First Responders Children’s Foundation provided $12 million in assistance to first responder families in 2021 and impacted more than 530,000 lives. This critical safety net for the country’s first responder community helps those who take an oath to protect our communities.

First Responders Children’s Foundation supports the families of first responders including police officers, firefighters, emergency room nurses, medical professionals, paramedics, EMTs, and 911 dispatchers as they lead our country’s pandemic response while simultaneously protecting our communities from wildfires, hurricanes, terrorist threats, and more than 600,000 other emergencies called into 911 every day.

The Foundation provides financial support to children who have lost a parent in the line of duty as well as to families enduring significant financial hardship due to tragic circumstances. The Foundation also supports educational activities and programs created and operated by first responder organizations whose purpose is to benefit children or the communities in which they live.

The success of our 2021 programs is only possible because of the generous support of many donors like you.
Areas of Impact

College Scholarships
Deserving children of first responders are awarded scholarships with top priority given to children whose first responder parents have been killed or injured in the line of duty.

209 Scholarship Awards

“My father died in the line of duty at the end of my junior year of high school. It was devastating. He was a police lieutenant for the Port Authority in New York/New Jersey. I grew up admiring my dad and his dedication to keeping people safe. From a young age, I always knew I wanted to follow in his footsteps and go into a career in the criminal justice or law field. Thank you, First Responders Children’s Foundation, for giving me a scholarship and the chance to fulfill my dreams, and make my father proud.”

— SYDNEY JONES  University of Arizona Class of 2024

Financial Help
Cash grants are provided to families facing financial hardship due to tragic circumstances and also to first responder agencies.

498 Individual Grants

RECIPIENT PROFESSIONS

- 24% Law enforcement
- 23% Support staff
- 12% Fire & EMT services
- 42% Medical personnel

RECIPIENT CATEGORIES

- 36% Youth Education
- 32% Mental & behavioral health
- 23% Emergency Support
- 5% Community Support
- 5% Family Support

22 Agency Grants
Bereavement Assistance

485 Line of duty deaths
First responders risk their lives to protect us, and when they make the supreme sacrifice, we honor our heroes by providing support to the children left behind. We sent 211 care packages to families who lost a spouse/parent in the line of duty.

Mental Health

7 Provider Partners
Mental & behavioral health support ensures that first responder families have access to reliable, quality mental health care when they need it most.

Mask Project

350,000 Masks Sent
Lifesaving PPE including medical grade masks are provided to first responders on the frontlines across the country.

Toy Express

266 Cities in 40 States
Free holiday toys are sent to agencies and hospitals which distribute the joy to children of first responders and to children in first responder communities.
Thanksgiving Day Parade Breakfast

Children and relatives of fallen heroes from the uniformed services are invited for a front row view of the Thanksgiving Day Parade as part of a holiday tradition for first responder families.

We Supported

232,000 First Responder Families AND
530,000 Children

National First Responders Day

Each year on October 28, Hero Awards are presented to a distinguished member of each first responder category:

- Police officer
- Firefighter
- Paramedic / EMT
- Nurse / medical personnel
- 911 Dispatcher
Standing by an Officer’s Family

On November 21, 2006, Honolulu, Hawaii Police Officer Steve Favela was part of his department's Solo Bike Detail as they guarded President George W. Bush on his visit to the island. A terrible accident along the motorcade route dealt a tragic blow to Officer Favela, who sustained fatal injuries in the crash. Six days later, Officer Steve Favela passed away at a local hospital, leaving behind his wife, Barbara, and four young children, Keahi, Kiana, Matthew and Jacob.

“Without anyone saying anything, I already kind of knew,” Barbara told the Honolulu Star Bulletin a year after the accident. “I’m managing but it hasn’t been easy. As hard as it gets, the children are all healthy and happy and each one of them reminds me of my husband.”

It has been the privilege of First Responders Children’s Foundation to help this beautiful, heroic family honor the memory of their husband and father. Keahi, Kiana and Matthew have all received FRCF scholarships to attend Chapman University in Orange, California. Keahi is pursuing a career in the medical field, Kiana is studying Journalism with the goal of becoming a reporter, and Matthew–recipient of FRCF's Vincent Bennett Jr. Memorial Scholarship–is honing his coding skills in one of the most demanding computer programs in the country.

“I feel really honored, really blessed to receive this help from First Responders Children’s Foundation,” said Matthew. “Especially in Vincent's memory... I'm also able to honor him.”

Off-the-Hook Fun

This past Summer, First Responders Children’s Foundation sponsored a Police Department program in Gloucester, Massachusetts called “Kops ’N’ Kids Youth Anglers” which built good relations between Gloucester Police and local children. The program put 100 children and a half dozen police officers on a boat for the afternoon where they caught over 100 fish, all of which were humanely returned to the sea. The children had a great time hanging out with their local first responders and learning about fishing which has been the economic backbone of Gloucester for decades.

“These trips could not have gone more smoothly,” said Lt. Jeremiah Nicastro of the Gloucester Police Department. “All the participants arrived eager to learn, and it was great fishing weather. We are so happy that our officers were able to teach our young residents about fishing - some of the attendees had never even been aboard a boat before.”

When law enforcement officers are able to interact with children in their communities in a positive way, “It fuels the soul,” said Lt. Nicastro. “The payoff is that for all these children in our community, their first contact with the police is on a fishing boat. Now, if they have a problem in school, they’re more likely to go to the School Resource Officer who they know from the fishing trip.”

“I cannot thank First Responders Children’s Foundation enough,” Lt. Nicastro added, “because you made this program possible. Without you, we can’t do what we do. It means the world to us. We cannot wait to see how big it’s going to be next year.”