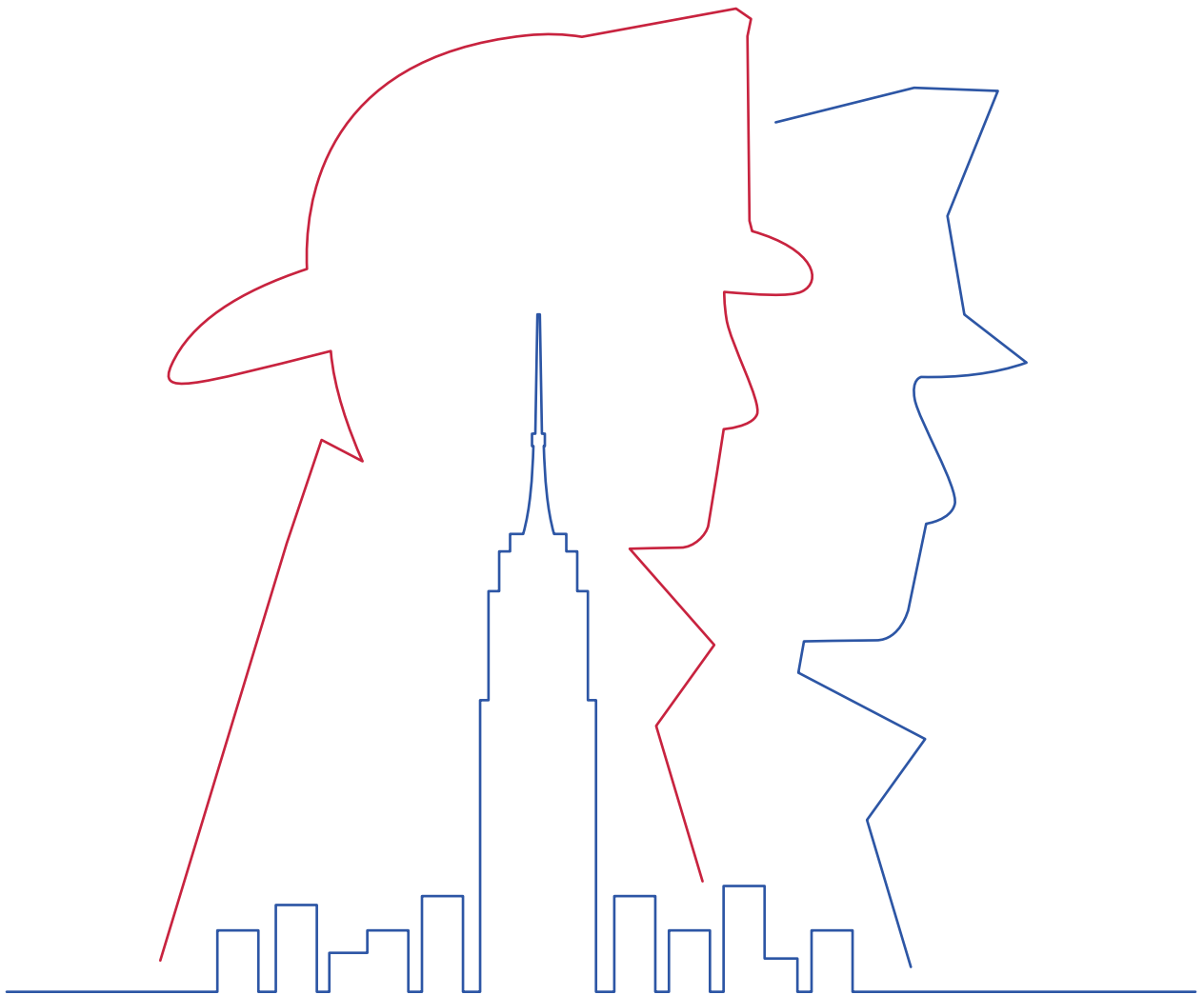


N.Y. Police and Fire Widows' & Children's Benefit Fund



Answer the Call 2022 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 38 years, Answer the Call has helped over one thousand families and has distributed more than \$170 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

2022 Year in Review

FINANCIAL SUPPORT:

Increased Initial Support from \$25,000 to \$50,000

In 2022, Answer the Call's Board of Directors voted to increase the Initial Payment provided to the family of a first responder killed in the line of duty from \$25,000 to \$50,000. Driven by the desire to provide as much support as possible to the families, the Board of Directors carefully reviewed the charity's financial position following a standout fundraising year in 2021 and determined they could increase the Initial Payment provided to the families. This increase was applied retroactively as of January 1, 2020. As a result, 21 families (who lost their first responder loved one in the line of duty during 2020 and 2021) received a Retroactive Initial Payment in the amount of \$25,000, bringing the total Initial Payment amount each of these families received up to \$50,000. The 11 families who lost their first responder loved ones during 2022 received a \$50,000 Initial Payment from Answer the Call, resulting in over \$1 million being distributed during 2022 in Initial Payments and Retroactive Initial Payments alone.

