

FIREFIGHTERS DOWN



Getting Firefighters Back on Their Feet

Company Brief



Firefighters Down

Firefighter's Down is a "Wounded Warriors" style program for Firefighters.

Our Mission

To speed the healing of Firefighters Minds, Spirits and Bodies after suffering life altering injuries and illnesses.

Who we treat

Our primary customers are physically and emotionally injured or ill Firefighters from Fire Departments Nationwide with all life threatening wounds healed enough to allow for travel and the Firefighters Down Retreat experience.



The Healing Process

Injured Firefighters from across the nation (Family members based on therapist recommendation) receive an all-expense paid trip to the beautiful Malibu California. Transported to Serra Retreat or to one of our partner Rehab Centers for a 4-day / 3 night stay. These men, women & family members receive a customized healing process.

How Firefighters Go Down

Building fires, ceiling collapses, automobile fires and fire engine collision to and from incidents, wildfires, hazardous materials spills and physical assaults are just some of the incidents where firefighters "Go down".

Two Firefighters are injured every week

INJURIES

Firefighter injuries	2015	68,085
Fire ground injuries	2015	29,130
Fire ground injuries	2014	39,715
Firefighter deaths	2014	64
Firefighter injuries	2013	65,880
Responding to emergency's		4015
Training		7,700
Non-fire emergencies		12,535
Misc. on-duty activities		11,800

ILLNESS

53% greater chance of multiple myeloma
51% greater chance of non-Hodgkin lymphoma
39% greater chance of skin cancer
32% greater chance of brain cancer
28% greater chance of prostate cancer
22% greater chance of stomach cancer
21% greater chance of colon cancer
102% greater chance testicular cancer

First on Scene

The two million fire calls that American Fire departments respond to each year represent the highest figures in the industrialized world. Many people don't realize that Firefighters are **First on Scene** for all traumatic incident and accidents. Daily injuries and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder permeates our ranks with no solution in place.

The Fire service has evolved rapidly with cutting edge equipment and the most modern firefighting and EMS techniques available. Firefighters Down is leading the charge to evolve and modernize the mental health and well-being of firefighters.

The Roots of Firefighters Down

Firefighters Down was born from a Fire Department tragedy. The suicide death of our friend and brother Fire Captain Rick Mc Clung. Ricks death spoke for many Firefighters who have been negatively impacted from seeing emergency incidents ranging from murder, rape and gang violence to car crashes, suicides and domestic violence, day after day.

I began researching the effects the exposure to daily traumatic events and combat injuries have on soldiers and the parallels to Firefighters was stunning. Like combat soldiers, Firefighters develop coping mechanisms to deal with heartbreaking traumatic rescues also. When the I firefighter is injured this coping takes on a whole new level and the destructive qualities of PTSD can destroy not only the injured Firefighter but his family.

FD Therapeutic Process

Our therapeutic process is designed to restore the *spirits* of injured Firefighters. Current studies have discovered that healing of the spirit is vital to healing the mind and body. By contracting with a multitude of therapist, therapies and healing providers, FFD is able to create customized programs to meet the individual needs for each Firefighter and their families. Each Firefighters situation and injuries are analyzed, strategically grouped together and a retreat agenda of services and events are organized.

Sacrifice and Appreciation

Appreciation makes sense of self-sacrifice after an injury, depression is then replaced by dignity and a true healing process begins.

We have aligned with local business who have committed to providing their service's while our Firefighters and their families are in California. The list is vast, ranging from fishing trips, sunset dinners and horseback riding to massage and float therapy.

With support from corporations, celebrities, the community and Firefighters from across the nation, the injured Firefighters will come to understand the positive value of their sacrifice.



Family Support

Family support is a key ingredient if the healing process is to be successful. Through our partnerships with Dr. Johnson and Family First Foundation the spouses and children of Firefighters will also receive healing, guidance and support. Trips to one of theme park, beach excursions, horseback riding and other positive activities are key ingredients of the healing process.

FFD Therapeutic Follow up process

The Firefighters Down follow up process utilizes communication technology to continue therapy for both the Firefighter and also his or her family. We also partner with and fund local therapist from each Firefighters community to continue the healing process after the Firefighter returns home.



