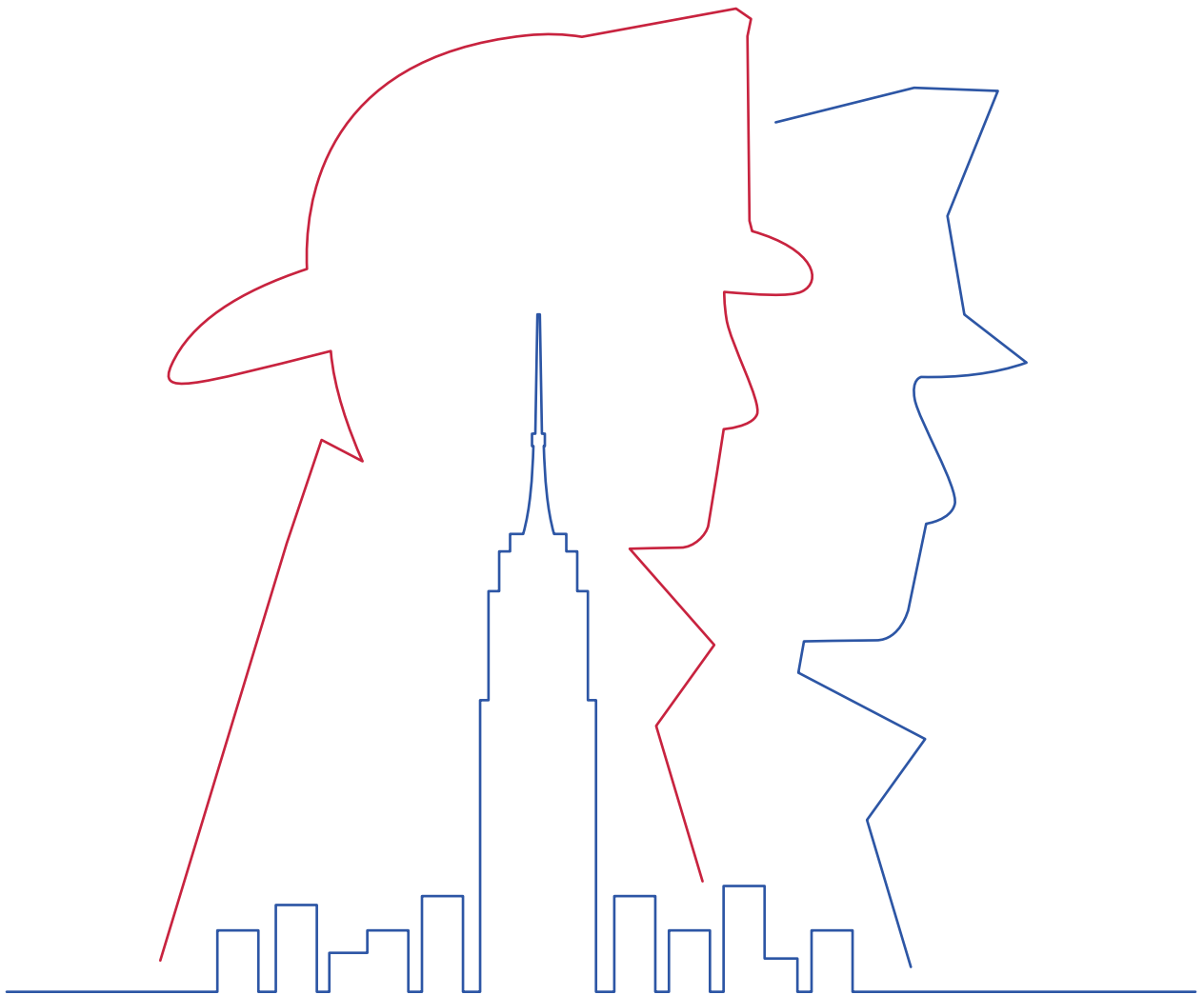
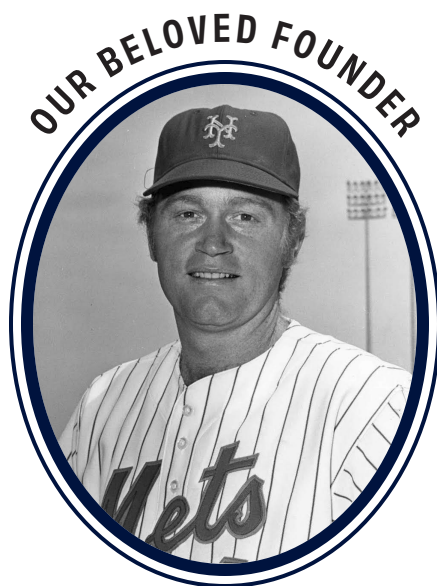


