



Chicago Fire Department Foundation



Photos by Tim Olk

2022 ANNUAL REPORT





To all the men and women of the Chicago Fire Department, active and retired, who passed away as a result of the years of exposing themselves to the long-term dangers of the job, all while protecting us – **We are forever grateful.**

There has been one constant in all the challenges of the past few years, the men and women of the Chicago Fire Department who put on a uniform each morning and go out into this city to protect us.

They are willing to trade their life for ours at a moment's notice, no questions, no hesitation. If you ask them they will say they are "just doing their job."

They are truly special; they encounter people on perhaps the worst day of their lives and our heroes give nothing but their best.

They look at each other and find strength, not weakness; faith in the mission, not fear; unity, not division.



Dear Supporters,

Thank you for all your generous support of men and women of the Chicago Fire Department.

Chicago is a city worth protecting, worth keeping safe. The firefighters and paramedics of the Chicago Fire Department are out there every single day of the year to do exactly this.

Rich or poor. South side or north side. No matter faith, politics, or gender – all they see is a human being in need of help.

Our CFD members and our city have been faced with more threats and challenges than ever before. The only way we can continue to do our part – to support the CFD family – is through your financial commitment. We will continue to deliver on the necessary technology and tools required to save lives, and we will continue to provide financial support to firefighters and paramedics in their time of need.

Our goal for the future remains the same – to help Chicago be the most prepared city in America. If recent years have taught us anything, it's that you can never be too prepared. We ask for your continued support of our vital cause – to please join which is making a difference for our city and its citizens.

We are the Chicago Fire Department Foundation. Supporting those who protect us all.

Ray Orozco

Chicago Fire Department Foundation Board



Chicago Fire Department Foundation





2022 HEROES

Firefighter of the Year



FIREFIGHTER EMT

Richard Drabik

On the evening of January 6th, at 6:30 pm, Engine 109 and Truck 32 responded to a fire at 2518 South Homan Avenue. A multi-unit apartment building was filled with heavy smoke and fire. Truck 32 firefighter Richard Drabik noticed a civilian leaning halfway out the 2nd floor window desperately waving for help as heavy smoke pushed from behind, venting out around him. FF Drabik yelled to his roof operations partner, FF Pae, to grab a ground ladder as they jumped off the truck. The victim was now hanging out of the second-floor window clinging to the edge of the windowsill, with the heat and smoke pouring out above his head. FF Drabik immediately raised the ladder and then raced up through the heavy smoke and fire conditions to reach the victim



and complete the rescue as the victim could no longer hang on to the windowsill. FF Drabik carried the victim to safety down the ladder under very heavy smoke and heat conditions.

FF Drabik's situational awareness upon arrival and his swift, courageous actions saved this civilian from serious burns and injury. Firefighter EMT Richard Drabik performed this heroic act in the highest tradition of the Chicago Fire Department and is presented with the 2022 Firefighter of the Year Award.

2022 HEROES

Paramedic of the Year



FIRE PARAMEDIC

Rebecca Sheely

On June 27th at 10:30 pm, Ambulance 49 crew members Paramedic in Charge Regina Sojka and Fire Paramedic Rebecca Sheely were dispatched to 63rd and Western Avenue for a traffic accident supported by Truck 41. Upon their arrival, PIC Sojka and FPM Sheely quickly assessed the scene and requested two more ambulances. At this point, PIC Sojka and FPM Sheely had triaged all three patients when suddenly multiple gun shots erupted at the scene. CFD personnel immediately sought cover from the gun shots. PIC Sojka, with no concern for her own personal safety, began directing bystanders who were in the line of fire to run to the ambulance for cover. All members and civilian bystanders on the scene attempted to take cover until the gun fire ceased. While the gun fire was happening, FPM Sheely was attending to one of the severely injured victims from the car crash

PARAMEDIC IN CHARGE

Regina Sojka

on the ground that had no chance to take cover. The severely injured woman was exposed to the dangerous situation at hand, which prompted her boyfriend to run over to try and help protect her. Quickly, and unselfishly, FPM Sheely covered both the patient and her boyfriend with her own body, wrapping her arms around both of them, to shield them from the gun fire. PIC Sojka and FPM Sheely continued to triage and stabilize those injured from the car accident and subsequent shooting.



PIC Sojka and FPM Sheely disregarded their own personal safety by placing themselves in the line of fire to protect the civilians on the scene. Paramedic in Charge Regina Sojka and Fire Paramedic Rebecca Sheely performed these heroic acts in the highest tradition of the Chicago Fire Department and each are presented with the 2022 Paramedic of the Year Award.

