



FIREFIGHTERS CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

2014

Firefighters Charitable Foundation Holds 2nd Annual Gala

On November 21, 2013, The Firefighters' Charitable Foundation held its 2nd Annual Dinner Gala at The Chateau Briand, in Carle Place, New York.

Beyond the funds raised in support of the Foundation's mission, the Dinner Gala was very successful, bringing the stories of charitable and humanitarian heroes to life. The event gave Foundation supporters a chance to meet and mingle with over two dozen former professional athletes, mostly ballplayers, and the officers and directors of the Foundation. More importantly, it showcased a number of individuals whose lives personify the mission of the Foundation,

Over 300 guests began the evening obtaining autographs from, and taking pictures of and with, the former professional athletes and celebrities, while enjoying a feast of appetizers.

The athletes/celebrities present included, Maxcine Agee, Tony Balsamo, Fred Cambria, Frank Catalanotto, Dom DeMola, John Halama, Bud Harrelso, Ed Kranepool, Dave Lemanczyk, Tito Landrum, Ed Lucas, Gene Michael, Ross Moschitto, Billy Sample, Art Shamsky, Judy Sladky, Billy Staples, Ron Swoboda, Frank Tepedino, Bob Tufts, Jose Valdivielso, Fred Valentine. (Story Continued on Page 3)



Oklahoma Tornado

A devastating disaster struck our nation on April 17th, and Firefighters Charitable Inc. was able to do its part in helping to rebuild the affected area and give aid to the victims. A massive fertilizer explosion in West, Texas injured 160 people and took the lives of fifteen. The blast was so strong, many people in the surrounding area described it as feeling like an earthquake. Toxic fumes filled the air surrounding the explosion and many families were displaced. While the tragedy affected hundreds, the majority of men whose lives were taken in the explosion were local rescue workers. FFCF was able to donate funds to the West Volunteer Fire Department in West, Texas to help with this tragedy.

Texas Explosion

The mission of Firefighters Charitable Inc. is not only to help the victims of fires, but also to help the victims of natural disasters. FFCF did just that in the aftermath of the tornado that devastated Moore, Oklahoma on May 20th, taking twenty four lives and injuring 377 people. In Moore, bordering Oklahoma City, an estimated 1,150 homes were destroyed, and there was an estimated \$2 billion in damages. One elementary school had 75 children and staff present when the tornado struck. FFCF helped to put substantial financial aid in the hands of the victims by making a donation to the City of Moore Fire Department in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and efforts are still underway in rebuilding the areas affected by the damage.

Our Mission

- Assist the victims of fire & disaster
- Aid children in need
- Provide grants to charitable organizations
- Support programs for Fire Safety and First Aid Education
- Support Volunteer Fire Departments

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A Message From The President...

As every year passes, it becomes more and more evident how much we appreciate all the help and support we receive from individuals and organizations around the country. 2013 could not escape disaster. The year began with ongoing Superstorm Sandy relief efforts, and continued with another natural disaster in Oklahoma and a massive fertilizer explosion in Texas. Our organization continuously strives to provide direct aid to victims in addition to donating to other nonprofit organizations and volunteer fire departments. Not only do we aid in the rebuilding process following fires and other disasters, we also fund educational programs on fire safety and burn prevention, and we help to keep life-saving equipment in good condition.

Please continue to spread our message throughout your town and across the country, both to those in need and those who can help. Your charitable support is highly instrumental in increasing awareness of The Firefighters Charitable Foundation, and we thank you again.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Tepedino
President

Consider "Planned Giving"

Planned giving can be a "win-win" scenario for the Foundation, as well as for the donor and the donor's heirs. The benefit to the Foundation of a gift of assets is obvious: it helps us fulfill our mission. However, the utilization of an appropriate planned giving vehicle by a donor will generate benefits that exceed a straight-forward gift, during the donor's life, and, may also create benefits for the donor's heirs.

A donor may contribute cash, stocks, bonds, real estate, art work, jewelry, or life insurance, in one or more of the following ways:

Outright Gifts: A donor can simply write a check, make a charge to his credit card, or wire money to the Foundation. The benefit of an outright gift is its simplicity. In addition, there are no limits to outright charitable gifts, the donor can take allowable income tax deductions and retained no interest in the gift.

Insurance: A donor can make the Foundation the owner and beneficiary of a life insurance policy. The donor then can receive income tax deductions on the premiums, while the Foundation becomes the beneficiary of the policy upon the donor's death.