N.Y. Police and Fire Widows' & Children's Benefit Fund



Answer the Call 2021 Annual Report

The N.Y. Police and Fire Widows' & Children's Benefit Fund, Inc., also known as Answer the Call, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides immediate and ongoing financial assistance to the families of active-duty NYPD, FDNY, and PAPD members killed in the line of duty. Answer the Call was founded in 1985 by baseball legend Daniel "Rusty" Staub. Rusty believed the best way to honor our fallen heroes was to be there for those they loved the most – their families. Over the course of the last 37 years, Answer the Call has helped over one thousand families and has distributed more than \$165 million in financial assistance. Following a line of duty death, Answer the Call immediately provides \$50,000 to the grieving family. Then they continue to provide the widow or widower with an Annual Stipend. If there is no surviving spouse, Answer the Call provides the Annual Stipend to the fallen hero's children until they reach the age of 21.



Daniel "Rusty" Staub

April 1, 1944 – March 29, 2018

2021 Year in Review

Over \$6 million distributed to our First Responder Families in 2021

This past year, 2021, has been another devastating year for New York City and the first responders entrusted with keeping it safe. In 2021, we distributed over \$6.2 million to the approximately 550 families of fallen New York City Police Officers, Firefighters, Port Authority Police, and EMS Personnel that we serve – including the families of the 10 first responders who made the ultimate sacrifice in 2021 alone. These 10 heroes ranged in ages from 31 to 61. Collectively, they left behind 6 spouses and 16 children – 8 under the age of 15 years old. Answer the Call provided each of these families with an immediate check for \$25,000 to help ease some of the initial financial uncertainties. In February 2022, Answer the Call voted to increase the Initial Payment families receive from \$25,000 to \$50,000 and instituted this policy retroactively as of January 1, 2020. As a result, each of these 10 families received a second \$25,000 payment in early 2022. In addition, in 2021 Answer the Call provided the widows and widowers of these heroes with an Annual Stipend (\$8,500) as well as a Special One-Time Distribution (\$2,500). In total, each of these widows and widowers received \$61,000 from our organization for 2021. Our goal is to provide these widows and widowers with financial assistance for the rest of their lives. As of March 10, 2022, the time of print of this document, we served 22 families who lost their first responder loved one to COVID-19.

In Memoriam

FDNY Firefighter **Joseph Ferrugia** (January 31, 2021)

NYPD Officer **Anastasios Tsakos** (April 27, 2021)

NYPD Officer **Michael Mundy** (April 28, 2021)

NYPD Detective **Stanley Dash** (May 29, 2021)

NYPD Detective **Shantay Neal-Baker** (August 14, 2021)

NYPD Officer **Sony Clerge** (August 20, 2021)

NYPD Officer **Leonardo Chavez** (September 18, 2021)

NYPD Officer **Marze Murray** (October 21, 2021)

FDNY Probationary Firefighter **Vincent Malveaux**
(December 3, 2021)

FDNY Lieutenant **Joseph Maiello** (December 26, 2021)

Continued Financial Support for the 537 Families Who Lost a Loved One in the Line of Duty Prior to 2021

Answer the Call continued to support the 537 families who lost a loved one in the line of duty prior to 2021. These widows and widowers ranged in ages from 36 to 100. Answer the Call increased the Annual Stipend to \$8,500 in 2021 and was able to provide each family with an additional Special Distribution of \$2,500 due to the fundraising success of the Annual Gala. As a result, each family received \$11,000 in 2021 with a total of more than \$5.9 million being distributed to these families this year.

