



# **Tunnel<sup>TO</sup>Towers Foundation**

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## **2022 ANNUAL REPORT**



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## OUR MISSION

Since September 11, 2001, the Tunnel to Towers Foundation has honored the heroic sacrifice of FDNY Firefighter Stephen Siller and all those who perished on that tragic day by supporting those who continue to risk life and limb every day.

Tunnel to Towers provides mortgage-free homes to Gold Star and fallen first responder families with young children and builds custom-designed *smart homes* for catastrophically injured veterans and first responders, to ensure these heroes and the families they leave behind always have a place to call home.

**In 2022, Tunnel to Towers expanded its mission to support those that served our country, by vowing to eradicate veteran homelessness nationwide.**

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Friends,

I started the Tunnel to Towers Foundation with my siblings as a way to honor the sacrifice of my brother, Stephen. The foundation was built on the promise we would NEVER FORGET his life and the lives of all of those who perished on September 11, 2001.

To keep that promise, the Foundation launched the Tunnel to Towers 9/11 Institute which will educate the next generation of students about the events of 9/11. The institute is made up of resources to teach students of all ages about what happened that day and ensure those who were born after the Towers fell know the true story of those heroes who stepped up to save lives that day.

The Institute also pays tribute to the memory of my oldest brother Russ, who joined our brother, Stephen, in heaven in 2019. Russ was an educator for fifty years and now the Foundation is offering a scholarship that bears his name to support students who share in his love of education and selflessness.

The year 2022 was an amazing one for the Foundation, thanks to the generosity of Americans across the country.

We delivered 200 mortgage-free homes to our nation's catastrophically injured veterans and first responders, fallen first responder families, and Gold Star families last year. We opened the doors of the "Let Us Do Good Village" in Land O'Lakes Florida, dedicating the first home to Gold Star Widow Danielle Thornton.

This year also marked the start of our most ambitious effort in our 20 year history. I made a promise that Tunnel to Towers would eradicate homelessness among our veteran population. In less than a year we have made an enormous impact, providing over 500 housing units for America's veterans in their time of need.

While this is an incredible start, there is so much more to do. We will have more to say in the coming year as we work to provide housing, counseling, and care for those who volunteered to serve our country and now find themselves struggling on the streets of the country they once fought to defend.

None of this would be possible without our remarkable volunteers, sponsors, and donors who have joined us on our mission. I want to thank you for your support, as we continue on this mission to **DO GOOD**.



Frank Siller  
Tunnel to Towers Foundation Chairman and CEO



FDNY Firefighter Stephen Siller

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2022 HIGHLIGHTS

**\$500,000,000**  
**IN SUPPORT OF OUR PROGRAMS**

**OVER  
75  
EVENTS**

in our  
National  
Run, Walk  
& Climb  
Series

**200** **MORTGAGE-FREE  
HOMES**

to our nation's catastrophically  
injured veterans and first  
responders, fallen first responder  
families, and Gold Star families

**600,000  
EDUCATED**

through our  
**9/11  
NEVER  
FORGET**  
Mobile Exhibit

**500  
HOUSING  
UNITS**

for America's  
homeless  
veterans



**95 CENTS  
OUT OF EVERY  
DOLLAR**

donated went directly to  
our programs and services



Four-star rating  
from **Charity  
Navigator** for  
the ninth straight  
year, the highest  
rating, based on  
our accountability,  
transparency, and  
financial health





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US Army Captain James Howard Home Dedication, November 2022

## IN THE LINE OF DUTY PROGRAM

FDNY Firefighter Stephen Siller sacrificed his life in service to others, and in his memory, the Tunnel to Towers Foundation developed the In the Line of Duty Program. This program supports catastrophically injured veterans and first responders, Gold Star families, and fallen first responder families with young children.

To date, the Foundation will have delivered **over 600 mortgage-free homes** to these heroes and the families they leave behind.

The **In the Line of Duty Program** includes three distinct initiatives dedicated to supporting our nation's heroes and their families:

- ★ **Fallen First Responder Home Program**
- ★ **Gold Star Family Home Program**
- ★ **Smart Home Program**



## LET US DO GOOD VILLAGE

On December 17, 2022, Tunnel to Towers welcomed U.S. Army veteran Danielle Thornton, surviving spouse of U.S. Army SPC Robert Thornton Jr., and their two children into the first home in the Tunnel to Towers Let Us Do Good Village in Land O' Lakes Florida.

