

The Journey

For Survivors of Fallen Firefighters

JANUARY 2009 ISSUE 28

There is nothing like a dream to create the future. ~Victor Hugo

The Foundation and several partner organizations provide scholarships for children, stepchildren, spouses, and life partners of firefighters who die in the line of duty. The program has grown tremendously over the past decade, and 92 scholarships were awarded for the 2008-2009 academic year. We are exceptionally proud of our scholarship recipients, whose fields of study range from fashion merchandising to osteopathic medicine to filmmaking to international affairs. Not surprisingly, many of our scholarship recipients are drawn to service-based fields such as education, nursing, fire science, and law enforcement.

If you or a family member is interested in applying for a Foundation scholarship for the 2009-2010 school year, please visit www.firehero.org for more information. Applications must be postmarked by April 1. The site also lists information about educational assistance available in each state, as well as the educational assistance program through the Department of Justice for those who qualify for Public Safety Officers' Benefits.

This issue features the personal statements of several 2008-2009 scholarship recipients, who are busy pursuing their dreams.

Stephanie Packard

Daughter of David Packard (2006-NH) • Field of Study: Nursing

For as long as I can remember, I have always had an interest and enjoyed working with children.

I dreamed of making a difference in their lives, whether it is in a neonatal intensive care unit with the most fragile of human beings, or in a classroom filled with little faces staring at me with all their wonder and excitement.

From the time I was four, I would go around with my mom, an in-home private pediatric nurse, and help with the children's many needs--therapies to wheelchairs and meds to g-tubes and everything in between.

I have volunteered at Cedarcrest, a home for handicapped children, providing activities and one-on-one attention over the past few years. I recently interned there, learning many new skills. I did everything including feedings, therapies, learning about different disabilities, and classroom time.



Stephanie Packard

I took Early Childhood Development my sophomore year, which allowed me to learn a lot about early

growth and development. Learning how children develop physically, mentally, and emotionally, and the milestones they hit at developmental stages was extremely interesting to me. I especially liked making up lesson plans and teaching them to the children.

For the past three years, my greatest achievement has been running a daycare of 6-9 children, ages six weeks to five years, every afternoon. I helped to develop a fun and educational learning curriculum and have enjoyed every minute watching these children grow and their little achievements take place.

I have also been a foster sister for nine years and have loved every minute of it, especially my autistic foster brother who's been with us for eight years. I have helped him in many areas every day.

continued inside

Stephanie Packard *(continued)*

My dad, David Packard, was a very giving, loving man. He always cared about others and didn't mind reaching out to those in need, whether it was helping a friend, being there for his family, or fighting a fire. I guess he's

probably part of the reason I am the way I am. I know whatever field I choose, nursing or teaching, I'll excel at it because the love of it truly comes from my heart. The Foundation scholarship will help me achieve my dreams.

Sgt. Stephen Roche

Son of Lawrence Roche (1996-LA) • Field of Study: Marketing/Political Science

I am 22 years old and a sergeant in the United States Marine Corps. My father was a Harahan, Louisiana, firefighter who died in the line of duty on August 26, 1996.

I am applying for a National Fallen Firefighters Foundation scholarship because I want to honor my father by being the first man in my family to earn a college degree. Also, to better myself for a long, successful future I hope to obtain. My academic goals would be to graduate with a political science degree and become commissioned in the United States Marine Corps. Then, after serving my country in the officer ranks, I would continue my career in the civilian sector.

One day, I look forward to holding a reputable and recognized political office in New Orleans, Louisiana. I am very active in the community. After Hurricane Katrina, I took part in a clean up crew, joined with the National Guard, to clear out abandoned houses. I am also a member of Toys for Tots, which is a foundation for underprivileged children. Every Christmas, we raise money and buy toys for children in the community whose parents cannot afford such items.

I also have a baby daughter who was born on January 15, 2008, and I want to make her proud.

Marla Stevens

Daughter of Leo Stevens (1997-AZ) • Field of Study: Biology/Pre-Med

I would like the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Scholarship to help assist me with the financial burdens my goals have created. The goals I have set for myself are to graduate from the University of Maine with a bachelor's degree in biology, and to continue my education with entering medical school. Upon completion, I want to return to the land of my fathers and care for my people, who are in great need of medical help. After I have spent several years helping my people, I want to specialize in the field of Pediatrics and Oncology. Once this is complete, I want to branch out into the world and help third world countries.