IN PERSON PROGRAMMING:

Annual Game and Family Day

The Annual Game and Family Day is Answer the Call's oldest and most cherished tradition. All the family members served by the organization are invited to enjoy a fun day of camaraderie at the ballfield. After having to cancel the event in 2020 due to the pandemic, Answer the Call was able to safely host this treasured



event again in 2021. The 36th Annual Game and Family Day took place on June 23rd at Citi Field. Over 800 Answer the Call family members and friends joined to watch the Mets defeat the Braves. Before the start of the game, guests enjoyed a pregame reception, which included food, drinks, family activities, and giveaways. FDNY Commissioner Daniel Nigro, NYPD Commissioner Dermot Shea, NYPD First Deputy Commissioner Benjamin Tucker, and PAPD Superintendent Edward Cetnar were in attendance to show their

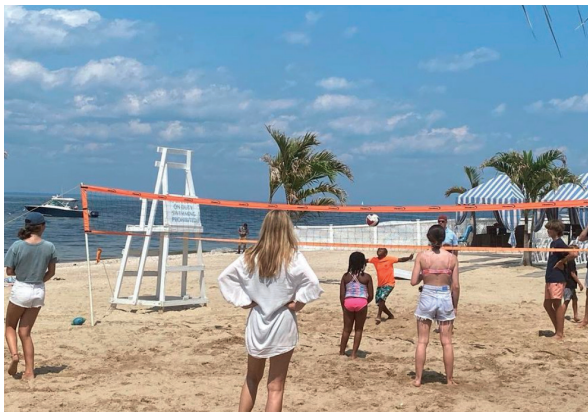


support of the organization and their commitment to the families of NYC's fallen heroes. To honor their heroic parents who died the previous year and all our fallen heroes, Robert Cardona (son of fallen hero NYPD Detective Robert A. Cardona), Trevor McDonnell (son of fallen hero NYPD Detective Christopher McDonnell), and Elina Murray (daughter of fallen hero NYPD Officer Eric Murray) threw out the ceremonial first pitch. In addition, Matthew Ferrugia (son of fallen hero FDNY Firefighter Joseph Ferrugia) movingly sang the National Anthem at the start of the game. Also on field, Answer the Call presented the 2021 Spirit Award to Amazon for generously donating devices to all our beneficiaries to help them stay connected during the pandemic. Nicole Demby and Connor Ginley accepted the award on Amazon's behalf. Both Nicole and Connor are employees of Amazon, as well as children of fallen heroes. Nicole's father, NYPD Officer James N. Whittington, made the ultimate sacrifice on October 30, 1982 and Connor's father, FDNY Lieutenant John F. Ginley, made the ultimate sacrifice on September 11, 2001.



Inaugural Beach Party

Answer the Call hosted its inaugural Family Beach Party on July 28th at The Crescent Beach Club in Bayville, New York. This new event was created in response to the desire of families to spend time with one another safely and outdoors during the pandemic. Guests of all ages joined for fun in the sun. Everyone bonded over delicious food, tasty drinks, good company, and plenty of beach games. Due to the positive response of this event, Answer the Call will be hosting it again in 2022.



Complimentary Tickets to Fundraising Events

In addition to inviting beneficiaries to events hosted specifically for them, Answer the Call also welcomed beneficiaries to attend its Annual Fundraising Events as special guests of honor. Beneficiaries are offered complimentary tickets to the Annual Gala at Cipriani Wall Street, as well as complimentary tickets for them and their adult children to attend the Annual Red and Blue Soiree. This year approximately 45 beneficiaries attended the Annual Gala and approximately 50 joined for the Annual Red and Blue Soiree.

VIRTUAL EVENTS AND OFFERINGS

Throughout 2021, Answer the Call offered a variety of virtual events for the families. These online gatherings offered an opportunity for the families to come together and connect during a time they would otherwise have been unable to do so.

