



Friends of Firefighters *2022 Impact Report*

Providing Free Mental Health and Wellness Services to the FDNY Community Since 2001



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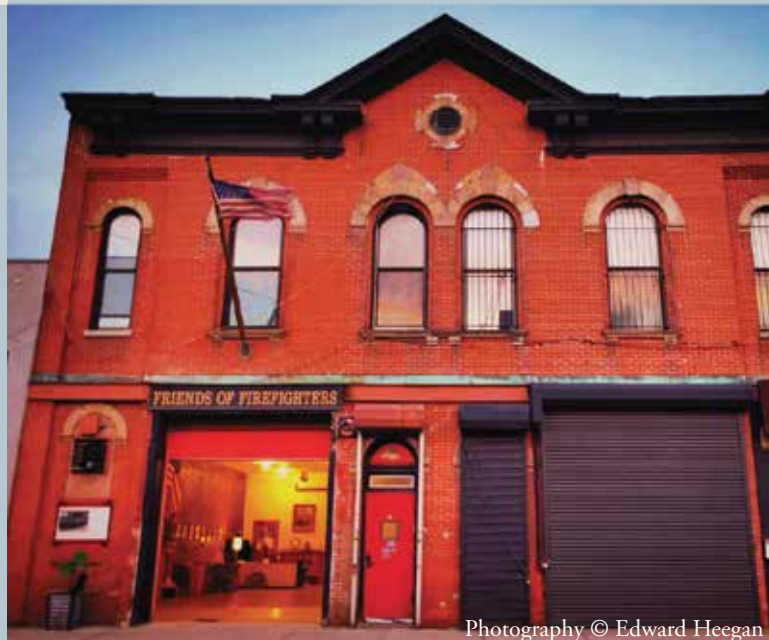
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Florence Maroney, LMHC <i>Senior Counselor</i>	Emmett White <i>Outreach Coordinator</i>



Photography © Edward Heegan



Our Mission

Friends of Firefighters is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization that provides independent, confidential, and free mental health counseling and wellness services to active and retired FDNY firefighters and their family members.

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All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law.

From our Founder & Executive Director

Dear Friends,

September 11, 2001 was a day that brought true horror and fear, yet simultaneously illustrated how New Yorkers band together with love and support for strangers. It is this spirit of compassion and kindness that has guided the work of Friends of Firefighters for over twenty years.

As the city emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic, we cannot forget the mental toll it has taken on our firefighters. The psychological costs they endured while responding to an unprecedented number of calls have resulted in an increased need for our services. Compared to 2021, we saw a 59% increase in counseling sessions, and 71% increase in the number of clients. In 2022, we conducted over 3,500 counseling sessions and accepted over 180 new clients.

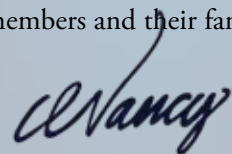
We're honored to be a trusted resource of New York City's Bravest. To meet this increased demand in services, we've expanded our administrative staff, programmatic offerings, and hired eleven new counselors since 2020.

Friends of Firefighters was founded, quite simply, by a mother whose instinct was to support firefighters as they grappled with an unfathomable loss in the wake of September 11th. Twenty-two years later, with the help of hundreds of firefighters, donors, and supporters, I am so proud of what Friends of Firefighters has become. Our team is stronger than ever, and the need for our services continues to grow well beyond our expectations.

Thank you to the many partners who donated their time, resources and expertise to ensure the continuation and growth of our services. We are grateful for those who understand the challenges of first responders, the worries of their families, and the ever-present threat of injury or death.

To our FDNY members and their families: thank you for the privilege of allowing us to serve your community.

We're still here.



2001



2002



2008



2011



2016



2021



Why We Do



What We Do



An estimated **37%** of firefighters are suffering from **post-traumatic stress****



Post-traumatic stress and **depression** rates among firefighters have been found to be as much as **five times higher** than the civilian population*

*Ruderman Family Foundation

Since 1880, **1,831** US firefighter suicides have been reported with **95%** occurring since 2000**

Actual numbers are higher, as the *Firefighter Behavioral Health Alliance (2023)* estimates reporting at **only 60%.

