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# NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT 2012



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Thanks to the generous support of our corporate sponsors, caring individuals, foundations, and Federal grants, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation was able to carry out our Congressional mandate:

*“To honor and remember the nation’s fallen firefighters, provide assistance to their families and coworkers, and work to prevent firefighter injury and fatalities.”*

## SURVIVOR PROGRAMS

The **Fire Service Survivors Network** is a group of dedicated family members who volunteer to provide peer support and help the Foundation with projects throughout the year and during the Memorial Weekend. In 2012, Network members sent 3,360 Remembrance cards to families to let them know that their firefighter is not forgotten.

*“It’s been almost six years since Randy left us, but the NFFF never has.”*

The NFFF provided assistance with transportation and provided lodging and meals for the families of 85 firefighters who were honored during the **National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend**. More than 6,000 attended the Memorial Service which was broadcast and streamed live.

*“We were very pleased and thankful with the Memorial Weekend activities. Although we shared tears for our loved one, we were deeply honored and grateful that his life and departure were not in vain. The activities and tribute were all spectacular.”*



The **Hal Bruno Camp for Children of Fallen Firefighters**, a weekend bereavement camp, provided an opportunity for 31 children to network with other children who had experienced the death of a firefighter parent and helped them gain skills to cope with their loss.

*“It was fun once we got there. I thought ‘Healing Circles’ was going to be stupid and boring, but that was one of my favorite things at camp.”*

The **Sarbanes Scholarship Program** gives spouses, life partners, children and stepchildren of fallen firefighters the opportunity to pursue their personal, educational and career goals. With assistance from the Motorola Foundation, ICMA-RC, and Global Health & Safety, more than \$234,000 in scholarships was awarded to 82 recipients.

*“When our daughter left high school and started college you reminded me of the scholarship she was now eligible for. She watched the mail for weeks looking for some word that she had been chosen. I wish you could have seen her when the letter came; she ran, jumped and screamed. The whole community must have heard her.”*





The 6<sup>th</sup> annual **Fire Service Survivors Conference** was attended by 230 survivors and members of the fire service. Attendees were able to network, attend life skills workshops and sessions on coping with grief.

*“This week has meant more to me than I’m able to express! Making me speechless is quite an accomplishment! If you haven’t made contact with other survivors—please do! It’s life changing!”*

The Foundation provided **resources** for survivors, including 400 grief brochures, a quarterly newsletter, and *The Journey*, a bi-monthly publication with articles written by survivors and sent to more than 4,000 family members.

*“I just want to express my deepest thank you for what your organization stands for in helping us to remember that we are not forgotten, nor will our loved ones ever be forgotten. Every newsletter is an absolute ‘GODSEND,’ and I can’t thank you enough! It connects us with others who are trying to put one foot in front of the other. Although we stumble and fall, we always know that others are out there and this is what they are dealing with.”*

## FIRE SERVICE PROGRAMS

**Taking Care of Our Own®** training helped 287 fire service officers in five states prepare for a line-of-duty death, including information on how to make notification to the family. During each class a fire chief who has experienced a line-of-duty death and a fire service survivor share their stories.

*“It is comforting to know there are resources out there in the event of a tragedy, and thank you for sharing your personal experiences.”*

The **Local Assistance State Teams (LAST)** are fire service volunteers trained by the Foundation to assist departments and families when a firefighter dies. Services can include operational support to the community, planning of the funeral, obtaining behavioral health counseling for family and department members and preparing local, state and Federal benefit claims, including the Public Safety Officers’ Benefits (PSOB). Five trainings were attended by 123 fire service members, and LAST assisted with 76 firefighter fatalities, 14 EMS fatalities, and 5 law enforcement fatalities.

“Great class! I feel I have a better understanding. While new to the team, it was a great learning experience.”

The **Vulnerability Assessment Project** is an online tool for fire departments to assess their weaknesses and areas that make them vulnerable for firefighter injuries and deaths. The building phase of the project, including an online survey tool, was completed. The next phase of the project is software development.

The **Everyone Goes Home® State Advocates and training coordinators** continued efforts to implement the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives in fire departments across the country. Several regional and State training programs now include the Courage to Be Safe course.



A new **Firehero Learning Network** is being developed to bring critical training in safety, operations, and community relations to all firefighters and fire officers in the country.

A four-year effort resulted in development of a **Stress First Aid** program in support of Firefighter Life Safety Initiative #13: “Firefighters and their families must have access to counseling and psychological support.”

Firefighters have been the victims of violence when responding to incidents. In 2012, a summit was held to determine actions needed by fire departments to prepare for **responses to violent incidents**. Coordination between fire departments and law enforcement must be strengthened. In some cases, administrative changes need to be made at communication centers to alert firefighters to previous violent incidents at locations to which they are responding.

The Foundation worked with FDNY to complete the video, **“Still Working So Everyone Goes Home,”** highlighting the efforts of FDNY since the devastating attacks on 9/11. A video was also completed with Chicago Fire focusing on firefighter health, fire behavior and the use of Personal Protective Equipment.

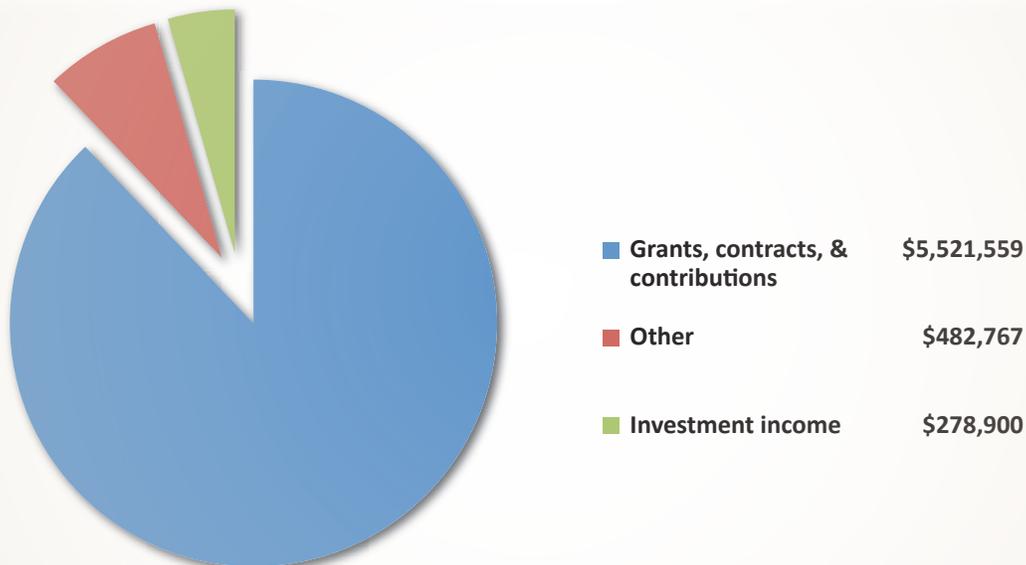


## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

### 2012 Program Expenses



### 2012 Revenue and Support



For further information on the Foundation and its programs, please visit:  
[www.FireHero.org](http://www.FireHero.org) and [www.EveryoneGoesHome.com](http://www.EveryoneGoesHome.com)