Virtual Cooking Tutorials: Answer the Call polled its families to determine what virtual programming would be most fun for them during the year. The most popular suggestion received was a cooking demonstration. In response, Answer the Call hosted a St. Patrick's Day themed shepherd's pie demonstration, a Cinco de Mayo celebration with a guacamole tutorial, and a holiday baking class for the families of our fallen heroes.

Virtual Day in the Life Program: Answer the Call moved its Day in the Life Program to a virtual platform this year in response to ongoing COVID-19 safety concerns. Each April, Answer the Call pairs the children of fallen first responders with professionals working in their dream careers. This year, instead of shadowing their mentors for the day in person, the children had one-on-one video sessions with their mentors. Lots of invaluable insights were shared and relationships built.

Amazon Devices: In addition, thanks to the generosity of Amazon and the support of Saturday Night Live's Pete Davidson (son of FDNY Hero Scott Davidson who was killed in the line of duty on September 11th), each of the families served by Answer the Call were gifted with an Amazon device. Families had their choice of an Echo Show, Fire Tablet, or a Kindle. These devices helped keep the families connected and entertained as the pandemic continued to make it hard for many to gather in person.

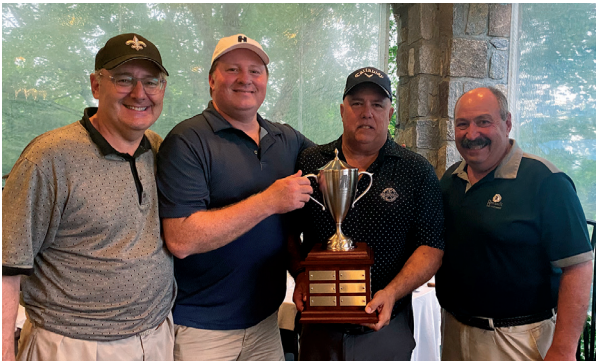


Fundraising Activities

After having to cancel or move nearly all fundraising events to a virtual platform in 2020, Answer the Call was able to safely host all its fundraising events in person in 2021. Answer the Call implemented all of the recommended COVID-19 safety precautions to ensure the safety of its guests and community.

5th Annual Answer the Call Golf Tournament

Answer the Call hosted its 5th Annual Golf Tournament on June 8th at Hudson National Golf Club. Over 80 golfers entered the tournament and together they raised approximately \$125,000 for the families of NYC fallen heroes. This year, a special trophy was created for the tournament called the Commissioners Cup. Larry Schloss, Rob Senatore, Jake Lemonda, and Andy Ansbro won this year's tournament and were the first to have their names engraved onto The Cup.



1st Annual Clearview Golf Tournament

Inspired by the success of the Annual Answer the Call Golf Tournament, the Junior Committee hosted its own Golf Tournament on May 25th at Clearview Park Golf Course. With the help of sponsors, supporters, and over 140 participants, more than \$30,000 was raised for beneficiary families.



8th Annual Red and Blue Soiree



The Junior Committee hosted the 8th Annual Red and Blue Soiree on August 19th at The Second Floor NYC. This event is geared towards the organization's young professional supporters and raised approximately \$100,000 for the families of fallen first responders. Many of the families served by the organization and many NYC first responders were in

attendance. Special guests included NYPD Commissioner Dermot Shea, FDNY Commissioner Daniel Nigro, and actor Vincent Piazza.



2021 TCS NYC Marathon

Each year Answer the Call forms a team to run on its behalf in the TCS NYC Marathon. In 2021, Team Answer the Call was composed of eleven runners, who raised over \$28,000 for the families of New York City's fallen first responders.





36th Annual Gala

Wall Street was lined with first responders, ceremonial fire trucks, and NYPD horses on October 21st for Answer the Call's 36th Annual Gala. Cipriani Wall Street welcomed approximately 900 guests, including senior leadership from the Departments. Philip V. Moyles, Jr. of EPIC Brokers & Consultants and Vanbridge

was honored for his outstanding dedication to Answer the Call's mission for over a decade. The FDNY, NYPD, and PAPD Pipes, Drum, and Color Guard started the program and the NYPD Jazz Band



closed out the evening with a lively performance. In 2021, the Gala raised over \$4.3 million for the families of our fallen heroes. Due to the overwhelming success of this year's Gala, Answer the Call was able to make an additional special distribution of \$2,500 to each of its families.

