



The Responder

Winter 2022



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This holiday season, Universal Music Group Nashville supported First Responders Children's Foundation by hosting "The Parade of Trees," a display of Christmas trees decorated by country music artists and auctioned off with luxury experiences. Artists Alan Jackson, Carrie Underwood, Darius Rucker, Josh Turner, Keith Urban, Reba McEntire, Eric Church, George Strait, Luke Bryan and Mickey Guyton contributed.

The Christmas trees featured in "The Parade of Trees" were displayed in the Gaylord Opryland Resort in Nashville, Tennessee, and the trees were decorated thematically—The country music stars also donated

luxury experiences including trips, concert tickets, merchandise and more to benefit First Responders Children's Foundation. Proceeds will provide scholarships and mental health services to first responder children who have lost a parent in the line of duty.



HELP IS ON THE WAY:

College Scholarships / Financial Assistance / Bereavement Assistance / Holiday Toys / Face Masks

America Salutes First Responders on National First Responders Day



A musical concert tribute to first responders, “America Salutes First Responders on National First Responders Day,” was recorded live at City Winery in New York City and broadcast on iHeartRadio stations across the country. The concert honored our nation’s first responder heroes and was preceded by a cocktail reception and Gala dinner hosted by First Responders Children’s Foundation. The concert aired on iHeart Radio on Veteran’s Day, November 11, 2021, presented by First Responders Children’s Foundation.

Guests enjoyed celebrity performers including Lauren Alaina, Blind Boys of Alabama, Billy Gibbons of ZZ Top, Maddie and Tae, Toby Keith and Josh Turner all in honor of first responder heroes selflessly serving on the frontlines of the pandemic in our communities.

Hero Award recipients included:

Law Enforcement

Police Sergeant Robert Zoubek from Park Falls, Wisconsin. When an apartment building caught fire, Officer Sobek was first on scene, arriving before the fire department. Without any fire gear, Sergeant Zoubek rushed into the burning building - not once

but twice - saving the lives of three people who would have died had it not been for his quick, selfless, and courageous actions.

Fire Services

Assistant Chief of Operations

Michael Mire, of the Houston, Texas Fire Department, is a fifth generation firefighter whose own personal experience with tragedy and loss drives him to serve his fellow citizens. As Family Assistance Coordinator, he is responsible for honoring firefighters who have sacrificed their lives in the line of duty and providing assistance to their families.

Paramedic / EMT

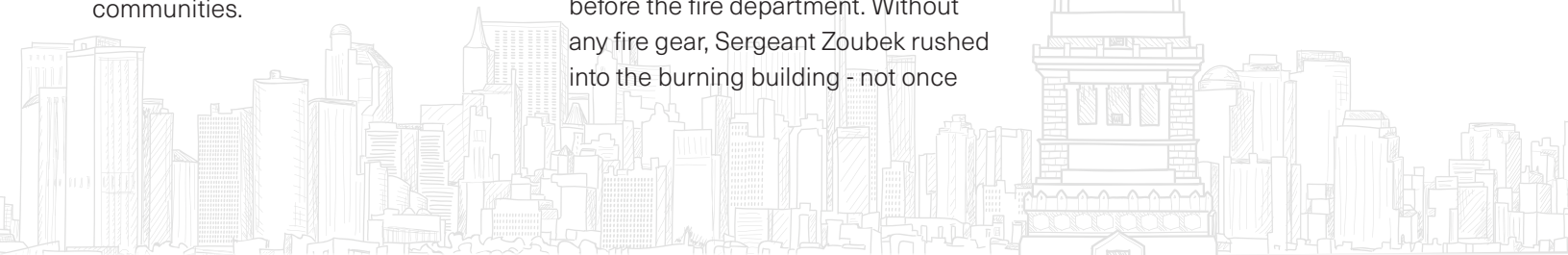
Paramedic & EMT Michael

Liverzani from Mamaroneck, NY, was selected as the 2021 Paramedic/ EMT Hero for his “ask for nothing” and “give everything” humility, demonstrated over more than 30 years saving lives in the field.

Nurse

Registered Nurse Amy O’Sullivan

is an ER nurse at Wyckoff Hospital in Brooklyn, where she treated the first case of COVID in New York City, contracted the virus herself, spent four days on a ventilator, recovered, and then went back to battle COVID-19, caring for the sick at great personal risk to herself and her family.



