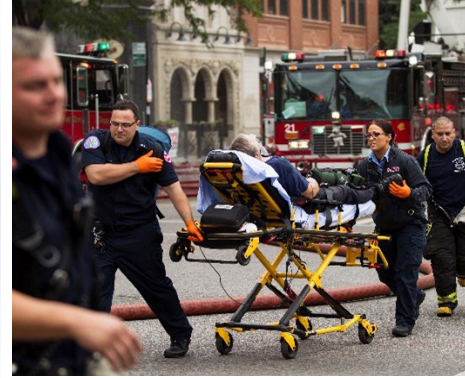




# Chicago Fire Department Foundation



## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT





***The Chicago Fire Department Foundation 2023 Annual Report is***

**DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF**



**Firefighter Jermaine Pelt**

*\* Engine 75 \**

*April 4, 2023*



**Lieutenant Jan Tchoryk**

*\* Tower Ladder 10 \**

*April 5, 2023*



**Lieutenant Kevin Ward**

*\* Truck 9 \**

*August 28, 2023*



**Firefighter Andrew Price**

*\* Truck 44 \**

*November 13, 2023*





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; and 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 of Directors



# Chicago Fire Department Foundation



Colin Boyle/Block Club Chicago



# 2023 HEROES

## Firefighter Award of Valor



### FIREFIGHTER / EMT

## Juan Gonzalez

In the early morning of February 21<sup>st</sup>, fire companies responded to a reported fire at 4339 N. Richmond St. Upon arrival, they encountered a three-story, multiple unit, apartment building with heavy smoke showing on all three floors. FF Gonzalez, assigned to the Primary Search & Rescue Team entered the building along with Engine 124 to commence fire suppression and rescue operations.

At this time, fire and smoke conditions were present on all three floors of the building. After forcing entry for the Engine on the second floor, FF Gonzalez was directed to the third floor. The intensity of the heat and smoke required FF Gonzalez to force entry to the fiery apartment while lying on his back to avoid serious burns.

With total disregard for his own personal safety, FF Gonzalez started his primary search of the third floor apartment. Despite punishing heat conditions FF Gonzalez pushed forward deeper



into the apartment. Moments before being ordered to defensive operations, FF Gonzales located a victim and was able to drag the victim to the stairway where FF Clemens assisted in removing the victim to the street and into Ambulance 32. The victim rescued by FF Gonzalez was transported to Swedish Covenant Hospital and then transported to Loyola Medical Center for further treatment. Firefighter Gonzalez performed heroically above and beyond the call to duty under extremely dangerous conditions to complete his task and save the trapped victim.



# 2023 HEROES

## Firefighter Award of Valor



### CAPTAIN

## John Haring

On November 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:12 p.m., T44 responded to a fire reported at 2250 N. Dayton Ave. Upon arrival, it was determined the fire was located at 835 W. Belden Ave. Captain Haring of T44 swiftly began his size-up and deployment of members assigned to T44. Capt. Haring quickly located the fire location after racing up a stairwell three floors as tenants retreated. Opening the door to the fire apartment, Capt. Haring and members of T44 and E55 encountered heavy black smoke and intense heat indicating an uncontrolled fire. As E55 was stretching their 2 1/2" line to advance, Capt. Haring began following operating procedures to begin a primary search of the immediate fire-threatened area.

Relying on his experience and training, Capt. Haring deployed his truck members to begin searching multiple areas of the apartment. Taking into account risk vs. reward, Capt. Haring moved down the hallway toward the fire area, continuing his search pattern. As the uncontrolled fire began to extend out of the kitchen area to the dining room, Capt. Haring discovered an unresponsive female on the floor area located in the hallway adjoining the dining room. Disregarding the intense heat and dense smoke conditions, Capt. Haring notified the incident commander of locating a victim and began



removing her approximately 20 feet to the front stairwell out of the area of danger. Capt. Haring ordered two members working on T44 to remove the victim to side A for medical assistance. Capt. Haring then continued with E55, searching for others as E55 advanced the 2 1/2" line to control the fire.

Due to the bravery, expertise, and calm under extreme conditions, the victim was removed and transported to the hospital for further evaluation. Captain Haring exemplifies what the Chicago Fire Department strives to represent - courage, strength, and professionalism under fire.