Firefighters are **three times more likely** to complete suicide than to die in the line of duty^{***}



A recent survey of 1,000 US firefighters demonstrated that at some point in their careers:^{****}

- 47%** considered suicide
- 19%** made plans for a suicide attempt
- 16%** went through with a suicide attempt

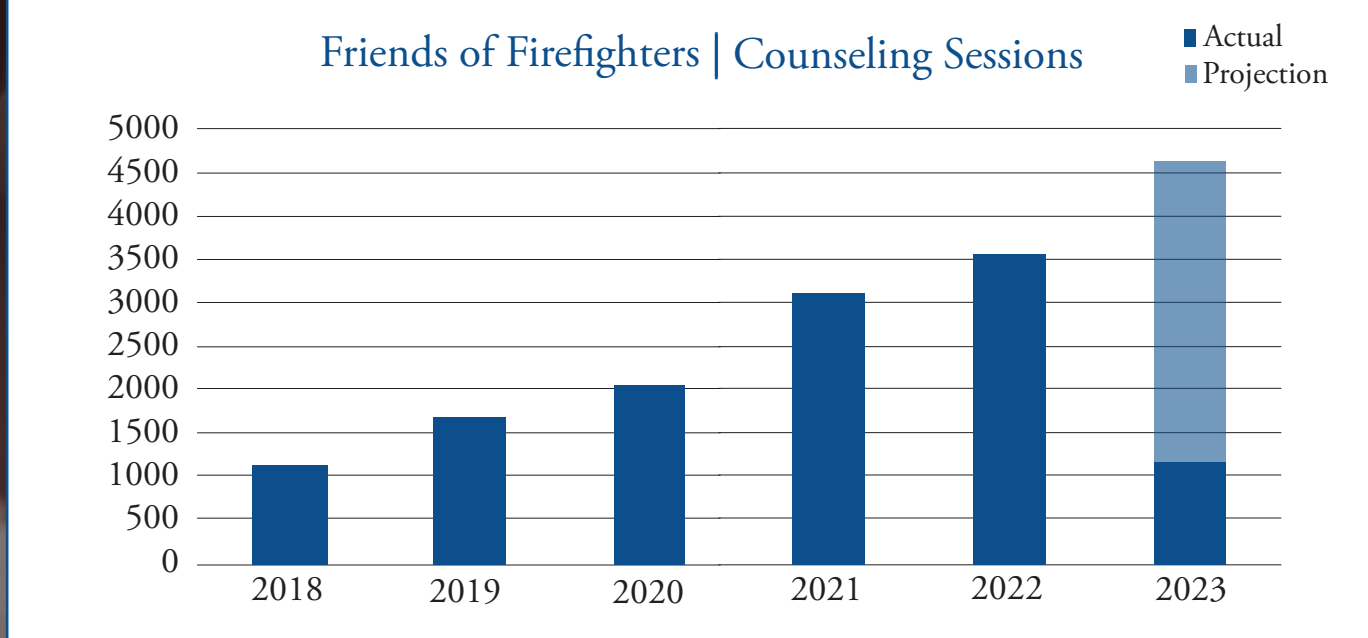
^{***} Firefighter Behavioral Health Alliance
^{****} Florida State University

Prevailing concerns in 2022 were **anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress,** and **relational conflict.**



3,572 counseling sessions in 2022

- 45%** of clients were **family members**
- 55%** of clients were **firefighters**



35% average year-over-year increase in sessions provided between 2018 and 2022.

221% total increase in sessions provided between 2018 and 2022.

How We Do



What We Do



We are projected to conduct over **4,600 counseling sessions** by the end of 2023.



On the Arm Breakfast

Established in 2003 by the late Tony 'Cat' Catapano, our beloved volunteer Pete Calascione (Retired FDNY, Engine 202), carries on the tradition of hosting a monthly breakfast for active and retired FDNY members and their families.



We've been taking care of the people of New York for a long time... it's nice when somebody takes care of us.

