



# THE RESPONDER

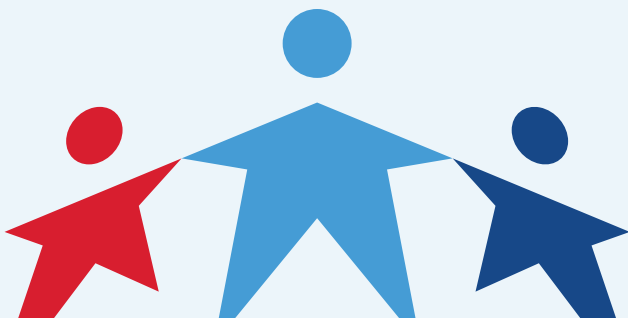
February 2021



Welcome to **THE RESPONDER**. As we begin 2021, we know one thing for sure: first responders will continue to show up when we call 911. To all our first responders, know that First Responders Children's Foundation is here for you when you need help.



We thank all of our donors who helped us help them—our law enforcement officers, firefighters, paramedics and medical personnel—with emergency support through our COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund. We look forward to sharing our 2020 impact with you in our upcoming Impact Report. Very soon we'll also be announcing new initiatives for 2021. Thank you for taking the time to read our February newsletter. To our donors and supporters, we couldn't have made it through 2020 without you!



# TOY EXPRESS Came to Town



**We launched First Responders Children's Foundation Toy Express in response to the sadness and isolation experienced by children of overworked first responders battling the COVID-19 pandemic. We also wanted to help first responder agencies give back to families impacted within their own communities.**

The Foundation immediately got to work securing toys from corporate partners, and setting up a warehouse and shipping infrastructure. We also mobilized a team of youth volunteers to help pack boxes of toys tailored to kids at each location. We achieved our goal of delivering approximately 500,000 free toys and masks to first responder agencies by the end of the holiday season.

The Foundation established Toy Express with a generous toy donation from Mattel and American Girl, which included other Mattel brands like Hot Wheels®, Barbie® and Mega Bloks®. Additional sponsors were CSX, Good360, Hess Toy Truck, Jakks Pacific, MaskUSA.com, and Toys for Tots, as well as the countless individuals across the nation who helped

us bring holiday cheer to first responder families by making donations of toys and money. Transportation of toys and masks across the country was coordinated and provided by Total Quality Logistics (TQL) and its Moves that Matter program.

Dedicated first responders and community volunteers from across the country were vital to our success. These individuals showed up after work and on weekends to pack and distribute toys that were shipped from our warehouse in Michigan.

We didn't let COVID stop us from spreading holiday joy! The Foundation coordinated several socially-distanced toy distribution events coast to coast—from New York and New Jersey to Indiana, Illinois, Texas and California!

Thank you to all the local organizers who helped make the events such successes, like U.S. Secret Service Assistant to the Special Agent in Charge Anthony Lacorazza, who coordinated a motorcade that delivered toys to first responders in New York and New Jersey. Another thank you goes out to the CSX Special Agents who participated in our Hudson Valley event, where we awarded our CSX Pride in Service "Local First Responder Hero Award" as well as financial grants to deserving first responders.



## Holiday Music, Messages and Surprises



**THANK YOU TO UNIVERSAL MUSIC GROUP NASHVILLE AND CAYLEE HAMMACK** for recording a heartfelt holiday PSA message in which she reminds us all to “hug our kids.” Thank you to ABC and their program, “Localish,” for featuring the Foundation surprising first responder families with toys and grants. Ryan Seacrest showed up again in support of First Responders Children’s Foundation, introducing us as an organization that is “near and dear to my heart.” And another giant thank you to iHeart Radio for sharing our story in editorials, videos and radio messages.

## Toy Boxes for Grant Recipient Families

We decided that our COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund Grant Recipients were also deserving of a little joy during the holiday season. Our warehouse team personally packaged custom gift boxes filled with toys for first responder families. They handpicked and packaged thousands of toys for more than 500 families!



# MEASURING OUR IMPACT

**To kick off 2021**, we are inviting our readers to make a monthly pledge to the Foundation. It could be the cost of your coffee budget or even the amount of money you’re saving by sticking to your New Year’s resolution! Remember, even the smallest monthly donation adds up, bringing immense relief to those heroes who risk their lives for us every day. **Will you consider making a monthly commitment** to support a first responder and their family?

### COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND:

## 9,097

Grants to first responders and agencies responding to COVID-19 in all 50 states who have had financial hardship due to COVID-19

## 13,500

Meals provided to First Responders

## 12,946

Hotel rooms funded so first responders can quarantine safely from their families

## 187

COVID-related first responder funerals bills paid

### FUNDS HAVE IMPACTED INDIVIDUALS IN THE FOLLOWING PROFESSIONS:

## 34%

Nurses & Medical Personnel

## 27%

Firefighters, EMTs, & Paramedics

## 23%

Police Officers

## 16%

911 Dispatchers & Support Personnel

# MONTHLY INSPIRATION



“The Toy Express delivery to the fire department went great!! I am truly at a loss for words. Thank you so very much”

CHIEF DAVID BRIERTY  
RIDGEFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT  
RIDGEFIELD, NJ



“What an amazing start to our drive, we can’t thank you enough!”

SERGEANT MATTHEW HIGGINS  
WARWICK POLICE DEPARTMENT  
WARWICK, RI

“All I can say is WOW! And a huge thank you. We were struggling to fill our requests for toys this year, and this really sets us up nicely. Our community is grateful for your generosity so THANK YOU FROM US ALL!”

CHIEF OF POLICE JEFFREY A. SHOOK  
CRESTLINE POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CRESTLINE, OH



“When we are having a hard day doing something that is bothersome, something like this comes along and puts the day into perspective. And, just like that, the world is back in focus and you are on track again. I cannot thank you all enough for the work that you do. It is important, and you are making a difference. Our agents are grateful for you and your foundation. And, we are thankful for our partnership with your foundation. THANK YOU!”

ANGELA COSTA  
CSX CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP  
JACKSONVILLE, FL



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## First Responders Keeping Our Capitol Safe

First responders answer the call. Thousands of our nation's first responders did just that in the weeks leading up to the Presidential Inauguration and on Inauguration Day itself. They responded when protesters attacked the Capitol and provided life-saving support to the injured and ill. First Responders Children's Foundation was an official charity partner of the Presidential Inauguration. The Foundation invited the nation to say thank you to the very first responders who were protecting the Capitol and cities all across the country. Since then, we've received numerous emails, homemade cards and letters with donations saying "Thank you, First Responders."