# 2023 HEROES

## Paramedic Award of Valor



### PARAMEDIC IN CHARGE

**Randie Hillison**

### FIRE PARAMEDIC

**Karen Nuemann**

On September 28<sup>th</sup>, Ambulance 36 with Paramedic in Charge Randie Hillison and Fire Paramedic Karen Nuemann were responding to a call for medical assistance at 5532 S Wabash Ave. As Ambulance 36 approached the intersection of 56th and Wabash, gun shots rang out.

Both Hillison and Nuemann heard approximately 10 gun shots and were so close to the shooter that they saw muzzle flashes from the gun. After notifying OEMC of the situation, they immediately stopped the ambulance as they witnessed a civilian hit by gunfire. As they exited the ambulance, disregarding their own safety, they started to attend to the victim who was also pregnant. Aware of the risk of treating the patient on the street, they quickly assisted the pregnant victim to the safety of Ambulance 36 and retreated a few blocks away as gun shots continued.

They quickly stabilized the victim who had

been shot in the back and transported her to the University of Chicago.

Paramedic in Charge Randie Hillison and Fire Paramedic Karen Nuemann performed with total disregard for their own personal safety to remove the victim from a very dangerous situation. They stabilized the victim and treated her gunshot wounds. Their actions prevented a terrible situation from becoming a tragic outcome.



# 2023 HEROES

## Firefighter of the Year Award and Paramedic of the Year Award



- \* Captain/EMT Denijal Milat
- \* PIC Steven Gutzmer
- \* FF/EMT Christopher Wyher
- \* FPM Terry Jones, Jr.

- \* FF/EMT Timothy Beucher
- \* FF/EMT Brandon Gasparas
- \* LT/EMT David Navarro
- \* FF Frank Carone

- \* FF/EMT Daniel Myers
- \* FF/EMT Michael Guzolek
- \* FF/EMT Kevin Mayer

On July 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Chicago area received as much as eight inches of rain on Chicago's west side. This caused significant flash flooding in the area. The Chicago Fire Department experienced flooded streets and viaducts throughout the west side. Companies had to navigate around to find passable streets.

Engine 96, Truck 29, and additional companies from the 7th Battalion were dispatched to a reported structure fire at 1225 N. Laverne Ave. Upon arrival, Engine 96 reported a basement fire in an occupied building. Engine 96 immediately advanced a hose line down into the basement to contain and extinguish the fire as Truck 29 started search and rescue operations. FF Michael Gibson was advancing the nozzle to the seat of the fire when the unimaginable happened. Lieutenant Karman heard FF Gibson yell out and then saw him lying on the floor in approximately two to three feet of water from the flooded basement. Lt Karman went to FF Gibson's aid and immediately received electrical shocks as he attempted to pick him up. The entire flooded basement was energized by live electricity. Lt Karman requested a May-Day response for a downed firefighter.

Truck 26 was assigned as the Rapid Intervention Team (RIT), which is tasked with FF rescue at

all confirmed fires in Chicago. Truck 26's officer ordered a member to pull the electrical meter on the building and deployed to the basement along with Truck 36 to rescue FF Gibson. The members of Truck 26 and Truck 36 removed FF Gibson's turnout gear and immediately began CPR as they exited the basement. He was in cardiac arrest as a result of being electrocuted.

At this time, the Rapid Intervention Ambulance (Ambulance 63) was deployed to the rescue. Paramedic in Charge Steven Gutzmer and Fire Paramedic Terry Jones placed FF Gibson's lifeless body on a stretcher and began treatment. Once inside Ambulance 63 a defibrillator was used to resuscitate the firefighter. The defibrillator was used two more times as per ACLS protocol. Both paramedics worked feverishly to resuscitate FF Gibson and they were assisted by firefighters on the scene. Prior to transport to the hospital, FF Gibson was successfully resuscitated, showed a good pulse and spontaneous breathing.

If not for the heroic actions of these members, the outcome would have been much different. The ethos of "Never Leaving a Comrade in Need" was demonstrated on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023, at 1225 N Laverne Ave.