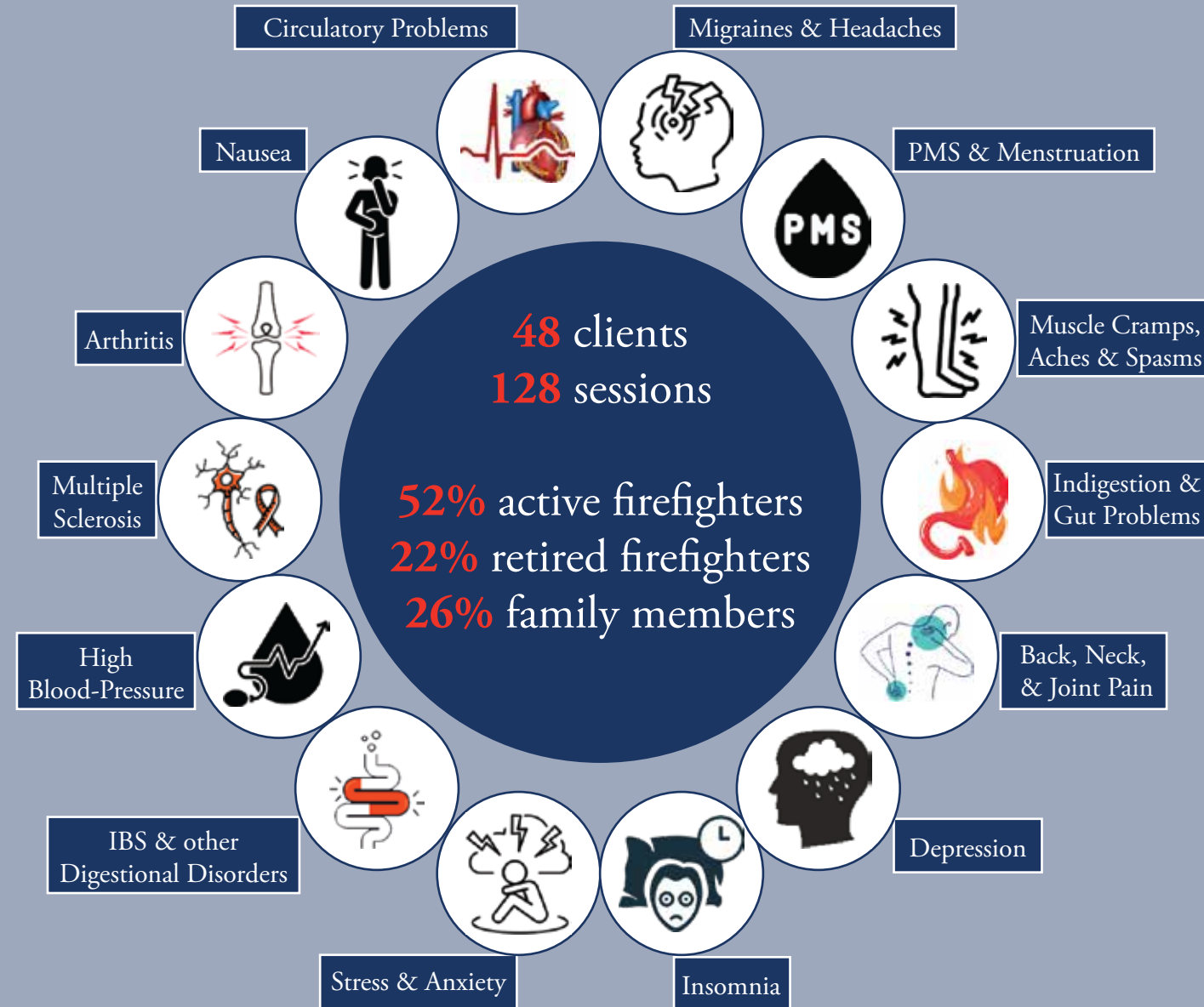
-FDNY Captain

Services and programs are for individuals, couples, groups, and families.

- | | | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Counseling | Life Coaching | Peer Support | Support Groups |
| Acupuncture | HeartMath | Reiki | Additional Wellness |
| On the Arm Breakfast | Firehouse Kitchen Talk | Financial Guidance | Info and Referrals |

Available in-person and online

Acupuncture Services at a Glance



Motorola Solutions
generously donated
funds to cover
178 outreach hours.



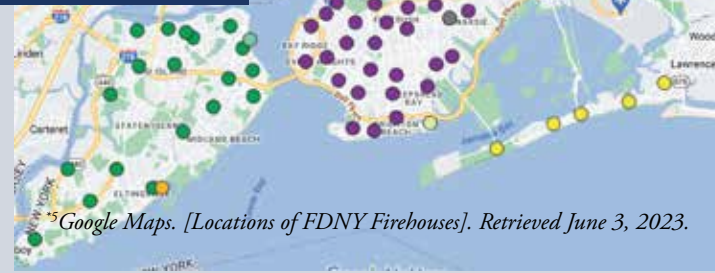


Our Outreach Coordinator, Emmett White, visited more than **130 firehouses** in 2022.

Traveling throughout the **five boroughs** via public transportation, Emmett delivered informational material to over **2,000 firefighters**.

NYC has **218 firehouses** that are organized across **9 Divisions**.

Within the divisions there are **53 Battalions**, holding **197 Engines, 143 Trucks, 8 Squads, 5 Rescues, 1 HazMat Unit, and 3 Marine Companies**.



⁵Google Maps. [Locations of FDNY Firehouses]. Retrieved June 3, 2023.





We are honored to present to each class of probies at the **FDNY Fire Academy.**

Each graduating class learns about the numerous stressors associated with the job, and the free-of-charge services we provide.



Outreach doesn't just mean firehouse visits.

Our staff and board members attended multiple FDNY events throughout the year!



Left to Right: with FF Jimmy Henkel in Atlantic City at the 2022 **UFA Convention**; with News Anchor, Bill Ritter, at **ABC Operation Save-a-Life**; with Former FDNY Commissioner, Daniel Nigro, at **FDNY Headquarters**; **Tikkun BBQ**; with Retired FF John Larrochia at **Laughter Saves Lives**; with Penny the Pig; with FDNY members at **Tunnel to Towers**; with FDNY members at **El Caribe**; Volunteers at **ALS Watchdaws Fundraiser**.

The Taylor Foundation's
generous donation
covered the cost of
75 counseling sessions.

Spearheaded by **Slipknot's** frontman
Corey Taylor, The Taylor Foundation
raises awareness of post-traumatic stress,
and provides resources and financial
support to nonprofits that are actively
providing meaningful and creative
assistance to those affected by PTS.





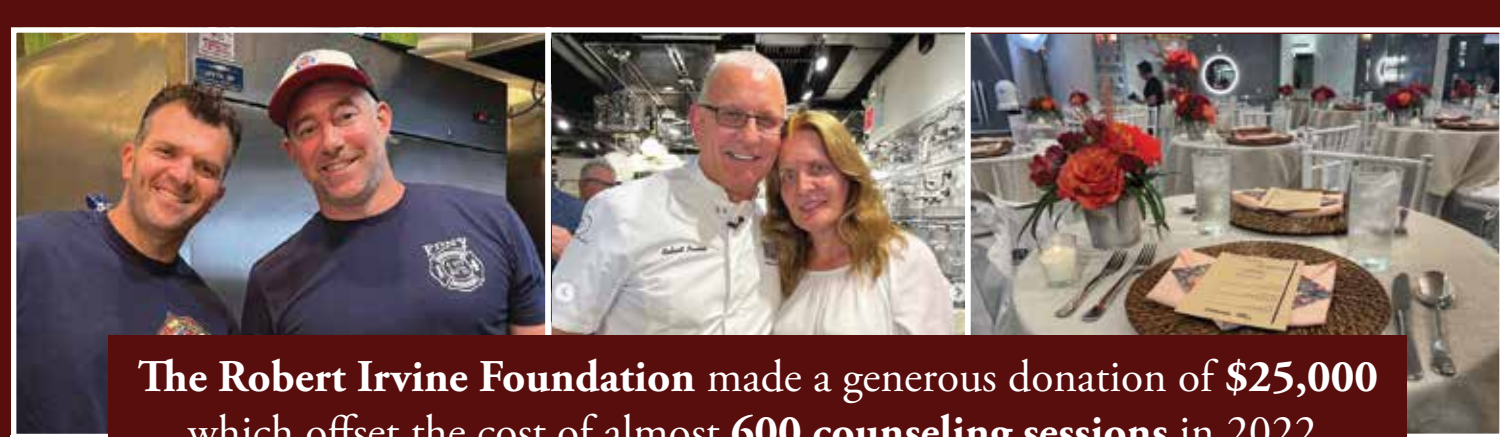
We proudly celebrated our 20th birthday in downtown Manhattan on June 14th.

