The Firefighters Charitable Foundation (FFCF) held its Celebrity Golf Tournament on May 9th at the Town of Oyster Bay Golf Course in Woodbury, Long Island, New York. The beautiful par 70 championship course hosted 18 foursomes on a perfect spring day. The golf tournament is a major fundraiser for the organization and is an important tool to raise funds to support the FFCF mission of supporting victims of fire and disaster, other non-profit agencies and volunteer fire departments. A great time was had by all on the course and at the cocktail hour/dinner held at the Woodlands Catering Facility and Golf Bar.

The FireFighters Charitable Foundation would like to thank all of the golfers and the following businesses and organizations for their generous sponsorship and donations:

- Georgi Vodka
- New York Islanders
- New York Giants
- Arizona Diamondbacks
- Cooperstown Hall of Fame
- Ted Williams Foundation
- Greco Planning Group, Inc.
- First National Bank of LI
- New York Yankees
- New York Rangers
- New York Knicks
- San Francisco Giants
- Babe Ruth Museum
- Cashin Spinelli & Ferretti
- Costco Wholesale Club
- New York Mets
- New York Jets
- Minnesota Twins
- LI Ducks
- BJS Wholesale Club
- Slomins

The event was attended by many Long Island and FDNY firefighters. The FFCF would also like to thank the following former professional athletes for taking the time from their busy schedules to join with our golfers and make the event even more enjoyable: Maxcine Agee, Marty Appel, Tony Balsamo, Fred Cambra, Dom DeMola, Bud Harrelson, Dave Lemanczyk, Art Shamsky, Judy Sladky and Frank Tepedino. We hope to see all of the golfers next year and we hope that many of you that did not attend can join us for another special outing to help support the FireFighters Charitable Foundation.
President’s Message

Our Second Annual Celebrity Golf Tournament was held in May at the beautiful Town of Oyster Bay Golf Course in Woodbury NY. I want to thank the Golf Committee (Rich Acrietelli, Fred Cambria, Ralph Fusco, Dan Kornfeld, Michael Lima, Lenny Mileo, Fred Morante, Frank Nocerino, Tom Sabellico and Martin Silver) and Christine Cahill for all their hard work and efforts. The outing was a tremendous success thanks to all of our golfers and sponsors. We are already planning for our Third Annual and hope that you can golf with us and/or support us next spring. While November seems a long time away, we are already planning our 5th Annual Dinner Gala at the Chateau Briand in Carle Place, New York. Please be sure to check out our Summer Safety tips in this newsletter and read the next article in our series of Planned Giving. I also wanted to make you aware of another great way to help us out: AmazonSmile. AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support FireFighters Chantable every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you’ll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to FFCF. We hope you will make us your organization of choice. Have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Planned Giving “103”
by Thomas M. Sabellico, Esq., New York Counsel to FFCF

You may donate as much to a charitable organization as you see fit, but the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has set forth rules which limit the amount of your charitable donations which you can take as a deduction, generally up to 50% of your adjusted gross income, although it could be lower depending upon the type of charity and the type of property which is the basis of the deduction. More importantly, since most people do not reach the 50% limit, there are specific IRS rules which must be followed for any contribution to be deductible, and for your contributions to sustain the scrutiny of a possible IRS audit. These rules include appropriate substantiation of the donation, which can be accomplished by keeping detailed and accurate records of your gifts. Monetary contributions are the easiest to keep track of, especially if the donation is made by check or credit card. If a donation is made in cash you should request a written receipt from the charity, indication the date and amount of the contribution, and full contact information about the charity. For donations of personal property, you might be best served by taking a photo of the item to be donated, gifting it together with a transmittal letter detailing the donation, and requesting a receipt which specifically describes the item, in addition to the items set forth above. It would also be helpful to obtain, and retain, a good faith estimate of the value of the property being donated. If you are audited, the length of time between the donation and the audit may make it difficult to obtain a worth while estimate, whereas an estimate obtaining contemporaneously with the donation will be difficulty for the IRS to decline.
Summer Safety Tips

Enjoy the Sun, But Protect Yourself
1 out of 5 Americans will get skin cancer from overexposure to UV rays. Always wear appropriate clothing and sunscreen to keep your skin healthy.

Grill Out in The Open
Toxic fumes and fires can cause great damage, so make sure you are nowhere near flammable items.

Watch Kids Around Pools
Most drownings and near-drowning incidents occur when a child falls into a pool. Never leave a child unsupervised near a pool.

When Lightning Strikes, Take Cover
If you are in a car, stay there. If inside keep away from windows, running water and electrical appliances.

Wear Proper Safety Equipment When Biking
Head trauma is a biker’s most common major injury. A properly worn helmet can prevent it by up to 85%. Wear bright colors so drivers can see you.

Watch Out For the Bugs
Bugs carry viruses and disease. Avoid wooded areas that may be infested by ticks, use insect repellants if you are outside for an extended period of time.

Use Fireworks with Caution
Each year, over 10,000 firework injuries occur, and most are injuries to children. Children must always be supervised around fireworks - even sparklers. Innocent bystanders are in danger of explosives that malfunction or ricochet off of trees.

We Get Letters

"The Good Will Fire Company would like to thank you for your recent grant contribution to our company. We are a very small community and funds are limited. We will be using the grant money towards the repair of 3 broken headsets. Again, we would like to thank you and your organization for the much needed assistance. We are forever grateful.
Chief Robert G. Ritchie
Good Will Fire Company No. 1
Lonaconing, Maryland"

"I wish to extend my gratitude to the Firefighters Charitable Foundation for the grant that was bestowed upon me during the devastating loss of my husband, Mark Harmon. These funds allowed me to ease the stress of my financial burdens during the overwhelming grief that consumed me following the tragic death of my husband. Words cannot fully express my appreciation. Thank you for the assistance during my time of need."
Angela Harmon
Dawson Springs, Kentucky

"Thank you so much for your support of the Vanoss Fire Department. Your generosity will help us purchase fuel and much needed supplies and help us to continue to provide aid to our rural community members. Sincerely,"
Rance Walker, Vanoss Fire Chief
Ada, Oklahoma

"It is said, to be generous means giving something that is valuable to you without expectation of reward or return. However, the greatest blessing that comes with giving and making a difference in the lives of children, is the fact, that giving feels good. I hope you join us in feeling good about the work that is going on at the foundation and in our community. We are Children’s Hospital of Michigan Foundation thank you for your gift. This contribution helps us ensure brighter futures for children in Michigan. We are committed to honoring your investment and living out our mission to support pediatric research, education, community benefit programs, and other initiatives that improve the health of all Michigan Children. Please know that your support is critical to making our vision possible. Because of you we are able to provide children more days to play, nights to dream and time to be just kids."
Tony Werner, President & CEO
Children’s Hospital of Michigan Foundation
Dinner Gala

Firefighters Charitable Foundation
Annual Dinner Gala
Thursday, November 17, 2016
Chateau Briand
440 Old Country Road, Carle Place, NY

For more information call us at 516-249-0332 or visit our website at www.ffcf.org
Sponsorship opportunities available!

Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives
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One West Street
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United States of America

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