The **Let Us Do Good Village** is a first-of-its-kind community that will provide just under **100 mortgage-free homes** for **Tunnel to Towers In the Line of Duty** Home recipients.

Danielle is the first resident in the village, and is excited to be in a community of families who can relate to each other through shared experiences of loss and hope for the future.

*"Moving into the Let Us Do Good Village means the world to my children and me. I prayed many nights that I would find a way for my children and myself to heal, and I believe this community is just what we need. It won't take the pain away, but it is a starting point in being able to be around families like ourselves that understand the daily struggles we endure."*

— Danielle Thornton

Once completed, the **Let Us Do Good Village** will be a community of catastrophically injured veterans, Gold Star families, and the families of Fallen First Responders.

The **Let Us Do Good Village** will be more than just a place to live. It will feature a state-of-the-art community center with an ADA-compliant gym and pool, movie theater, basketball court, pickleball court, meeting rooms, and playground.

The home dedication was part of the Tunnel to Towers' annual Season of Hope, where the Foundation pays off the mortgages or provides new mortgage-free homes across the country to America's heroes and their families.



Thornton Family Home Dedication, December 2022



Rasmuson Gold Star Family Home Dedication, 2022

## GOLD STAR FAMILY HOME PROGRAM

The Foundation honors the legacy of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice while serving our country, by paying off the mortgages or providing the surviving spouses and young children with mortgage-free homes



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## GOLD STAR FAMILY HOME PROGRAM

### United States Army Major Paul Clarke Voelke

On June 22, 2012, United States Army Major Paul Clarke Voelke was killed in Afghanistan. He left behind his wife of 12 years, Traci, and their two sons, Andrew and Benjamin.

Tunnel to Towers paid off the mortgage on his home on Veteran's Day.

Major Voelke dedicated his life to serving his country, attending the United States Military Academy at West Point after graduating high school. During his 14 years with the Army, he deployed five times, twice each to Iraq and Afghanistan and once to Kosovo.

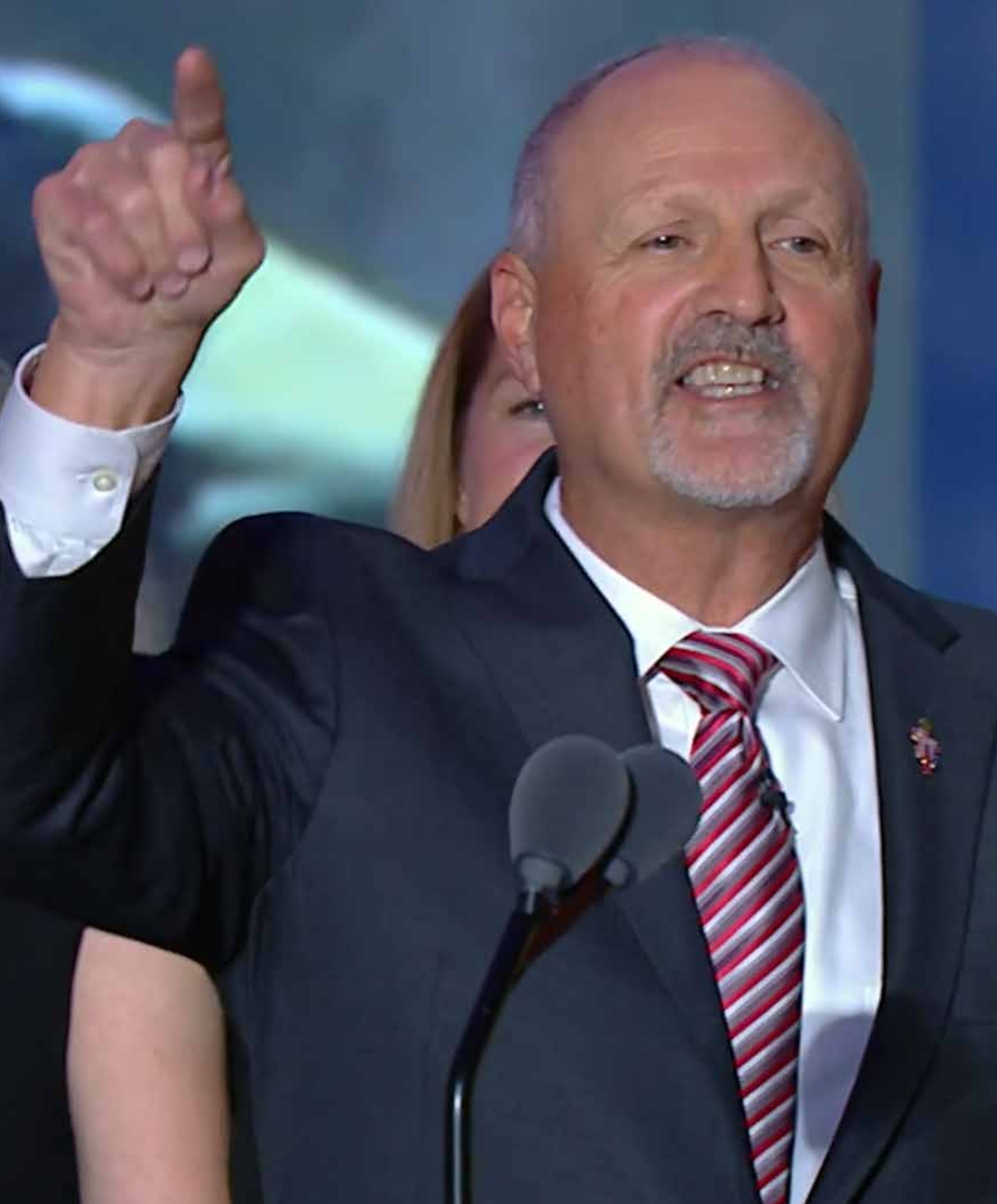
In an op-ed piece written for Veterans Day, published in 2009, he wrote about the impact of September 11th, on his life.