Financial Support for the 11 Families of First Responders We Lost in 2022

Tragically, 2022 was another devastating year for New York City and the first responders entrusted with keeping it safe. In 2022 alone, New York City lost a staggering 11 first responders in the

line of duty. These heroes ranged in age from 22 to 61. Collectively, they left behind 6 spouses and 14 children - 13 children under the age of 16 years old. Answer the Call provided each of these families with an immediate check for \$50,000 to help ease some of the initial financial uncertainties. In addition, Answer the Call provided surviving widows and widowers of these heroes with an Annual Stipend of \$8,500. In total, the families of these 11 heroes collectively received over \$600,000 from Answer the Call this year. Our goal is to provide the surviving widows and widowers with financial assistance for the rest of their lives.

Continued Financial Support for the 538 Families Who Lost a Loved One in the Line of Duty Prior to 2022

Answer the Call continued to support the 538 families who lost a loved one in the line of duty prior to 2022. These widows and widowers ranged in age from 38 to 101. Each family received an \$8,500 stipend in 2022 with a total of more than \$4.5 million being distributed to these families this year.

PROVIDED PROGRAMMING AND SERVICES TO ALL OUR FAMILIES:

In 2022, Answer the Call provided the families with hybrid programming to keep them connected, including a combination of in-person and virtual events.

BENEFICIARY PROGRAMMING:

Day in the Life & Mentorship Program

Answer the Call hosted its Day in the Life and Mentorship Programs once again this year for the children of the fallen heroes. The goal of these programs is to pair high school and college aged children with professionals in the career fields of their choice in an effort to learn more about their dream jobs. Depending on the preferences of the children, they are either paired up for the day as part of the Day in the Life Program or matched with a mentor for more ongoing guidance as part of the Mentorship Program. Some recent mentors have included professionals at companies such as the NY Islanders, Marvel Entertainment, Governors Ball, Marsh, Alvarez & Marsal, Alvin Ailey Dance Theater, and more.

Virtual Magician Show

Answer the Call provided a unique virtual experience for the families. On March 3rd, world-class entertainer Ryan Oakes performed an interactive virtual magic show pro bono for the charity's beneficiaries and leadership. Ryan Oakes thrilled attendees with his incredible illusions and provided the families with an opportunity to safely socialize and connect.

2022 In Memoriam

*FDNY Firefighter **Jesse Gerhard***

*FDNY Firefighter **Timothy Klein***

*NYPD Officer **David Mathura***

*FDNY Firefighter **William Moon***

*NYPD Detective **Wilbert Mora***

*NYPD Detective **Jason Rivera***

*FDNY EMS Captain **Alison Russo***

*NYPD Officer **Daniel Sanchez***

*NYPD Officer **Leonard Swanson***

*PAPD Officer **Anthony Varvaro***

*FDNY Firefighter **Christopher Viviano***

Annual Game and Family Day

On Tuesday, June 28th, Answer the Call hosted the 37th Annual Game & Family Day at Citi Field. The families of fallen first-responder heroes enjoyed a carefree day at the ballpark of Answer the Call's late-founder and Hall of Famer Daniel "Rusty" Staub's team - the NY Mets. Beneficiary families were invited to throw out



the first pitch: Landon Chavez, Cecilia Maiello, Jake Maiello, and James Leahy. Landon is the son of NYPD Police Officer Leonardo Chavez. Cecilia and Jake are the children of FDNY Lieutenant Joseph Maiello. Both heroes tragically died in the line of duty in 2021. James is the grandson of NYPD Police Officer James P. Leahy, who made the ultimate sacrifice on September 11, 2001. More than 800 attendees gathered for the pre-game reception and game that followed. The Wine Group was recognized for their generosity on field as the recipient of the 2022 Spirit Award.



Family Beach Party

On Wednesday, July 20th, Answer the Call hosted a Family Beach Party at the Crescent Beach Club in Bayville, New York. The families of fallen first responders gathered to enjoy a beautiful sunny afternoon filled with swimming, volleyball, corn hole, delicious food, and drinks. The children played various games, while the adults relaxed and enjoyed the beach-front amenities.

