

Benefit Fund Celebrates Its 24th Annual Shea Stadium Picnic

New York Police and Fire Widows' and Children's Benefit Fund Celebrates Its 24th Annual Picnic at Shea Stadium.

On May 28, 2008 over 1,200 families of first responders, loyal friends, and staunch supporters joined the Benefit Fund in honoring the families of New York's fallen heroes at the 24th Annual Picnic at Shea Stadium. Guests were greeted by, Daniel J. "Rusty" Staub, Benefit Fund Chairman, Stephen Dannhauser, Benefit Fund President and CEO, and the Board of Directors. Other special guests and avid supporters included, Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly and Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta.

The day began with a sea of smiling faces gathered "under the tent" which was filled with donated beverages from DiaGEO GUINNESS USA and NY Fire Fighters working the grill. Guests were mesmerized by the décor which consisted of powerful imagery of New York's finest and bravest who made the ultimate sacrifice. All received stylish T-shirts with the Benefit Fund's new marketing message: NEW YORK TAKES CARE OF ITS OWN!

Game time was bitter sweet as the children of four families representing each of the Departments the Benefit Fund assists (Fire, Police, Port Authority and EMS) were announced on the field to throw the "first" pitch. And Regina Wilson, New York Fire Fighter held the crowds attention with her breathtaking rendition of the National Anthem. To end the night and make the last Picnic at "ole" Shea Stadium a truly memorable experience the Mets pulled through in extra innings at beat the Marlins!

Since its inception in 1985 the Benefit Fund has distributed more than \$105 million to the families of New York City personnel who have been killed in the line of duty. The Benefit Fund assists nearly 700 families annually. And the Annual Picnic was a success in raising over \$200,000 which will be instrumental in continuing to distribute funds.

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Montauk Business Owners Step Up To The Plate!

On August 16th, Montauk business owners will be hosting family members of the those brave New York Firefighters and Police Officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice for their communities. With cooperation from the New York Police & Fire Widows' & Children's Benefit Fund, The Ebb Tide will be hosting a fishing trip and Ken Giustino of The Montauk Sun will be hosting a Barbecue and Pool Party at his Montauk home after the fishing trip. The ever-generous Gurney's Inn has stepped up and will be donating hamburgers and hot dogs for the barbecue.

We would like to hear from other volunteers who would be willing to give some time for this cause. We could use others to donate salads, watermelon, soft drinks, etc...all those barbecue supplies. Also, they will need some people to help out with the actual set-up and serving on the 16th.

If you would be willing to volunteer for such a wonderful event, please call **Ken Giustino at 631-668-5077**.

If you cannot volunteer, please consider a donation to the Fund. The widows and children need financial assistance while coping with the loss of their loved one. Checks can be mailed to:

New York Police & Fire Widows' & Children's Benefit Fund
General Post Office
PO Box 26837
New York, NY 10087-6837.

Contributions may also be made on-line by visiting:
www.answerthecall.org

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