2022 HEROES

Firefighter Award of Valor



LIEUTENANT

Paul Burns

FIREFIGHTER PARAMEDIC

Michael Modjeski

FIREFIGHTER EMT

Jeffrey Rich

On April 4th at midnight, Engine 96 and Truck 29 responded to fire at 551 North Central Avenue. A 3-story apartment building with heavy smoke and fire on the first floor. The fire was quickly spreading to the upper floors. While Engine Co. 96 attacked the fire, Truck 29 raised their aerial ladder while their Interior Search Team, led by Lt. Paul Burns, entered the structure to begin searching for victims. The team quickly discovered an elderly woman who made it to the front door of her apartment but collapsed, unable to go any further. Lt. Burns along with FF Michael Modjeski and FF Jeffrey Rich removed the woman to the exterior of the building and secured the apartment door to prevent the movement of the fire up the stairwell. The victim was then able to tell them that other family members were still inside the apartment. As they quickly re-entered to continue their search, they encountered heavy fire conditions with zero visibility. Engine 96 aggressively attacked the fire, holding it at bay and allowing Truck



29's team to enter the unit and search for more victims. With no visibility and extreme heat, Truck 29's team pushed forward. Within moments, FF Modjeski called to FF Rich and Lt. Burns that he located an unresponsive woman in bed and needed assistance getting her out. FF Modjeski and FF Rich quickly removed the victim down the hallway to the exterior of the structure. Lt. Burns was now alone in the apartment continuing to search. Entering a bedroom on his hands and knees, Lt. Burns discovered an unconscious baby under debris. He immediately protected the child and moved them outside. Both victims were passed off to CFD EMS members who initiated lifesaving CPR measures. All three victims were then quickly transported to the hospital.

Lt. Burns, FF Modjeski, and FF Rich performed these rescues without regard to their own safety and without the protection of a hose line under heavy smoke conditions and extreme heat. Lieutenant Paul Burns, Firefighter Paramedic Michael Modjeski, and Firefighter EMT Jeffrey Rich performed these heroic acts in the highest tradition of the Chicago Fire Department and each are presented with the 2022 Firefighter Award of Valor.

2022 HEROES

Paramedic Award of Valor



PARAMEDIC IN CHARGE Tomasz Dubert



FIRE PARAMEDIC Megan Staatz

On April 3rd at 1:15 pm, Ambulance 27 responded to a call of a psychiatric emergency at 4260 West Ford City Drive. Paramedic in Charge Tomasz Dubert and Fire Paramedic Megan Staatz entered the first floor of the apartment building. As they were walking up the stairs to the second floor, gunshots were fired from what appeared to be inside

the apartment they were responding to. In a moment, a woman came out staggering from the front door of the apartment with a gunshot wound to the neck. Knowing that they had to act quickly to have any possibility of saving her, PIC Dubert and

FPM Staatz used a wall to shield themselves from the gunshots and the shooter. They momentarily exposed themselves to possible gun fire and quickly grabbed the victim out of the line of fire to a safe area in the hallway to initiate trauma care for the gunshot wound. The injured woman told them the shooter was inside the apartment and other people inside had been shot. PIC Dubert and FPM Staatz notified CPD officers, who were coming into the building, of

the dangerous current situation. In the midst of the chaos, PIC Dubert and FPM Staatz continued to provide patient care under extremely dangerous conditions as the incident rapidly escalated to a full CPD SWAT hostage/barricade response. PIC Dubert and FPM Staatz maintained communications with CPD and assisted with

immediately transferring care of the injured woman over to the first arriving additional ambulance for transport to a trauma center. Ambulance 27 continued to work the scene and perform patient triage and primary care.

What started as a seemingly typical

call, quickly became a life threatening and dangerous situation. Despite the risks, and active gun fire, PIC Dubert and FPM Staatz continued to perform their duties without regard for their own safety. Paramedic in Charge Thomas Dubert and Fire Paramedic Megan Staatz performed these heroic acts in the highest tradition of the Chicago Fire Department and each are presented with the 2022 Paramedic Award of Valor.





2022 ★ ★ ★ ★

Chicago Fire Department Foundation Founders Award



Congratulations Richard Price, Executive Chairman of Mesirow

We are grateful beyond words for your friendship, your support, and your generosity. Together, we are supporting the CFD's training, research, development, and public education needs.

The Founders Award was established in 2019 to recognize and to thank those who were with the CFD Foundation from the very beginning. And that's a perfect description of Mesirow.

Mesirow has partnered with and supported the Foundation since the early start-up days. Mesirow has an over 80-year history of giving back to the community. The organization is a true leader in philanthropy in our city and beyond, supporting a wide range of organizations and causes.