Fire/EMS Helpline

First responders and their families can call the Fire/EMS Helpline [1-888-731-FIRE \(3473\)](tel:1-888-731-FIRE) any time day or night to seek immediate support for a variety of behavioral issues. These may include alcohol or drug addiction, depression, suicide prevention, stress or anxiety other psychological issues. Calls are free and confidential.

The National Volunteer Fire Council has graciously partnered with Firefighters Downs to provide the NVFC Fire/EMS Helpline.

Firefighters Down Crowd Funding

Our crowd funding platform allows for DIRECT support of injured Firefighters. Many become lost in the large audience of Kick Starter and Go Fundme but we only list Firefighters. When a firefighter goes down now his comrades and family can raise monies immediately through Firefighters Down Crowd Funding.

Certified Vendors Association

Firefighters Down **Certified Vendors Association** rewards vendors who *Give Back* to the fire services. This online store connects vendors to our National Firefighter customer base. We applaud vendors that do more than take from the Fire Service, but list and support Firefighters Downs mission.

Bi Monthly Newsletter

The FFD newsletter is released through direct email and over our social media channels twice a month. This electronic newsletter combines video, highlights our partners and brings awareness to the ongoing issues of the Fire Service.

This action piece of our business model supports both FFD and our sponsors marketing efforts.

Company Founders

Captain Mike Henry

Captain Rick Brandelli

Both Mike & Rick have been with Los Angeles County Fire for many years, Mike for 30 and Rick for 27. As veterans there is an obligation to support younger Firefighters from the PTSD that plagued them and their colleagues over their years.

Captain Henry & Brandelli created Firefighters Downs in response to seeing their fellow firefighters lives altered after traumatic accidents and illnesses, the suicide death of Fire Captain Rick McClung and after Captain Henry received major injuries in a 2-story house fires ceiling collapse while fighting a major fire with Captain Brandelli.

Dr. Stephen Johnson-Director of Therapy

Dr. Johnson is chief designer and manager of the FFD therapeutic program. Customizing each session to meet the specific needs of the injured Firefighters we serve. Dr. Johnson also manages our ongoing follow up program.

Stephen J. Johnson, Ph.D., holds three advanced degrees and was awarded a Fellowship in Rehabilitation Psychology from the University of Southern California. He has been a licensed psychotherapist, consultant, and educator for over 40 years and has a full-time practice with offices in Beverly Hills and Woodland Hills. He holds two counseling credentials and a National Certification in Rehabilitation Counseling (CRC5869) as well as a state license in Marriage and Family Therapy (MFC5867) granted in 1972. He is the founder and director of the Men's Center of Los Angeles, formed in 1988 and has conducted workshops and retreats for men and women for over 30 years.



Griffin Gives Foundation

Griffin Gives mission, to support organizations whose mission is to make a difference in the lives of others. Their commitment to FireFighters Down is a grand complement to our organization.

Griffin Gives work with cancer and our injured military service military men and women is invaluable. The Griffin Gives Foundation is a philanthropic, not for profit 501(c)(3) foundation which allows us to offer the tax benefits of a nonprofit to donors.

Family First Foundation

Mission: Children's minds need to be cultivated, educated, motivated and stimulated so they grow up confident and able to reason out their place in the world, to be the best they can be.

Our partnership with Family First Foundation delivers their experience and success at supporting families to our Firefighters families. We realize that the wellbeing of the families of the injured are key healing elements. As our Firefighters experience our healing program their families will be whizzed away to visit theme parks, shows, sporting events and more. The children will be supported to reach the highest levels of education through the Family First Foundation programs.

Firefighters Down Board of Directors:

- Our board is comprised of Firefighters who provide intimate knowledge's and key partners who provide the expertise required to launch, grow and sustain our program
- **Board of Directors**
- Rick Brandelli, Fire Captain
- Corey Many, Firefighter
- Tracy Linen: Executive Director: Griffen Gives
- Katie Zackon: Executive Vice President: Griffen Gives
- Jason Bustamante, Firefighter
- Jay Swendseid Fire Captain
- David Schellenburger, Firefighter
- Carlos Iglesias Firefighter Retired
- Anthony Hinojos Firefighter
- Emmitt Sanders Firefighter
- Hank Baskett
- Damon Nelson



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Legal Structure

Firefighters Down is a sole proprietorship which has partnered with Griffen Gives (501c3) This partnership with Griffen Gives provides our supporter the tax savings of a Non Profit.

Captain Mike Henry

Co-Founder

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