*"Serving to defend this nation has a special meaning for me. Like most of us, I remember exactly what I was doing on the morning of 9/11. I remember the television images of the towers burning had a surreal quality. But there was no feeling except reality when someone walked in and said that 300 firefighters had died. My heart started racing because my father was a firefighter. I soon learned that he wasn't at work that day — he was safe. Since then, I've thought about what it means to stand with the forces designed to protect the United States. I've realized that I'd give anything to make sure no one flies an airplane into my sons' office building someday."*

— U.S. Army Major Paul Clarke Voelke



US Army Major Paul Clarke Voellke



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## FOX NATION PATRIOT AWARDS

On November 17, the Tunnel to Towers Foundation changed the lives of 21 Gold Star Families and Fallen First Responders by surprising them with the news that **the mortgages held on their homes had been paid in full.**

Foundation Chairman and CEO Frank Siller announced the surprise on stage at the FOX Nation Patriot Awards, held at Hard Rock Live in Hollywood, Florida. FOX Nation's Patriot Awards honors America's most valiant heroes, including military veterans, first responders and other everyday heroes.

*"We are here tonight to celebrate everyday Americans who do amazing things, and there is nothing more amazing than volunteering to serve our country or community. I am honored to announce that Tunnel to Towers, with the support of Americans across this great country, will now be taking care of you, the way your loved ones took care of us. Tunnel to Towers has paid off the mortgage on the home of every single family here on this stage. Twenty-one mortgages, all paid in full to ensure that all of you and all of your children will be able to stay in your homes, FOREVER,"*

— Frank Siller Tunnel to Towers Chairman and CEO

## FALLEN FIRST RESPONDER HOME PROGRAM

The Tunnel to Towers Foundation pays off the mortgages for the families of law enforcement officers and firefighters who are killed in the line of duty and leave behind a spouse and young children. The Foundation's goal is to ensure stability and security for these families facing the sudden and tragic loss of a loved one. In 2021, Tunnel to Towers expanded the program to support the families of first responders who lost their lives due to 9/11 illnesses.



Fallen First Responder Deputy Sheriff Courtney Couch Home Dedication 2022





Bristol Police Lieutenant Dustin Demonte and Family

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## FALLEN FIRST RESPONDER HOME PROGRAM

### Bristol Police Lieutenant Dustin Demonte

On Wednesday, October 12, 2022, while responding to a domestic violence call, Bristol Police Lieutenant Dustin Demonte was shot and killed in an ambush attack. He left behind his pregnant wife Laura, and two children. Frank Siller drove to Demonte's home in December, just weeks after he was killed and informed Laura the mortgage on her home had been paid in full.

*"There are no words to express my gratitude to Mr. Siller and the Tunnel to Towers Foundation. To have the freedom to continue forward without the financial burden of a mortgage, allows me to spend the most time and energy on my children as possible, which I am so thankful for. In addition to financial support, this Foundation provides a network of people who understand and truly care. That network reaches so far and wide, and it brings me a great sense of comfort and connectedness during this extremely dark time,"*

— Laura Demonte.