Located at *Suspenders Bar & Grill*, our party brought together some of our first supporters, along with our newest partners.

2/22/22



Celebrating 20 years of the official incorporation of Friends of Firefighters



The Robert Irvine Foundation made a generous donation of **\$25,000** which offset the cost of almost **600 counseling sessions** in 2022.

Robert Irvine & Ferguson Showrooms



We are grateful for our partnership with the **Robert Irvine Foundation**, the **Ferguson Showrooms** team led by Jennifer Klaus, and our neighbors around the corner at **Engine 202 & Ladder101**.





35 FDNY Cooks
15 FDNY Houses
5 Winners

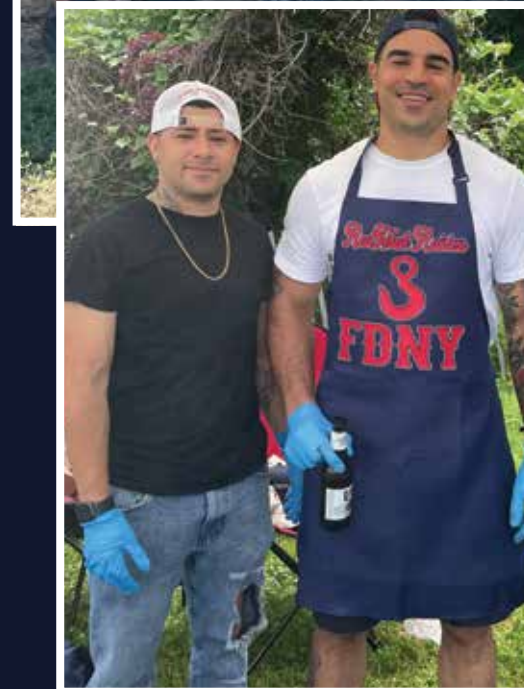


JUDGE'S CHOICE
1st Place ENGINE 6
2nd Place LADDER 8
3rd Place RESCUE 1

PEOPLE'S CHOICE
1st Place ENGINE 6
2nd Place ENGINE 239
3rd Place ENGINE 202



5th ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF



Thank you to **Jimmy Carbone & Food Karma Projects** for choosing **Friends of Firefighters** as a long-time Community Partner for their annual culinary events, including *Brisket King*, *Rib King*, and *Pig Island*.