Medical Personnel

Patient Care Technician Guy

Soumah of Troy, New York, contracted COVID-19 at work in the early days of the pandemic when little was known about how deadly it was or how easily it was transmitted. Tragically, Mr. Soumah's own father passed away from the virus, leaving Guy responsible for caring for his younger siblings. Guy is now expecting a baby of his own, and is applying to be a police officer so he can continue to dedicate his life to helping others.

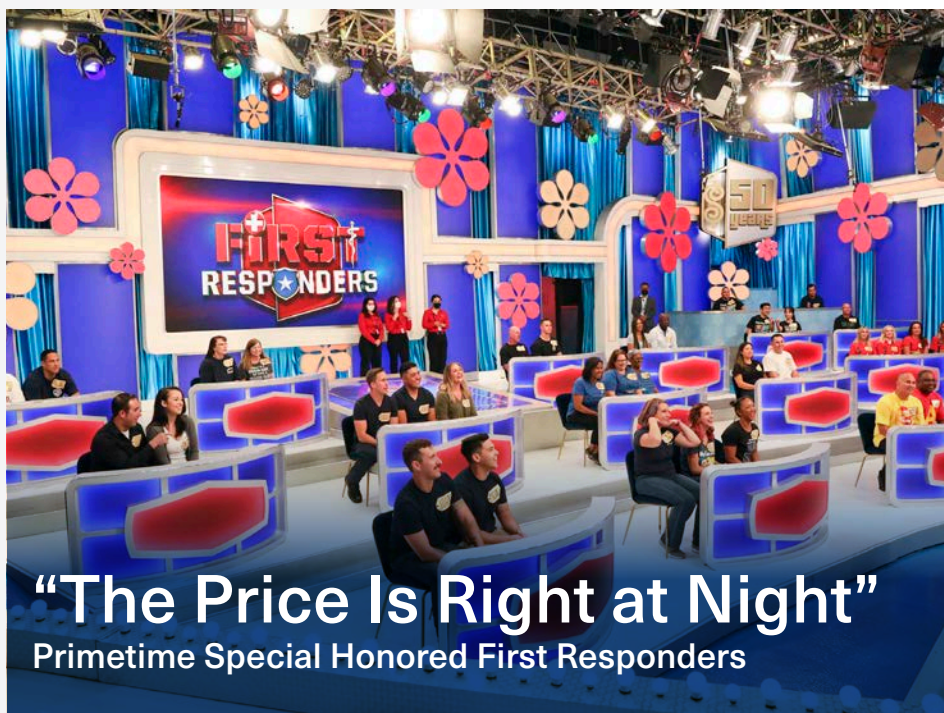
911 Dispatcher

For 26 years, 911 Dispatcher

Gladys Mitchell of Bronx, New York, served the City of New York as a 911 Dispatcher for the NYPD. On September 11, 2001, Gladys received the first call that a plane had hit the World Trade Center. She mobilized the entire World Trade Center area that day, helping create order out of chaos.

First Responders Children's Foundation also presented Corporate Hero Awards to long time partners and supporters of the Foundation SERVPRO, Mattel and Trevco. Each honoree has demonstrated a generous and powerful ongoing commitment to the welfare of first responders across the country.

To all the recipients of the First Responders Children's Foundation Hero Award, thank you for your service.



First Responders Children's Foundation was featured on CBS' top-rated daytime game show, "The Price is Right," hosted by Drew Carey, during a primetime special episode on January 12 with an audience made up entirely of first responders. Firefighters, EMTs, 911 operators, police officers, and other frontline workers were called upon to "come on down" and compete for amazing prizes including luxury cars, vacations, and more.

"The Price is Right" made a significant donation to First Responders Children's Foundation as a thank you to all the heroes who protect and serve us. The donation will bolster college scholarships and provide financial support to children whose first responder parents have been injured or killed in the line of duty. "The Price is Right" is network television's #1-rated daytime series and the longest-running game show in television history.



First Responder Bowl

The 2021 First Responder Bowl in Dallas, Texas on December 28 was sponsored by SERVPRO, broadcast on ESPN, and honored First Responder Children's Foundation.