# Civilian Life Saving Award

St. Ignatius College Prep student John Hennelly

On October 2<sup>nd</sup>, the St. Ignatius College Prep cross country team was on their run along Chicago's lakefront when junior John Hennelly noticed a man yelling for help and struggling to stay afloat in water. John sprang into action and directed two people nearby to throw him a buoy. The Chicago Fire Department was notified and the man was able to stay afloat until the fire department's dive team brought him to safety. John's efforts prevented a man from drowning in Lake Michigan. As a result of John's leadership, quick thinking, and actions he was awarded the 2023 Civilian Life Saving Award.



## Founders Award

Gallagher Insurance, Risk Management and Consulting



The 2023 Founders Award was presented to Gallagher Insurance, Risk Management and Consulting. Tom Tropp, Global Chief Ethics Officer, received the award on behalf of Gallagher. Gallagher has been a steadfast supporter of the Foundation since the beginning. They are committed to the brave men and woman of the Chicago Fire Department and the residents of Chicago.

The Foundation is forever grateful for Gallagher's support and leadership. We would not be here without their continued assistance 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 families of our fallen heroes.** The Chicago Fire Department lost four members in the line of Duty in 2023.
  - \* Firefighter Jermaine Pelt, Engine 75
  - \* Lieutenant Jan Tchoryk, Tower Ladder 10
  - \* Lieutenant Kevin Ward, Truck 9
  - \* Firefighter Andrew Price, Truck 44
- ▶ The Foundation also provided support to the families of the nine Active Chicago Fire Department members who passed away in 2023. We provided back-to-school support for 16 families and 35 children in 2023 of Line of Duty Death families and families of Active members who have passed away over the past years.
- ▶ We provided support to the Stewart family who suffered an unspeakable tragedy in 2023.
- ▶ The Foundation awarded several scholarships this past year and we will continue to fund the Eileen Coglianesse Annual 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.



CPFTA scholarship awardees

- ▶ The Chicago Fire Department Foundation awarded six scholarships to Chicago Police & Fire Training Academy (CPFTA) graduates.



# Supporting our Members



► **Professional Development** – The Foundation sponsored CFD members to attend the Fire Service Research Institute (FSRI) in Philadelphia this past year. The FSRI provides science-based insights that are applied broadly by stakeholders to advance fire safety. This training was concentrated on Fire Dynamics for Structural Firefighting "train the trainer" course. The program was brought back to Chicago.

► **The Foundation continues to support RE;ACT** – RE;ACT celebrates the life of Lt. RYAN ELWOOD, strives to create AWARENESS for the battle he fought, campaigns for much needed COUNSELING to help his fellow Fire Fighters and First Responders who face the same challenges each day and funds TRAINING to benefit the profession for which he was so passionate. The semicolon is included as it has come to represent hope and love for those who are struggling with depression, suicide, addiction and self-injury.

► **We provided support for Chicago's paramedics by supplying over 700 lunches during EMS Week.** They rise above every day and provide the best patient care in the nation.

► **The Foundation also supported the Chicago Fire Department Memorial Day mass in 2023.** The mass returned after a five-year hiatus, and honored all the LODD, Active, Retired, as well as Gold Badge Society members who have died since May 1, 2018.

► **We continue to support the men and women of the Chicago Fire Department Pipes & Drums.** These dedicated firefighters and paramedics attend countless events on their own time and at their own cost. Thank you CFD Pipes & Drums for all that you do for CFD Families.







# Working to make Chicago Safe Community Support



The Foundation continued our partnership with CFD Community Pop-Up events and local food pantries, who distributed free smoke detectors we provided, to serve residents of Chicago during these challenging times.

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 three-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.**



**FRIEDA'S PLACE**



formerly Lakeview Pantry





# Thank You Donors

We are grateful for the incredible support from our donors throughout 2023.



## Host Committee (\$25k+):

The Crown Family



Patrick G. and  
Shirley W. Ryan



## Patron Sponsors (\$10k):

Allstate Insurance Company  
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## 2023 Co-Chairs:

- \* **Greg Brown**, Chairman and CEO, Motorola Solutions, Inc.
- \* **Timothy Crane**, President and CEO, Wintrust Financial Corporation
- \* **Torrence L. Hinton**, President, Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas
- \* **Richard Price**, Executive Chairman, Mesirow
- \* **Jennifer Scanlon**, President and CEO, UL Solutions



## 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.



[www.cfdfoundation.com](http://www.cfdfoundation.com) | [@cfdfoundation](https://www.instagram.com/cfdfoundation)



**Chicago  
Fire Department  
Foundation**