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## FALLEN FIRST RESPONDER HOME PROGRAM

### Nassau County Detective First Grade Matthew Perlungher

Detective First Grade Matthew Perlungher of the Nassau County Police Department passed away on August 4, 2021 due to a 9/11 related illness. In 2021, recognizing the overwhelming need, Tunnel to Towers expanded the Fallen First Responder Home Program to support the families of first responders who lose their lives to 9/11 illnesses. Detective Perlungher was a veteran of the U.S. Navy and served in Nassau County for 23 years. He spent the last decade of his life raising funds and awareness for childhood cancer, in memory of his six year old son Jack, who lost his battle with cancer in 2010. Officer Matthew Perlungher is survived by his wife, Erika and daughter, Emma.

*"Words cannot express how thankful and grateful we are to know that such a financial burden has been lifted that our home is now paid off. My husband and I built our life and family in this home and to know that my house will forever be mine brings me such comfort and I couldn't thank the Tunnel to Towers Foundation more!"*

— Erika Perlungher



Nassau County Detective First Grade Matthew Perlungher





Smart Home Dedication FDNY Lieutenant Grey Mickey Hansen 2022

## **SMART HOME PROGRAM**

Tunnel to Towers builds specially adapted mortgage-free *smart homes* that help our most catastrophically injured veterans and first responders reclaim their day-to-day independence.



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## SMART HOME PROGRAM

### New York City Detective Dalsh Veve

On June 3, 2017, New York City Detective Dalsh Veve was attempting to question the driver of an illegally parked car, when the suspect took off and dragged the veteran police officer for three blocks.

Officer Veve sustained a catastrophic brain injury, a broken shoulder, and he now requires round-the-clock care.

In 2020 the Tunnel to Towers Foundation paid off the mortgage on his home, allowing his wife Esther and daughter to focus on Detective Veve's recovery.

This November, the Foundation unveiled renovations made to his garage, turning it into a rehabilitation center where Detective Veve can continue his recovery.

*"We are taking it day by day. We knew it was not going to be an easy road, but with Tunnel to Towers help it's more doable. Now, there is no reason for him not to get up and get to the garage and get better."*

— Esther Veve



NYPD Detective Dalsh Veve



US Army Specialist Maggie Mae Bilyeu

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## SMART HOME PROGRAM

### US Army Specialist Maggie Mae Bilyeu

US Army Specialist Maggie Mae Bilyeu joined the service in 2015 and deployed to Afghanistan later that year.

In early 2016, only a couple of months into her deployment, SPC Bilyeu was struck by a suicide bomber, leaving her critically injured. She sustained multiple shrapnel wounds to her chest and torso, a broken leg, the loss of part of her small and large intestines and part of her colon, along with a portion of her left breast. She would eventually lose her left leg below the knee as a result of her injuries.

Days before Christmas, the Tunnel to Towers Foundation, in partnership with The Home Depot Foundation, welcomed SPC Maggie Bilyeu and her wife Mia to their customized, new mortgage-free *smart home* in Lago Vista, Texas.

Her home payoff was part of the Tunnel to Towers' Season of Hope program, during which time the Foundation gave away dozens of homes across the country to America's heroes and their families.

*"I can't thank Tunnel to Towers enough for my mortgage-free smart home. This is such a huge blessing and stress reliever. Knowing my family will always have a roof over our heads is unmatched. The smart home will give me so much independence, especially compared to the rental I am in now."*

— U.S. Army Specialist Maggie Mae Bilyeu

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## SMART HOME PROGRAM

### Air Force Senior Master Sergeant Israel Del Toro Jr.

On December 4, 2005, Senior Master Sgt. Del Toro's Humvee hit an IED. The blast left him with severe burns on more than 80% of his body. He lost all of his fingers on his left hand and had the fingers on his right hand amputated at the knuckles.

After being given a 15 percent chance of survival, he not only re-enlisted in the Air Force, but also set records and won a gold medal at the 2016 Invictus Games. DT has learned a number of lessons through hardship and recovery. He now finds purpose in sharing his story and wisdom with audiences around the country, in the hopes of helping others find light in the darkness.

Del Toro and his family received his mortgage-free *smart home* in Peyton, Colorado in October.

*"I'm limited on how I can earn a living and just not having that burden of, 'oh my god, how am I going to pay that mortgage this year,' that means a lot. You always hear thank you for your service. You know, we'll take care of you and when you see something like this, it really hits you like, oh, my god, they really do care."*

— Israel Del Toro



Air Force Senior Master Sergeant Israel Del Toro Jr





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## VETERAN HOMELESSNESS

In 2022, Tunnel to Towers launched a new national campaign to eradicate homelessness in the veteran community.