“Toy Express” Brings Holiday Joy to First Responder Families



Each holiday season, Toy Express provides free toys to first responder agencies and hospitals across the country so first responder children as well as children in first responder communities have a more joyful holiday. Hundreds of thousands of toys reach families who might otherwise have gone without presents from Santa. The Foundation also works with police and fire departments on

their Santa and Mrs. Claus programs like “Operation Santa” and delivers presents and holiday cheer to families of first responders who have been killed or injured in the line of duty.

For families with a first responder loss or injury and for families experiencing financial need, the Foundation's warehouse customizes toy shipments directly to the children in each family. Last year, with the critical help of many

generous donors, the Foundation sent wrapped holiday toys to hundreds of first responder families enabling those parents to provide their children with much needed holiday cheer. This effort continues each holiday season and beyond as many first responder families are suffering from the effects of the pandemic and struggling to make ends meet.

“These gifts let us know that we are not forgotten,” explains the wife of a fallen law enforcement officer. “The holidays are one of the hardest times for us, especially losing my husband right before Thanksgiving and then Christmas coming—this will be our second year without him. Just knowing that First Responders Children's Foundation is there for us means the world.”

Your generous donation to Toy Express will make a child feel loved and a family feel cared for. Please help us spread more joy! You can send toys at 1stRCF.org or by texting TOY to 24365.

Home Clean Heroes



A home cleaning service called Home Clean Heroes with offices from Virginia to Florida is proud to support first responders. These “Grime Fighters” have pledged to support the Foundation with each service they provide. If you need cleaning services in any of the cities to the right, call Home Clean Heroes at (844) 439-4376.

- Augusta, GA
- Williamsburg, VA
- Virginia Beach, VA
- Atlanta, GA
- Jacksonville, FL
- Stonecrest, GA
- Allen, TX
- Dallas, TX
- Houston, TX
- Tampa, FL
- Matthews, NC

First on the Scene Podcast: Previously Unreleased 911 Recordings from 9/11

In January 2022, First Responders Children's Foundation launched a brand, new podcast called "First on the Scene." The first episode "The Unseen Hero" features an in-depth interview with retired NYPD 911 dispatcher Gladys Mitchell, who took the first call on September 11, 2001 when a plane hit the World Trade Center.

On one of the most chaotic and tragic days in American history, Gladys dispatched the emergency response to the entire World Trade Center zone. She consoled distraught people trapped in the burning towers, helped evacuate children from schools, and counseled panicked relatives about their missing loved ones. Gladys helped save many lives that day, and until now she has never told her story before.

NYPD Commissioner Dermot Shea approved the release of previously unreleased 911 recordings of Gladys Mitchell at work on 9/11 for "First on the Scene's" exclusive use. Recordings of 911 calls on September 11, 2001 have never



previously been released due to their sensitive nature.

The podcast highlights first responders across the United States with the goal of shining a light on the heroes who come to the rescue for us every day. "We illuminate what a day in the life of a first responder involves - whether it be a police officer, firefighter, paramedic, EMT, medical personnel or 911 dispatcher, and investigate what inspires a person to undertake heroic actions, like risking their own life to save a stranger," said Jillian Crane,

FRCF President/CEO who cohosts First on the Scene with Creative Director Jodie Burke. "Our aim is to get beyond the badge to reveal the heart and souls of first responders who are motivated to help others," Burke said. "We hope that by sharing these untold stories of everyday heroes, it will inspire people to look out for one another, build community and at the same time, reflect on the sacrifices first responders make, day in and night out."

Listen to the podcast here:
www.1stRCF.org/firstonthescene

Thanksgiving Day Parade Breakfast



First Responders Children's Foundation annual Thanksgiving Day Parade Breakfast tradition hosted over 1,200 children and relatives of fallen heroes from the uniformed services for a special breakfast at the Bryant Park Grill followed by exclusive front row viewing of the Parade.

The annual Thanksgiving breakfast was first organized in the wake of the 9/11 tragedy when more than 800 children of first responders lost

a parent. The event provides an important moment of togetherness for the first responder community. "It's a wonderful and personal way to show gratitude to our uniformed heroes and their families on this national holiday of thanks," says Jillian Crane, president of the Foundation. "Attendance at the annual breakfast has grown every year since 9/11, which demonstrates the relevance of our mission today more than ever."