Cantor Fitzgerald Charity Day



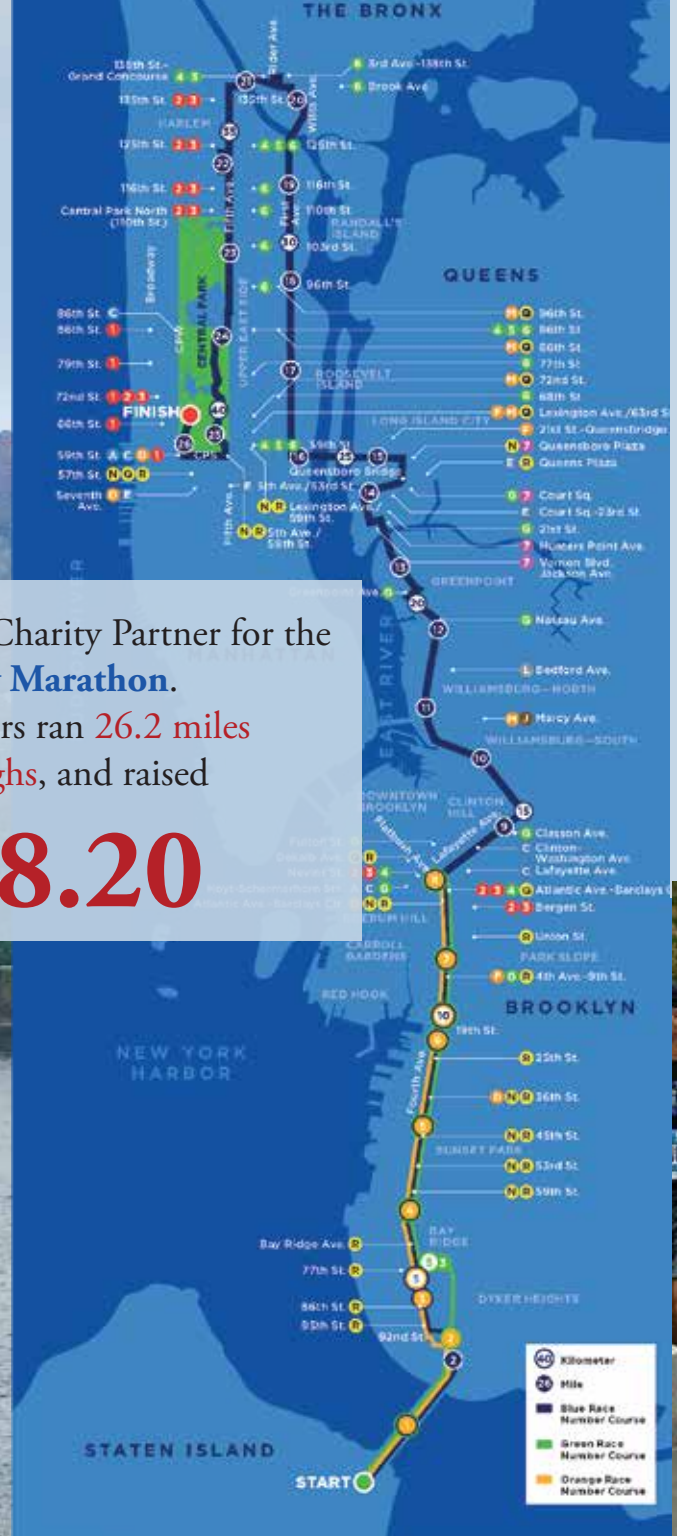
For 10 years, we have been invited to bring an ambassador to join **Cantor Fitzgerald** on the trading floor to conduct trades with clients.

Since 2012, **Steve Buscemi** has attended this event with our team. Friends of Firefighters ambassadors have included **Vincent Piazza**, **Tony Lo Bianco**, and others.



With the support of our 2022 ambassador, **Brian Quinn**, this tremendous day of charity brought **\$25,000** to Friends of Firefighters.





Friends of Firefighters was a Charity Partner for the TCS New York City Marathon. Our **eight** amazing runners ran **26.2 miles** through all **five boroughs**, and raised **\$22,278.20**

OFFICIAL CHARITY PARTNER



Past Honorees

2010

Steve Buscemi
Jennifer McNamara
Skipp Sudduth

2012

Eve Bucca
Sean Belnick
David Caputo
Todd DeMayo
Kevin Gallagher
Tom King
Brad Lander
Ralph Mandia
Jimmy Miller
Bobby Miuccio, Jr.
Bobby Miuccio, Sr.
Telly Tellefson

2014

Doug Borths
FDNY E205 / L118
Daniel Nigro
Amy Simmons
Terry Winter

2016

Jerry Coffin
FDNY Pipes & Drums
Edie Lutnick
Mary Alice Stevenson
Captain John Vigiano

2018

Engine 202 / Ladder 101
Warren Fuchs
Kievon Harper
Jimmy Hayhurst
Patrick O'Grady
Eileen Levine
George Scocca
UFA