Complimentary Tickets to Fundraising Events

In addition to inviting beneficiaries to events hosted specifically for them, Answer the Call also welcomes beneficiaries to attend its Annual Fundraising Events as special guests of honor. Beneficiaries are offered a complimentary ticket 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 40 beneficiaries attended the Annual Gala and 50 joined for the Annual Red and Blue Soiree.

FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES:

9th Annual Red and Blue Soiree

The 9th Annual Red and Blue Soiree took place on Thursday, May 19th at the SECOND Floor NYC. Led by Answer the Call's Junior and Host Committees, approximately 550 guests joined us for this festive cocktail party which raised over \$175,000 for the families of fallen heroes.



The charity had the honor of hosting special guests, including NYPD and FDNY Leadership. In addition, Honorary Chairs including comedian Colin Jost, New York Jets legend Nick Mangold, and New York Red Bulls Goalkeeper Ryan Meara attended the event.



7th Annual Answer the Call Golf Tournament

The 7th Annual Answer the Call Golf Tournament occurred on Tuesday, June 7th at Hudson National Golf Club. The 24 foursomes played 18 holes, which was followed by a cocktail hour, dinner, and an award reception. Participants were joined on the course by beneficiary Joe Bonomo, the son of fallen hero Firefighter Frank J. Bonomo, who spoke about the impact that Answer the Call has had



on his family. This year's tournament raised over \$200,000 for the beneficiary families. The Atlantic Group foursome, which included Richard Scardina, Mark DeVincenzo, Andy Golden, and John Sinon, were the winners of this year's Commissioners Cup.

2nd Annual Clearview Golf Tournament

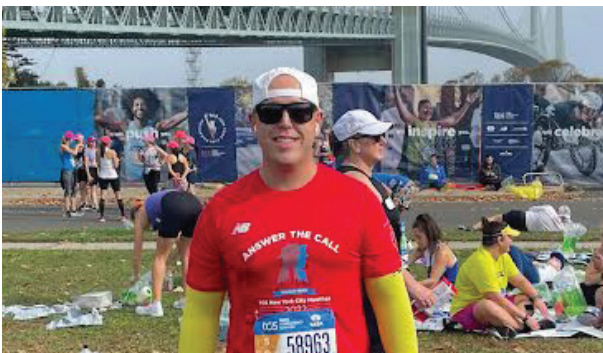


Answer the Call's Junior Committee led golf tournament at The Clearview Park Golf Course took place on Thursday, August 11th. With the help of generous sponsors and foursome participants, Answer the Call raised approximately \$40,000 for the beneficiary families. In addition to corporate sponsors,

members of the NYPD and FDNY played in the tournament as well. The team representing the Uniformed Firefighters Association were the winners of this year's tournament.

2022 TCS NYC Marathon & Half Marathon

This year Answer the Call had a team of 10 run in the United Airlines NYC Half on Sunday, March 20th and 30 run in the 2022 TCS NYC Marathon on Sunday, November 6th. In total, runners collectively raised over \$120,000 for the families of NYC fallen heroes.



37th Annual Gala

On Thursday, October 27th, guests walked the red carpet from the cocktail hour to Cipriani Wall Street surrounded by first responders, ceremonial fire trucks, and the NYPD mounted unit.

Cipriani Wall Street welcomed approximately 900 guests, including senior leadership from the departments. Answer the Call was honored to have Mayor Eric Adams in attendance, who officially declared it Answer the Call Day, as well as NYPD Police Commissioner Keechant Sewell, FDNY Fire Commissioner Laura Kavanagh, and PAPD Superintendent Edward Cetnar. The event began with the FDNY, NYPD, and PAPD Pipes, Drums, and Color Guard opening the program. Matthew Ferrugia (son of FDNY Firefighter Joseph Ferrugia, EOW 2021) sang the National Anthem. In addition, Lisa Tuozzolo (widow of NYPD Sgt. Paul Tuozzolo, EOW 2016) gave a powerful speech. The evening concluded at the afterparty with a performance from the NYPD Jazz Band. This year, the Gala raised \$4 million for the families of NYC fallen heroes, many of whom were honored guests for the evening.



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 over \$438,000 in 2022. While it is not possible to list every donor that made a generous contribution, there were a few donations that were particularly noteworthy.

- In 2022, KKR provided Answer the Call with \$278,000, which was the final installment of KKR's three-year grant to the organization. In total KKR provided Answer the Call with \$834,000 over the course of the last three years.