Additional Support:

In addition to hosting events, Answer the Call continued its multifaceted approach to fundraising, including pursuing grants, major gifts, corporate partnerships, estate gifts, individual gifts, and recurring gifts. These non-event strategies raised approximately \$1.5 million in 2021. While it is not possible to list every donor that made a generous contribution, there were a few donations that were particularly noteworthy.

- Answer the Call was honored to receive approximately \$280,000 from LiveNation in connection with Madison Square Garden's "NYC Still Rising After 20 Years: A Comedy Celebration." Answer the Call was personally selected as one of the benefitting charities by the show's Co-Host, Pete Davidson.
- Fox News generously donated \$100,000 to Answer the Call in honor of the first responders who arrived on the scene when an arsonist burned down the Christmas Tree outside of their headquarters in Manhattan.

- A private individual donated over \$250,000 in honor of the 20th Anniversary of 9/11.
- Individuals made online donations throughout the year resulting in over \$120,000 for the families of our fallen heroes.

Answer the Call is extremely thankful for every donation made by its generous supporters, whether it be cash, stock, or in-kind. Every donation received, big and small, enabled Answer the Call to keep its promise in 2021 to Never Forget our fallen heroes or the families they left behind.

Answer the Call remains dedicated to continuing its mission in 2022 and beyond.

Volunteer Program

Answer the Call's Volunteer Program is critical to ensuring the organization's success each year, especially due to its small staff of four employees. In 2021, over 100 people volunteered their time and talents with the organization. The Volunteer Program is composed of individual volunteers, groups of corporate volunteers, and first responders volunteers. Volunteers are entrusted with a variety of important responsibilities, most notably assisting with the planning and executing of special events. The 36th Annual Gala alone required over 80 volunteers to ensure its success. This past year, Answer the Call had volunteers as young as 7 and 9 years old host a Lemonade Stand in Massapequa, NY to raise funds for the families of our fallen first responders. This year their Lemonade Stand raised over \$12,000 for the families of our fallen heroes. We also had individual volunteers provide pro bono support throughout the year, including, but not limited to graphic design, photography, balloon art, entertainment, and cooking demonstrations. Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP, Time Moving & Storage Inc., and Geller and Company LLC once again provided invaluable and much appreciated pro bono support this year.

Each year, Answer the Call recognizes an individual or group of individuals to be their Volunteer of the Year. This year's Volunteer of the Year was Team Ampersand from Landor & Fitch, who hosted a fundraising and awareness campaign on behalf of Answer the Call in honor of the 20th Anniversary of the horrific 9/11 Attacks.



ANSWER THE CALL: A Look Back

When the N.Y. Police and Fire Widows' & Children's Benefit Fund was first founded in 1985, the charity provided a \$1,000 annual stipend to each of the families who lost a loved one in the line of duty. Over the next 15 years, the Annual Stipend slowly grew to \$2,000 per family by the year 2000. During that time, Answer the Call was also able to begin providing a one-time payment of \$10,000 to each family immediately following a line of duty death to help ease some of the acute financial burdens that they face at that time due to their unfathomable loss. With the support of the New York Mets, Answer the Call hosted an Annual Game and Family Day for the families of our fallen heroes at Shea Stadium. Back then, our beloved late founder, Daniel "Rusty" Staub even barbequed the ribs himself alongside members of the NYPD and FDNY! The event provided the families an opportunity to come together as part of one larger family. It reminded them that they were not alone, and their loved ones would never be forgotten. This tradition continues today at Citi Field. While we were unable to host this event in 2020 due to COVID-19, we were able to safely return to Citi Field in 2021 and be reunited with the families we serve.