2011

Chief Michael Burke
Pete Calascione
Tony Catapano
Elizabeth Crowley
Captain Liam Flaherty
Billy Hodgens
Daniel Nigro
Kenny Pogen

2013

Jay Abel
Marian Fontana
NoLa Fire Department
Operation Gut & Pump
Gary Sinise
Tim Van Patten
Jay Whitmer
Tommy Woods

2015

Jo Andres
Chris Barber, L22
Noam Freedman
Annie Freedman
Chief Edward Kilduff
John Mills, L25

2017

Deepa Balakrishnan
Paul "Signs" Boegemann
Karen Donnelly
Chief Vincent Dunn
FDNY Rescue 2
Gregg Wolpert

2019

Jimmy Carbone
Kia Carbone
Tony Catapano, E202
Amy Freeze
John Fuchs, L101
Eric Howard, L4



Friends of Firefighters

~ Acknowledging 20 Years ~



Our **Annual Fall Gala** is our largest fundraiser of the year.

This special evening helps raise the necessary funds to support our ongoing mission.

The Fall Gala brings together past supporters with new friends to make connections and forge relationships to sustain our mission.

We are grateful to each of the **73 individuals, firehouses, and independent organizations** that we have honored over the past 20 years.







2022 was yet another a year of uncertainty. With decreased capacity, distance requirements, and various new health measures in place, we were faced with a number of restrictions that we had not previously encountered.

We were privileged to honor **Brian Quinn, Peter Calascione, Bridget Gormley, FTI, and Zuri Group.**

With the help of our guests, sponsors, and donors, we raised

\$87,022.37



Thank you to our partners,
in-kind donors, sponsors, and
ongoing supporters.

2022 Major Donors

Amundi US
Anna Maria Geehan
Apple Bank
Brian Ahearne
Brian Cohen
Brotherhood Ride Inc
Caldwell Wingate
Charlie DeBevoise
Chris Rock
Cynthia Hochswender
Daniel Walsh
David Blake
Duane Morris, LLP
Eileen Overbaugh
FDNY Steuben Association

Gary Sinise Foundation
Geico Philanthropic Foundation
Gerald Coffin
Gregg Wolpert
Janet Bellusci
Jason Calacanis
Jimmy Carbone
Kendra Scott LLC
Kenneth Hegel
Mark Boisi
Marlynn Vetter
Matthew Pintchik
Motorola Solutions, Inc.
Nathan Marinoff
New York Bravest Foundation

Nicholas Visconti
Pledgling Foundation
Raymond Baccala
Richard & Susan Schlueck
Robert Getru
Schulte Roth & Zabel
Simon Industries, LLC
Stanley Stahl Management Inc.
State of Mississippi, City of Biloxi
Stern, Tannenbaum & Bell LLP
Steve Buscemi
The Apatow-Mann Family Fdtn.
The Lanza Family Foundation
The Taylor Foundation
Tim and Wendy R. Van Patten



Barasch, McGarry, Salzman & Penson
Dade County Association of Firefighters Charities, Inc
Ingram, Yuzek, Gainen, Carroll, & Bertolotti, LLP
Schlesinger, Gannon & Lazetera, LLP
The Steven Buscemi and Jo Andres Charitable Fund
Uniformed Firefighters Association
Unity Building Security Inc.
Vector Management
Yoga Bees are Beautiful LLC
Zeckendorf Development LLC.

Council Member Julie Menin
Council Member Robert Holden
Council Member Shahana Hanif
Council Member Rita Joseph
Council Member David Carr
Council Member Joseph Borelli
Council Member Alexa Avilés
New York City Council Speaker Adrienne Eadie Adams



A night-time photograph of the Statue of Liberty on Liberty Island, New York. The statue is illuminated from below, and its torch is lit. The surrounding water is dark blue, and the city lights of New York City are visible in the background under a twilight sky. A small sailboat is visible in the water to the left of the statue.

Thank you for supporting
Friends of Firefighters.

Your support is the reason why
New York City's Bravest
have a place to go for help.