All veterans who honorably served their country in peacetime or in war deserve our nation's gratitude and a safe and dignified home.

In less than a year, the Foundation was able to provide **500 housing units** for our homeless veterans in their time of need.

Tunnel to Towers knows that housing is only part of the solution. In order to address the root cause of veteran homelessness, Tunnel to Towers is providing comprehensive care by connecting veterans with appropriate local services that include mental health counseling, skills training, and addiction support.

The Foundation's Veteran Homelessness campaign furthers its In the Line of Duty mission to **DO GOOD** and honor of America's heroes.

## NATIONAL RUN, WALK & CLIMB SERIES

### TUNNEL TO TOWERS 5K RUN & WALK NYC

**Tunnel to Towers 5K Run & Walk NYC**, the Foundation's signature event, was held on September 25, 2022.

**This year's iconic event broke records for fundraising and participation**, as tens of thousands of runners, walkers, first responders, and members of the military, retraced Stephen's final footsteps from Brooklyn through the Hugh L. Carey Tunnel to lower Manhattan.

This year's event paid special tribute to the 13 service members who lost their lives on August 26, 2021, during the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan. Families of the Afghanistan 13 took part in the event, honoring their lost loved ones. Artist Lynn Mara's FIRST CLASS FOREVER portraits memorialize the 13 Service Members and they were featured along the event route.

The event ended with an unbelievable post-race concert by multi-platinum entertainer Dierks Bentley on Vesey Street.







## TUNNEL TO TOWERS TOWER CLIMB NYC

After a two-year hiatus, the **Tunnel to Towers Tower Climb NYC** returned to One World Observatory on June 5th.

This iconic event gave participants the opportunity to climb 104 flights, or 2,226 stairs, to reach the top of the building, which symbolizes the strength and resilience of New York City.

Erika Oelkers served as the honorary starter for this year's climb. Her husband, FDNY Firefighter Thomas Oelkers, lost his battle against a 9/11-related illness in 2021.

*"I'm so proud to be part of this Foundation. The work Tunnel to Towers has done is remarkable. They help first responders, not only those who answered the call on 9/11 in New York City, but across the country. The work they are doing with our military and now homeless Veterans...it is remarkable the impact they have made in 20 years,"*

— Erika Oelkers

Erika Oelkers and Frank Siller 2022



## 2022 TCS NEW YORK CITY MARATHON

In 2022, the Tunnel to Towers Foundation was proud to field a charity team for the **TCS New York City Marathon**. More than 70 runners stepped up to the starting line as part of Team T2T, taking a 26.2 mile tour of all five boroughs for a good cause.

The Tunnel to Towers team included active first responders, families of 9/11 victims, and Tunnel to Towers Home recipients. **The team raised over \$400,000 for the Foundation.**







2022 Tunnel to Towers 5K Run & Walk Cypress

## NATIONAL RUN, WALK & CLIMB SERIES

In 2022, nearly 80 Tunnel to Towers Run, Walk & Climb events were held around the country, including new events in Denver, Detroit, and Charlotte.

Every single event is led by passionate volunteers, who support the mission and help spread awareness of the Tunnel to Towers Foundation and the work it does nationwide.



## NEVER FORGET PROGRAMS

### TUNNEL TO TOWERS 9/11 INSTITUTE

The **Tunnel to Towers Foundation's 9/11 Institute**, launched in 2022, is the Foundation's expanded effort to keep the promise to **NEVER FORGET**. This is done by educating and informing future generations about the attacks, those who lost their lives, and the heroic actions that took place on September 11, 2001.

The **Tunnel to Towers 9/11 Institute™** is a multifaceted educational program that provides public, private, and home educators with access to non-fiction 9/11 resources. The full curriculum units are built around first-person accounts. The program is for grades K–12, with social studies lessons, activities, and background materials for teachers, as well as the **Discovering Heroes®** series authored by Kristie Kiernan Bouryal. These materials will be distributed solely by the Institute.

All curriculum units have been developed by educators within the 9/11 community.

**The Institute launched in September and by the end of 2022, the educational material had been downloaded in 47 states and Puerto Rico.**







9/11 Institute Speaker Bureau Member and *Smart Home* Recipient  
NYPD Detective First Grade Terrence McGhee speaking at Bergen Community College

## 9/11 SPEAKERS BUREAU

The Institute's 9/11 Never Forget Speakers Bureau provides students and educators with access to both virtual and in-person testimonials from 9/11 first responders, survivors, and their loved ones.