Spotlight:

CSX Special Agent Embraces Foundation Programs to Create Impactful Local Connections

CSX supports some of our organization's key programs that help foster meaningful relationships between law enforcement officers and youth in need through its community investment initiative, Pride in Service. As part of our long-standing partnership, we empower CSX's police force to help us make on-the-ground connections with other first responders and families in their communities who can benefit the most from these opportunities.

Anna Dapson is a CSX special agent responsible for protecting the CSX network from Wilson, NC all the way to Savannah, GA. Anna has always had a passion for giving back and ensuring everyone in her community feels seen, heard and taken care of. When she moved from her long-time home of Tampa, Fla., to Hartsville, S.C., she was looking forward to making local connections and earning the trust of police departments in her home community and across her service territory.

"I found it really impactful to get to know other community-based police officers face to face, so I started organizing lunches with various agencies across my entire route. This gave me a chance to ask if their officers would like to be part of Toy Express. It's a win-win because it helps us show how we can support them and the local families they serve, while knowing they will be there to support us when we need it. We rely so much on those local



CSX SPECIAL AGENT ANNA DAPSON

agencies, so it feels great to give back."

Toy Express is FRCF's national program that provides toys during the holidays both for first responders' own children as well as for them to give out to families experiencing financial hardship. Similarly, during National Night Out in August, we were able to offer backpacks for youth in need to defray the financial burden of back-to-school costs for families. These programs have proven invaluable for agents like Anna who place great value on creating strong, local bonds and making collective impact alongside fellow first responders. By providing toys and backpacks, Anna is able to supply local police officers with a tangible, positive way to connect with local youth. These small acts of kindness can also help develop

trust in police and lead to long-term relationships that benefit the whole community.

"The officers were so excited when I showed up with backpacks leading up to National Night Out! They had no idea what to expect and were thrilled to be able to reach out and ensure these local kids were supported, especially as the new school year was getting started. It's a kind act we can do together, so that parents have one less thing to worry about."

Anna is just one example of the CSX first responders who are helping us create a ripple effect of impact locally. By taking such pride in serving their communities beyond their rail yards, these law enforcement officers are truly perpetuating a cycle of service.

Honor Guard:



Honor Guard memorial services are a hallowed tradition among the military and first responders. They provide a display of precision, discipline and respect that honors our fallen first responders in an unforgettably moving way. Witnessing an Honor Guard service can be a transformational experience due to the profound symbolism.

Many hours of training and preparation—both physical and mental—are required to join an Honor Guard. Officers must have the strength and stoicism to withstand powerful emotions when called upon to serve in times of tragedy particularly when they are honoring fallen friends and colleagues.

This past September, First Responders Children's Foundation supported the annual Honor Guard Training course organized by the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police and the Michigan Sheriff's Association where 58 first responders received thorough training in all aspects of this precision exercise that some call an art form. The Foundation's generous sponsor of bereavement assistance, Wilbert Funeral Services, provided supplies for the Honor Guard Training, and The Foundation's supporter, SoundOff Signal, providing shipping.



Camps & Activities Spotlight: 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 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."



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Scholarship Spotlight: Miah Hunt

We are always inspired to hear about children of first responders who follow in their parent's footsteps, carrying on a tradition of public service by becoming first responders themselves. Miah Hunt, who is named after her late father, NYPD Sgt. Jeremiah Hunt, is one of our extraordinary college scholarship recipients who is a shining example of that dedication.

Miah's father tragically passed away in 2019 from cancer caused by exposure at the 9/11 recovery site. During his protracted illness, Miah witnessed firsthand the kindness, caring and commitment her father received from the excellent nursing staff at New York Presbyterian Hospital.

"I always heard my parents talk about their great nurses at New York Presbyterian," Miah recalled solemnly. "When my father passed, some of his nurses and his oral surgeon even came to his funeral, which apparently is unheard of. They just felt such a powerful connection with my dad."

The nurses left a lasting impression on Miah, who decided to become a nurse herself. She majored in nursing at West Virginia University where she graduated this past May. "I wanted to hear patients talk about me the way my parents talked about the nurses at New York Presbyterian," Miah



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT MIAH HUNT AS A CHILD IN HER FATHER'S ARMS AND TODAY AS A NURSE.

said. "My scholarship from First Responders Children's Foundation made a world of difference to me - it helped put me through college and made my dream of becoming a nurse possible."