In order to prepare for my journey in becoming a medical doctor, I volunteered in my community and others. Throughout high school, I volunteered on my tribe at our Catholic church and school from 2003-2006. My job was to do what was asked of me, supervise and assist the children, tutor, and work with computer programs. My volunteerism was limited because I went to school off the

reservation, but I volunteered whenever possible. I also helped at the nursing home where my mother worked as a nurse. My job was to help with the activities set up for the older adults. The activities ranged from reading to throwing parties. This is what inspired me to pursue the study of medicine.

I lived most of my life on the San Carlos Apache Reservation learning the ways of my people, seeing the hardships of my family, and learning how to live with them. When I was eight, my father passed away in a plane crash while protecting the natural beauty of our reservation, leaving my mother to support her kids all on her own. At the age of fourteen, I chose to leave my reservation in hopes to prepare me for the journey of becoming a doctor.

My mother has been fighting for my education ever since I realized what having an education really meant. It means freedom, free to help others in need.

The Lending Library

The Foundation has a Lending Library of materials that fire service survivors can borrow free of charge. You can browse and request books through our Web site. Please

let us know if there are books that you would like us to add to the collection. We love to have short book reviews to share through The Journey, so please send one in!

We have tried to build a collection that covers a variety of topics and situations. Here are 10 titles from the Library:

Does Anyone Else Hurt This Bad and Live?

By *Carlene Vester Eneroth*

Short and straightforward, written by a young widow, a good choice when you feel like you're "losing it" and no one else can understand your grief

Give Sorrow Words: A Father's Passage Through Grief

By *Tom Crider*

The story of the author's journey through grief after his only child died in a fire; the jacket describes this as "a book for any bereaved person who is facing loss without the support of firm religious beliefs."

Grief Expressed: When a Mate Dies

By *Martha Felber*

A guided journal written by a counselor after the death of her husband; touches on issues such as making the house less lonely, assessing finances, surviving the difficult nights, and what to do with belongings

The Grieving Child: A Parent's Guide

By *Helen Fitzgerald*

Offers advice for helping children preschool to teen cope with death; includes suggestions about the appropriate language to use and signs that a child may need help

How It Feels When a Parent Dies

By *Jill Kremetz*

Children and teenagers ages 7 to 16 talk about the experience of losing a mother or father; includes the story of the daughter of a New York fallen firefighter

How To Go On Living When Someone You Love Dies

By *Therese A. Rando, Ph.D.*

A comprehensive book on grief, change, self-care, and resolution after the death of a loved one

I'm Grieving As Fast As I Can: How Young Widows and Widowers Can Cope and Heal

By *Linda Feinberg*

Covers the unique issues faced by young widows and widowers, including single parenthood, financial insecurity, and isolation

The Orphaned Adult

By *Alexander Levy*

Losing a parent as an adult is almost always more difficult than it is imagined to be; explores the wide array of issues that surround losing parents in adulthood

Surviving the Death Of a Sibling

By *T. J. Wray*

Surviving siblings are often made to feel as if their grief is somehow unwarranted; helps adults who have lost a brother or sister to realize that they are not alone in their struggle

When Winter Follows Spring: Surviving the Death Of an Adult Child

By *Dorothy Ferguson*

Describes the special considerations after the death of an adult child; written by a grief therapist, just under 100 pages long

To borrow books for free through the Lending Library, visit www.firehero.org, or contact Linda Hurley at (301) 447-7693 or lhurley@firehero.org. If you want to purchase your own copy, please consider buying from

Amazon.com through the Lending Library link from our Web site. Materials purchased through the Amazon.com affiliate program will benefit National Fallen Firefighters Foundation programs.

A Note from Domingo S. Herraiz, Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance

Nearing the end of my appointment as the Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance, I would like to share with the entire NFFF family what an extraordinary honor it has been to serve you over the past five years. I will always consider my work with the Foundation a highlight of my professional life, as I learned of great heroes - America's fallen firefighters - and met their surviving loved ones, colleagues, and friends. With my deepest respect and gratitude, and as the son of a firefighter who gave of himself every day, I pray that all come home safely.

Domingo
Domingo S. Herraiz

Enacted in 1976, the Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) Program provides death, disability, and education benefits to those eligible for the program.



BJA Bureau of
Justice Assistance

Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program • Toll-free: 1-888-744-6513

We want to hear from you...



What did your firefighter teach you? How do use what he or she taught you in your life today? Tell us about the practical skills, life lessons, values, qualities and/or vocation that your loved one passed on to you.

Please send a Word document or e-mail to Jenny at jwoodall@firehero.org. If you don't do computers, send a typed or neatly handwritten copy to:

National Fallen Firefighters Foundation
The Journey
PO Drawer 498
Emmitsburg, MD 21727

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