On September 11, 2001, the number of families served by Answer the Call tragically doubled when we lost over 400 NYC First Responders in a single day. Answer the Call was immediately confronted with the staggering heartbreak of these grieving families, as well as



the daunting task of providing financial assistance for them in the days and decades to come. The Board of Directors, led by Rusty Staub and Stephen Dannhauser, worked tirelessly raising funds to meet the immense need. Putting everything else on hold, they became full-time advocates for the families of our fallen heroes. They gave frequent TV and radio interviews, and spoke at numerous functions across the country, including at the White House, to raise awareness about the need to support these families and the work Answer the Call was doing.

Mr. Staub, Mr. Dannhauser, and Answer the Call's Board of Directors inspired an enormous volunteer effort and ensured that every single donation, from \$1 million corporate donations to \$1 donations sent in by children, was properly received and acknowledged. Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP turned their conference rooms into makeshift offices for the charity. These conference rooms remained filled with volunteers for months, and the tremendous effort of these volunteers enabled Answer the Call to assist the families of NYC's fallen heroes at a time when they had no full-time staff members.



In 2001, Answer the Call's 16th Annual Gala was scheduled to take place just weeks following the horrific September 11th attacks. In the aftermath of 9/11, New Yorkers, Americans, and the world came together to "Answer the Call" for the families of NYC's fallen heroes when they needed it most. Lawrence M.v.D. Schloss, who currently serves as the Vice Chair of the Board, was the honoree at this extraordinarily impactful event. The support for Answer the Call's 16th Annual Gala was so overwhelming that all of the venue's ballroom doors remained open and the 1600 guests were seated throughout the venue, including in the hallways.

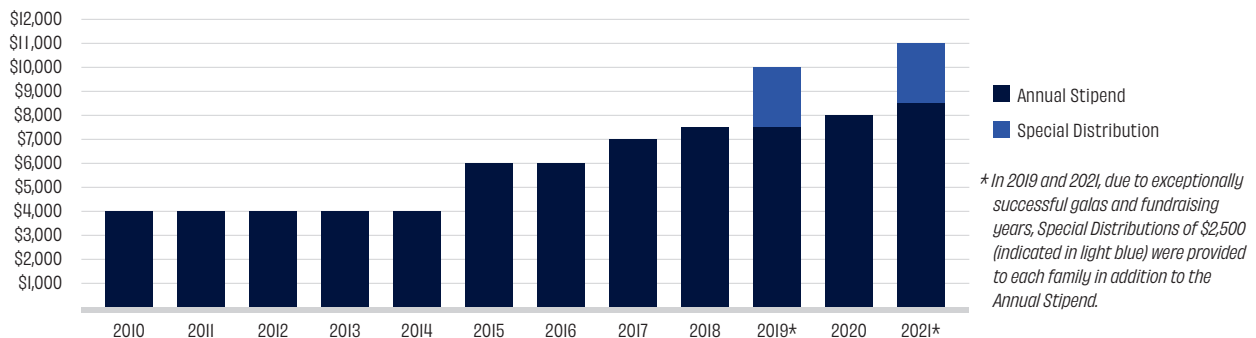
Thanks to an outpouring of support received from people and companies from across the country and around the world totaling approximately \$120 million, Answer the Call was able to continue to provide much-needed assistance to these families as well as all the families who lost a loved one in the line of duty before and after that tragic day. To ensure the maximum amount of these funds went directly to the families of our fallen heroes, the Board approved an 8-year plan to best distribute the funds. As part of this plan, the Annual Stipend grew during these eight years and peaked at \$13,000. In addition, in 2002, Special Disbursements were made with each family receiving as much as \$100,000. We were also able to increase the initial one-time payment each family receives following a line of duty death from \$10,000 to \$25,000.

By 2010, Answer the Call completed its multi-year plan to distribute the funds raised following the 9/11 attacks. The Annual Stipend was then stabilized to \$4,000 per family to ensure that Answer the Call would have the funds necessary to provide the families with financial assistance for the foreseeable future. Our goal is to ultimately increase the Annual Stipend again to at least \$10,000. As you can see over the past ten years, Answer the Call has made considerable progress towards that goal. In 2021, the Annual Stipend was increased to \$8,500 per family. Due to the success of our 2021 Gala, each family also received a Special Distribution of \$2,500 in addition to the Annual Stipend. In total each family received \$11,000. Answer the Call also continued to expand the events and programs provided to the families as well.