Charitable Remainder Trusts: A donor can create a trust that will continue to provide income to the donor during his/her life, and the donor's surviving spouse's life, with the remainder to be paid to the Foundation. For further information, you, your attorney or financial advisor can contact the Foundation.

Second Annual Gala (continued)

Several elected officials were present including Hon. Ed Mangano, Nassau County Executive, Hon. Michael Venditto and Hon. Rose Walker, Nassau County Legislators, and Hon. Joseph Muscarella and Hon. Joseph Pinto, Town of Oyster Bay Councilmen. During the pre-dinner hour guests also had an opportunity to support the Foundation by bidding on an extensive and impressive gallery of memorabilia, presented by RSI, and Tony Gianti.

When the Gala shifted to the Dinner Program, it began with an emotional tribute to all of the firefighters, first responders, veterans and police officers present, who came forward to the podium, to stand at attention beside the American flag, while the East Lake Elementary School Hand Bell Choir, led by Mrs. Gina Aspetti, performed the Star Spangled Banner. Then the ceremonial First Pitch was thrown by World War II veteran, Dominick Losquardo, to FFCF President, Frank Tepedino.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of awards to this year's honorees, Gene Michael. Maj. Chuck Kilbride, Ret., USMC, and John Feal. Gene Michael was the recipient of the Foundation's 2012 Humanitarian Award for all the charitable work he has done during his long career with the New York Yankees. The Foundation's 2013 President's Award recipient was Major Kilbride (whose four children are all West Point graduates), the area director for the US Marine Corp Toys for Tots Program for the last 27 years. As part of the evening, the Foundation collected new toys at the door from the Gala's guests, and were pleased to present Maj. Kilbride with dozens of new toys for needy children. The Foundation's 2013 Hero's Award was presented to John Feal who was a first responder on 9/11, but that is actually a minor part of his story. Over the past twelve years he has been a leading advocate for injured first responders. He is the Founder of the 9/11 Foundation which has raised and distributed over \$2 million, and more importantly, in his opinion, was a leading voice in having the United States Congress pass HR 847, more commonly known as the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act, or the World Trade Center Health Program. In addition to the awards presented by the Foundation, the evening's honorees received Citations from the elected officials present and a special gift from US Congressman Peter King: a United States flag which had flown over the Capital.

A surprise element of the evening was the performance of tenor, Chris Macchio, who sang Ave Maria, Danny Boy, and God Bless America, to the obvious delight of the guests. The evening closed with a live auction of a sketch of Gene Michael, drawn by Tony Gianti, and signed by Tony Gianti and Gene Michael, which raised additional funds for the charity. "The evening was a great success. You could feel the warmth and love in the room." stated FFCF President, Frank Tepedino. "I would like to extend my thanks to our honorees, all of the athletes who attended, and most importantly to our guests and the sponsors who made the event possible."

The Foundation has set the date for its 3rd Annual Dinner Gala: November 20, 2014. Mark your calendar and watch the Foundation website FFCF.org for announcements on this year's honorees, sponsorship opportunities and ticket sales.

Letters of Appreciation

"I wanted to thank you and FFCF for your generous contribution to our fire department. The much needed money will be going toward new wildland hoses. Your support means so much to us."

*Steve Wynn, Fire Chief MBVFD
Muir Beach, California*

"Thank you for your kindness. I have lost everything and my 6 pets in the fire. May God bless all who helped me. I have to start all over on my life. I haven't really got much help here in Raton. Thank you."

*Juanita Modina
Raton, New Mexico*

"Thank you for your donation to Camp Patmos. We were able to purchase CPR training equipment."

*Linda Bilow & Patmos Staff
Kellys Island, Ohio*

"On behalf of the Soap Lake Fire Department... I would like to thank you for the assistance you have given us. These funds will go toward getting our firefighters the proper gear and equipment to do their job safely while providing better service to our deserving community."

*Chief Brandon Hood
Soap Lake, Washington*

***Organizations FFCF
Funded in 2013***

- Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation
- Burn Camps
- Camp Celebrate
- Camp John Marc
- Center for Fire & Burn Prevention
- Evan Haynes Burn Center
- LA County USC Burn Center
- Parkland Burn Camp
- Safe Kids Sonoma County
- UH Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital / Safe Kids
- University of Cincinnati Hospital - Burn Unit
- Washington Hospital Burn Center
- Volunteer Fire Houses

Firefighters Charitable Foundation

congratulates

Meryl Guerrero

Firefighters Charitable Foundation Director

on her selection as
**Congregation Kal Tikvah's
2013 Woman of Valor**

Must Know 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 families safe and healthy. Please be sure to check it often!



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