

American Charitable Foundation Bremer Restaurant Management **DHHS - STABILIZATION ACT** 

Elevate Cycle

Fraternal Order of Eagles NE State Aerie

Hawks Family Charitable Fund

NE State Auxiliarty Fraternal Order of

**Eagles** 

Omaha Community Foundation - CARES

**Omaha Steaks** Sederstrom, Charles Union Pacific Foundation

Verizon

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

639 Warrior Advocates

Alorica

**Applied Underwriters** 

CHI Health Chick-fil-A

**Electrical Contractors** 

Farmers Agents Charities of Omaha Inc

Fraternal Order of Eagles Gordman, Linda & Nelson inFaith Community Foundation Lance Juett Insurance Agency

Macqueen Equipment

Mary West Donor Advised Fund Nebraska Methodist Health System

Omaha Northwest Rotary Foundation Inc.

OPPD

OrthoNebraska Petruzzello, John **SAC** Foundation Starks. Katie **Union Pacific Ties** 

United HealthCare Community Plan, NE

UPS Foundation, Inc.

### \$500 - \$4,999

Access Bank **Anderson Family** Anderson, Rod & Kim

**Anonymous** 

Basham, J Keith & Stephanie Batschelet, Allen & Terri BELFOR USA Group, Inc.

Berkshire Hathaway Home Services

Berry, Richard

Blue Cross Blue Shield

Bluff City Lodge No 71 AF & AM

Boudreaux, Blake Buckeye Partners LP

Burke, Tim

Charles E Lakin Foundation

**Charleston Homes** Clark, Kimara

College World Series of Omaha **Commercial Flooring Systems** 

Cormier, Alan

Cox Communications Daub, Hal & Mary Deloitte Services LP DeRoin, Twink **Enterprise Holdings** 

First Presbyterian Church

Floor Techs, Inc. Fraser Stryker

Gates, Gary and Kathy Girl Scouts Spirit of Nebraska Grand Chapter of Nebraska

Graphite LLC Gunn, Susan Hamann, Deryl

Hoberman, Gerald & Leslie Holland, Timothy & Jonna

Hough, Geraldine

Idelman, Steven & Sheri

Ike & Roz Friedman Foundation

K Rush Golf Event Kay, Debra

**Kiewit Companies Foundation** 

Knights of Columbus

Knights of Columbus Assembly 2540 LaRue Coffee Charitable Foundation

Lougee, Nancy

M&T Swanson Family Fund MidAmerican Energy Company

Millard American Legion Post Rider #374

Millard, Mark & Denise

### \$500-\$4,999

Morgan Properties **NE Furniture Mart** 

Nebraska Suicide Prevention

Coalition

Nelson, Robert & Betsy

Nestle Purina Network for Good

Nevarez, Ruth - Rock Solid for Jesus Northern Natural Gas Employees Nutrien Ag Solutions - Asher, Keith

Otis, Don & Rita

Palmer, Leslie and William

Patriarch Distillers/Soldier Vallev

**Spirits** 

Petekavich, Tom & Kaleigh Petersen, Taylor and Andrew

**PIP Printing Co** 

**Pottawattamie County Community** 

Foundation

**PSCU** 

Richard M Spire American Inn of

Court Roffman, Silvia Scheels

Schenarts MD, Paul Security National Bank Shuurin Dojo, LLC Simon, Todd and Betiana Singer, Lynette and William

Smith, Adam

Smith, Tsgt J.E., Ret Srinivasan, Nandu & Patty St. Paul's Lutheran Church Steiner Consulting, Inc.

Steiner, Gary A Stolp, Carol

Suburban Rotary Club Charitable

Foundation

T.A.P. into Fitness & Nutrition LLC

**TD** Ameritrade Teal, Jodi Thrivent T-Mobile Tran, Tammy

**UP Railroad Company** 

Vettel, Todd VFW Auxillary Walmart

Warren Distribution

Wier, Susan

Young Chiropractic

# FINANCIALS



Miscellaneous 5.1%

Earned Income & Misc. 3.9%

Special Events Revenue 5.2%



**Revenue** \$925,399

Contributions 83.8%



Our 2020 strategy and financial plan was built and executed to end the year with a capital reserve.

Reserved funds will be invested in 2021 to grow our Wellness Center. **Expenses** \$759,732

Program Expenses 65%

Fundraising Expenses 17%

General & Administrative Expenses 18%

## Follow us on Social Media



www.firstrespondersfoundation.org



www.facebook.com/firstrespondersfoundation



twitter.com/frfomaha



instagram.com/frfomaha

## **Council Bluffs Chapter**



www.firstresponderscouncilbluffs.org



www.facebook.com/firstrespondersfoundationcb



twitter.com/frfbluffs



instagram.com/frfbluffs

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