Last year, there were over 130 requests for T2T Ambassadors to speak.

Many of the ambassadors have first hand knowledge of 9/11, including retired FDNY firefighters, veterans, Gold Star families, and 9/11 family members.

There are 85 active ambassadors in 39 states and the program will continue to grow in 2023.

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## 9/11 NEVER FORGET MOBILE EXHIBIT

The Institute will also deploy the **Foundation's 9/11 NEVER FORGET Mobile Exhibit**. This is a high-tech, 83-foot tractor trailer that transforms into an 1,100-square-foot interactive exhibit with 9/11 artifacts. It also features guided tours carried out by retired members of the FDNY.

**In 2022, the 9/11 NEVER FORGET Mobile Exhibit made 23 stops in 13 states, hosting approximately 85,000 visitors.**

Since launching in 2013, the exhibit has been to nearly all 50 states and welcomed more than 600,000 visitors.

### Russell Siller Memorial Scholarships

For the first time, Tunnel to Towers is offering college scholarships to the children of program recipients.

Russell Siller was an educator for 50 years. He believed in encouraging leadership, inspiring others, supporting education and serving the community.

The scholarship that bears his name will honor his memory by finding passionate individuals who share his selflessness and love of education.

The scholarships are worth up to \$10,000 and will be awarded to the children of recipients of the Foundation's **In the Line of Duty Home Program**.







## FOOTSTEPS TO THE FUTURE GALA

The Tunnel to Towers Foundation held its annual **Footsteps to the Future Gala** at the Marriott Marquis in midtown Manhattan on December 2, 2022.

This year, the Foundation honored 77 WABC owners & operators John and Margo Catsimatidis, as they celebrated the 100th anniversary of WABC and Margo's birthday.

Several WABC personalities attended the gala, including Sid Rosenberg, Rita Cosby and Judge Jeanine Pirro. **It was our most successful Gala to date, with over \$4.5 million raised for our programs.** Tunnel to Towers is honored to have 77 WABC as our official news talk radio partner.

*"The mission I set for WABC is putting everyone together in New York. There are firemen, police officers, state troopers, our mission is to respect them all and to watch their back....Thank you all for being here, thank you for defending our country, our police officers, and our veterans."*

— John Catsimatidis



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## LIBERTY NATIONAL GOLF CLASSIC

The Tunnel to Towers Foundation held the 7th annual Golf Classic at Liberty National Golf Club in Jersey City, New Jersey on June 20th.

The event, hosted by the Honorable Rudolph Giuliani, benefits the Foundation's **In the Line of Duty program**, giving back to those who have sacrificed so much for our country and our freedoms.







## TUNNEL TO TOWERS NATIONAL GOLF SERIES

The Tunnel to Towers Foundation hosts, and is the beneficiary of, a number of charitable golf events across the country.

**In 2022, there were over 80 golf events in 20 states, supporting the Foundation and its programs.**

This included the annual Veterans Day golf outing on Staten Island, which is New York City's largest one-day golf tournament. The event was played on three courses and attracted 450 golfers, followed by a dinner for 700 people.

Notably, this year, the Foundation was the beneficiary of a golf event in Anchorage, Alaska, hosted by Alaska Cares. This first time event included 120 participants and they are looking to expand in 2023.

This year also marked the tenth annual Veterans Day Golf Classic held at Pelican Preserve CC in Ft. Myers, FL. This has become the most successful of all of the Tunnel to Towers golf events across the country.

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## TUNNEL TO TOWERS PICKLEBALL

The Tunnel to Towers Foundation also benefited from the explosion of the popularity of Pickleball last year.

Ten pickleball tournaments were held around the country to benefit the Foundation. As the popularity of the sport continues to rise, there is the opportunity for tremendous growth in 2023.







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## BOXING

This year, Tunnel to Towers was honored to receive support from the **FDNY Bravest Boxing** and the **NYPD Fighting Finest** at several events, including the FDNY's **Thrilla in Camilla** in the Rockaways and the NYPD's **Fight Night** at SIUH Community Park.



## BRAVEST BBQ

On October 8, 2022, the **12th annual Bravest BBQ** was held at the Hillside Swim Club on Staten Island.

The event featured an all-you-can-eat pig roast, BBQ, and concert. This year's BBQ honored the memory of Henry Dingman III, who was named Tunnel to Towers Foundation Man of the Year.