We are so thankful for leaders like Mesirow's Richard Price, who are driven and committed to making Chicago better each and every day.



We would not be here without your continued support and commitment of our supporters, donors and friends. Their leadership has shown us that **"We must find time to stop and thank the people who make a difference in our lives."**

Supporting our Members

The Chicago Fire Department Foundation was created to support the men and women who are out there protecting us every day and keeping Chicago's residents safe. Over the last year, we've made great strides in honoring our commitment.



- We provided support for the family of fire fighter MaShawn Plummer who died in the line of duty while fighting a fire in Chicago's Belmont-Central neighborhood.

Click to learn more

- We also provided funding to Re;Act, an organization dedicated to mental health awareness for Chicago area First Responders in memory of Lt. Ryan Elwood.

Click to learn more

- We are steadfast in our support to the Chicago Fire Department's legacy of investing in people, by sponsoring Professional Development Training to help prepare future leaders. The Foundation sponsored four members of the Chicago Fire Department to attend the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association 71st Annual Conference.

- We awarded a \$50,000.00 grant to the Department for CPR training for 5000 members.



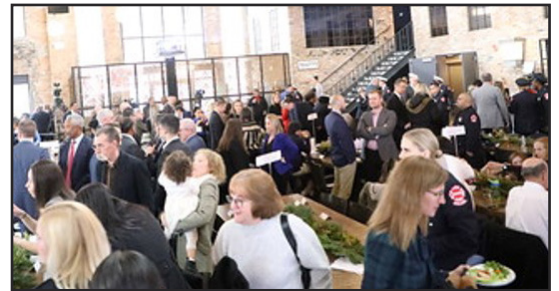
★ Tribute to Broad Shoulders



Supporting our Members



- ▶ The Foundation awarded several scholarships this past year and we will continue to fund the Annual Eileen Coglianesse scholarship through the Gold Badge Society. Eileen was a founding member of the Gold Badge Society and a Foundation Board member who passed away in March of 2021. The Chicago Fire Department Foundation awarded six scholarships to Chicago Police & Fire Training Academy (CPFTA) graduates.
- ▶ We donated over 700 lunches to Chicago's Paramedics during EMS week.
- ▶ We continue to support the family of FF Tim Eiland, a father of five children, who was an innocent victim of senseless random gunfire while leaving a birthday party with his family.
- ▶ We continue our commitment to the Chicago Fire Department Honor Guard & the Chicago Fire Department Pipes & Drums who attend countless FD functions on their own time at their own cost.
- ▶ We also provided aid to eight Gold Badge families with 19 children headed back to school this fall and to five CFD members and their families who are stricken with cancer and serious injury.





Working to make Chicago Safe Community Support



We continue to work for a safer Chicago by partnering with local food pantries to distribute smoke detectors from Rogers Park to Hegewisch and The Loop to Austin.

Thousands have been given to families in need again this year. Two thousand were distributed in the months of October and November alone.

As you can see, we are working our way into Chicago's 77 neighborhoods.

It's why we funded "The Fire Escape" project, an investment of over one million dollars. This new virtual reality technology help teach and engage students with the 10 steps

to fire safety in the home. It is a first of its kind program in the United States. Students immerse themselves in a 3-dimensional world and learn how to respond and safely evacuate during a fire in their virtual reality home. It is a powerful learning tool.

Every day, The Chicago Fire Department Foundation will strive to make further steps towards the goal of being the most prepared city in America with the ultimate goal of zero fire deaths.

We acknowledge your commitment in the cause. None of this would have been possible without your continued support.

With your help, we can do our part to help those who are devoted to protecting us.





Thank You Donors

We are grateful for the incredible support from our donors throughout 2022.



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CFD FOUNDATION MISSION

The CFD Foundation supports the critical lifesaving work of the Chicago Fire Department. The Foundation works collaboratively with the CFD and its members to support its most crucial priorities; to reduce firefighter, paramedic, and civilian deaths and injury. The Foundation supports CFD initiatives for education, fire prevention, training and equipment needs that are not funded through city, state or federal budgets. The Foundation assists the firefighters/paramedics and their families in times of need. The CFD Foundation Board Members are all volunteers and receive no compensation. The CFD Foundation's resources are utilized to meet the mission of the CFD Foundation.



There is a famous quote by an unknown author that reads; **"Poor is the Nation that has no heroes, but shameful is the Nation that has them and forgets."** We will not forget and we will continue to recognize these men and women who give so much and ask for nothing in return.

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Foundation**