Inspired by the extraordinary example set by founder, Daniel "Rusty" Staub, Answer the Call remains as committed to its mission today as it was three decades ago.

Stipend Per Family



Words from Our Beneficiaries



"Once the Benefit Fund came along our lives were changed. It's not just the financial help, which makes such a difference after all these years, but they just always lift my heart and make me and my children feel like my William will never be forgotten. That means the world to us since it has been so many years now. I can never thank them enough for all the work they are doing for so many families like ours. I can never thank the supporters enough."

Valerie Perry, Widow of PAPD Officer William Perry (1980)



"I was eleven years old when my father passed away on 9/11. He not only loved his family but also loved being a Port Authority police officer and instructor at the Police Academy. The Benefit Fund has been instrumental in providing my sister and I with fun events that allowed us to truly be kids. The Fund has also provided us with financial aid for college. The Benefit Fund has consistently assisted us over the last 20 years. My family and I thank you for your support and generosity!"

Anne Nelson, Daughter of PAPD Hero James Nelson (2001)



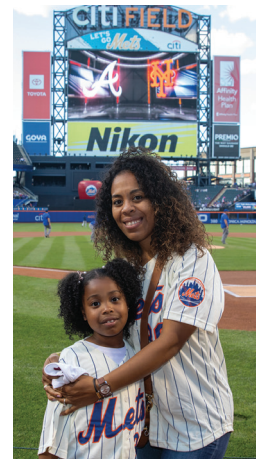
"When I received the check, it took a great load off my shoulders and gave me the peace of mind to breathe and has been doing that ever since. During the Pandemic it made it so much easier financially, to be able to get to his elderly Dad who was affected by the Pandemic in another State, so I could be there to help take care of him. Thank you so very much! Sonny would be so pleased to know, that the New York Police & Fire Widows' & Children's Benefit Fund exists on the same model as he did. "IF YOU NEED ME, I'M THERE." Thank you for being there!"

Amanda de Geneste-Archer, Widow of NYPD Hero Fermin S. Archer Jr. (2011)



"My late husband, Gary Lee Peaco, died in the line of duty in 1988. Before his death, he and I spoke often about the futures of our twin daughters. The main things he emphasized were giving them a sense of consistency by establishing a home for them, and teaching them that the benefits of a good education would last a lifetime. With the help of Answer the Call, I believe that I have fulfilled his wishes. I bought a house, and we have lived here for over 30 years. My daughters are 36 now, and they have 9 degrees between them, including doctorates."

Jacqueline Peaco, Widow of NYPD Hero Gary Lee Peaco (1988)



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2022 Events

Day in the Life Program

Winter and Spring of 2022 via Remote Placements

United NYC Half Marathon

Sunday, March 20th in NYC

9th Annual Red and Blue Soiree

Thursday, May 19th at SECOND Floor NYC

7th Annual Answer the Call Golf Tournament

Tuesday, June 7th at Hudson National

37th Annual Game and Family Day

Tuesday, June 28th at Citi Field

2nd Annual Family Beach Party

Summer 2022 at Crescent Beach Club

2nd Annual Junior Committee Golf Tournament

Thursday, August 11th at Clearview Park

Answer the Call Day

Thursday, October 4th in NYC

37th Annual Gala

Thursday, October 27th at Cipriani Wall Street

Honoring J. Todd Morley, Chairman of Diatoms, Inc..

TCS New York City Marathon

Sunday, November 6th in NYC

**Additional Events (In-Person and Virtual) will be added.*

Visit [answerthecall.org](https://www.answerthecall.org) for the most up to date information.

ANSWER THE CALL

NEW YORK POLICE & FIRE

WIDOWS' & CHILDREN'S BENEFIT FUND

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