Dingman retired as the Director of Dispatch operation for the FDNY, after serving the city for nearly 40 years.

**Proceeds from the Bravest BBQ go to support the Foundation's "In the Line of Duty Program," which supports our nation's military, first responders, and their families.**



2022 Bravest BBQ





Student-Athlete Danielle Heintz from Colorado-Boulder Women's Lacrosse

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## STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVOCATE PROGRAM

In September 2021, the Tunnel to Towers Foundation launched a first-of-its-kind Student-Athlete Advocate Program. The initiative is designed to connect current student-athletes to the mission of the Foundation by delivering critical messages to younger Americans. This is to ensure we “NEVER FORGET” the sacrifices first responders and military members make for our country every day.

The Foundation added three more outstanding collegiate student-athletes to its Tunnel to Towers Student-Athlete Advocate Program in May 2022.

**Kayla Downey – Coastal Carolina Women's Lacrosse**  
**Danielle Heintz – Colorado-Boulder Women's Lacrosse**  
**Conor McGovern – Virginia Military Institute Men's Soccer**

The program is designed to help current student-athletes expand their personal brands, while promoting the organization's mission to honor our first responders, military veterans, and their families.

*“I am incredibly excited to be a part of an amazing foundation, and I can't wait to work alongside a great group of student-athletes to give back to America's heroes. I believe it's important to make sure nobody forgets what our first responders and service members sacrifice for our community and nation.”*

— Danielle Heintz, University of Colorado Boulder, Lacrosse

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## FINANCIAL STATEMENT & EXPENSE RATIO

Since its inception, the Tunnel to Towers Foundation has been committed to practicing sound fiscal management, organizational efficiency, and program integrity. Tunnel to Towers keeps fundraising and administrative costs at a minimum, with only a small percentage of funds allocated to overhead expenses.

**In 2022, the Foundation's program service percentage was 95%, meaning 95 cents of every dollar went directly to our programs and services.** Program service ratio is a key barometer used to measure operating effectiveness. Tunnel to Towers Chairman and CEO Frank Siller is an uncompensated volunteer. For nine years running, the Foundation has achieved the highest rating, four-stars, from Charity Navigator, the nation's largest and most utilized evaluator of charities.







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## PARTNERS

The Tunnel to Towers Foundation is committed to honoring our nation's first responders and military heroes. We are truly grateful for our partners who believe in our mission and help us achieve our goals.

### The Home Depot Foundation

The Home Depot Foundation serves as the philanthropic arm of The Home Depot and has been the top corporate partner of the Tunnel to Towers Foundation since our relationship began in 2012. Committed to serving those who have served us, The Home Depot Foundation and Team Depot, a 400,000-strong army of associate volunteers, work to improve the homes and lives of U.S. veterans, train skilled tradespeople to fill the labor gap and support communities impacted by natural disasters. In 2016, The Home Depot Foundation announced its goal of investing a quarter of a billion dollars in veteran-related causes by 2020. In May 2018, CEO, President and Chairman of The Home Depot Craig Menear announced at our annual Footsteps to the Future Gala that their funding goal was met two years early and The Home Depot was now committed to investing a half a billion dollars for veteran-related causes by 2025.

**[HomeDepotFoundation.org](http://HomeDepotFoundation.org)**

### GMC

Since 2014, GMC, a division of General Motors, has partnered with the Tunnel to Towers Foundation as its exclusive and national charity of choice. With more than 100 years of supporting the U.S. Military, General Motors is committed to our partnership and our nation's heroes. The company employs more than 60,000 veterans. General Motors is dedicated to transforming lives through technology and engineering, and has been pushing the limits of transportation for more than a century. Today, it is in the midst of a transportation revolution to create a safer, better, more sustainable future with Zero Crashes, Zero Emissions and Zero Congestion. As an open, inclusive company, it is also creating an environment where everyone feels welcomed and valued for who they are.

**[GMC.com](http://GMC.com)**



### **Esther and Harold Mertz Foundation**

The Esther and Harold Mertz Foundation is an extraordinary partner of the Tunnel to Towers Foundation, and is instrumental in our efforts to serve veterans, as well as fallen first responders and Gold Star families. The members of the Mertz Foundation's Board of Directors continue what its founders began in the 1970s. The Mertz Foundation furthers the legacy and philanthropic generosity of Esther and Harold Mertz, by giving hope and assistance to those who are impoverished or disadvantaged, showing compassion to those who have lost hope, and making a difference in the lives of those who are suffering from some deficiency in body, mind or spirit.