- Cantor Fitzgerald's Annual Charity Day - which takes place in memory of those lost on September 11th - provided the charity with \$50,000 in 2022. This event provides participating charities with a percentage of trade profits made that day. Answer the Call was selected after an application process to be represented by NY Rangers Legend and board member, Mark Messier, for this charitable event at their Manhattan offices.
- In 2022, for the first time, Answer the Call was selected to participate in the NYC Gives Program. This wonderful program supports charities by allowing NYC employees to easily donate a portion of their paycheck directly to the charitable organization of their choosing.
- Individuals made online donations throughout the year resulting in over \$110,000 for the families of fallen first responders.

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 2022 to Never Forget our fallen heroes or the families they left behind.

Answer the Call remains dedicated to continuing its mission in 2023 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 three employees. In 2022, over 120 individuals volunteered their

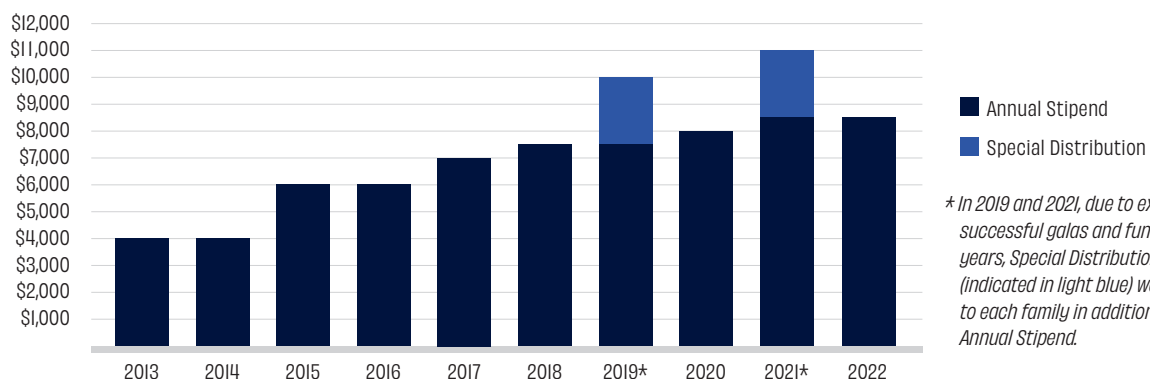
time and talents with the organization. The Volunteer Program is composed of individual volunteers, groups of corporate volunteers, and first responders volunteers. Volunteers are entrusted with a variety of important responsibilities, most notably assisting with the planning and executing of special events. The 37th Annual Gala alone required over 80 volunteers to ensure its success. Individual volunteers also provide pro bono support throughout the year, including, but not limited to graphic design, photography, balloon art, and entertainment. 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.

The 2022 Volunteer of the Year was Merritt Riley, Jr. Merritt started with Answer the Call as an all-star intern. One of his many accomplishments during that time was working to have Answer the Call added to the list of charities that NYC Employees can support via payroll deductions through the program NYC Gives.

After his internship ended, Merritt transitioned from an all-star intern to an all-star volunteer. Merritt volunteered at events throughout the year and served as one of the Volunteer Leads at the 37th Annual Gala. In addition, he continued to help secure in-kind donations for event auctions. Thank you to Merritt for his outstanding commitment to Answer the Call.



Stipend Per Family



* In 2019 and 2021, due to exceptionally successful galas and fundraising years, Special Distributions of \$2,500 (indicated in light blue) were provided to each family in addition to the Annual Stipend.

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)



"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) "



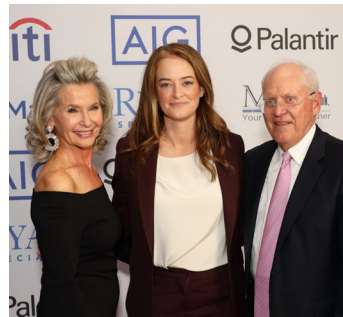
I was eleven years old when my father passed away on 9/11. He not only loved his family but also loved being a Port Authority police officer and instructor at the Police Academy. The Benefit Fund has been instrumental in providing my sister and I with fun events that allowed us to truly be kids. The 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, 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 Answer the Call operates under 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)



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2023 Events

Day in the Life Program

Winter and Spring of 2023

United NYC Half Marathon

Sunday, March 19th in NYC

10th Annual Red and Blue Soiree

Wednesday, May 10th at SECOND Floor NYC

8th Annual Answer the Call Golf Tournament

Tuesday, June 6th at Hudson National

38th Annual Game and Family Day

Wednesday, June 28th at Citi Field

3rd Annual Junior Committee Golf Tournament

Thursday, August 10th at Clearview Park

Answer the Call Day

Thursday, October 5th in NYC

38th Annual Gala

Thursday, October 26th at Cipriani Wall Street

TCS New York City Marathon

Sunday, November 5th 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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