### **Proper No. Twelve**

Numerous Irish whiskey makers sought Conor McGregor's endorsement over the years. But as a true born and bred Irishman, he did not want to simply endorse any Irish whiskey. Inspired by his pride for Ireland and his love of Irish whiskey, McGregor wanted to create his own whiskey that would match his high standards and make his country proud. McGregor, his manager Audie Attar and entrepreneur Ken Austin developed the brand under the project name "Notorious," which eventually led to the creation of Proper No. Twelve. To date, Proper No. Twelve has donated a total of \$2 million to Tunnel to Towers.

**[properwhiskey.com](http://properwhiskey.com)**



### **Carpet One**

Established in 1984, Carpet One Floor & Home is North America's leading floor covering retailer, with more than 1,000 independently owned and operated locations in the United States, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. As the exclusive flooring supplier to our *Smart Homes* program, Carpet One has committed to the installation of the floor coverings for each of the *smart homes* built throughout the United States. In addition, Carpet One has carried out a successful campaign where a portion of each sale benefited our program. Through Carpet One, we forged relationships with Mohawk, MasterBrand, and Hunter Douglas.

**[CarpetOne.com](http://CarpetOne.com)**





### **New York Jets**

The generosity of New York Jets Chairman and CEO Woody Johnson has made a remarkable difference in the lives of our injured service members. Mr. Johnson and the Jets have been strong advocates for the Tunnel to Towers Foundation by supporting the construction of four *smart homes*, thus far, for our injured service members. Mr. Johnson also opened doors to additional support by making introductions to Johnson & Johnson.

**NewYorkJets.com**



### **Fox News**

The Fox News Channel, including *Fox and Friends* and *Fox 5*, serves as a proud media supporter of the Tunnel to Towers Foundation through its television, radio and online outlets. Fox News is dedicated to promoting the mission and message of the Tunnel to Towers Foundation, and has been instrumental in raising awareness and funds for our military, first responders, and their families.

**FoxNews.com**



### **Mohawk**

Mohawk, a company known for revolutionary product innovation, award-winning design, and outstanding service, provides the floor coverings for each *smart home*. The company assures the highest quality laminate and engineered hardwood flooring products, and has innovated the softest, most family-friendly and pet-friendly carpets ever.

**MohawkFlooring.com**



### **Semper Fi Fund**

The Semper Fi Fund was established in 2004 by a group of Marine Corps spouses. Those same women run the Fund today, alongside other spouses from all service branches and retired service members, all of whom intimately know the needs of military families. Since inception, the organization has issued more than \$145 million in assistance. The Semper Fi Fund and America's Fund, which provides assistance to injured veterans of all branches of the military, offer immediate financial assistance and lifetime support to post-9/11 wounded, critically ill and injured members of all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces. In 2010, the organization first partnered with the Tunnel to Towers Foundation and continues to do so today by donating to each of our *smart homes*. Together, we are providing independence for our most catastrophically injured heroes.

**[SemperFiFund.org](http://SemperFiFund.org)**



### **Oldcastle**

Based in Atlanta, Ga., Oldcastle Materials is the leading vertically integrated supplier of aggregates, asphalt, ready mixed concrete and paving services in the United States, with operations at 1,400 locations nationwide. The company operates under the North American arm of international building supply company CRH plc, based in Dublin, Ireland.

**[www.oldcastlematerials.com](http://www.oldcastlematerials.com)**



### **UPS**

United Parcel Service (UPS) and its employees have supported the Tunnel to Towers Foundation since its inception. Whether it's providing trucks for our race participants to store their personal items at our annual New York Tunnel to Towers Run & Walk, issuing grants to the Foundation, participating in a workplace giving campaign that has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars, or hosting an annual golf outing to support the Foundation, UPS has been a tremendous supporter.

**[UPS.com](http://UPS.com)**





### **MasterBrand**

MasterBrand, one of the largest cabinet manufacturers in North America, builds and donates all of the kitchen cabinets for our *smart homes*; a \$20,000 value per home. MasterBrand is committed to four basic tenets: quality construction, fashionable products, and on-time and complete delivery.

**Masterbrand.com**



### **Scout Marketing**

SCOUT Marketing, an independently owned and operated, full-service integrated agency, supports the Tunnel to Towers Foundation with an incredible pro bono effort that includes a broad awareness campaign (branding, website redesign, videos, social media, etc). SCOUT, which built its agency on the mantra – Be Brave, has contributed to countless charitable organizations since its inception in 1999. It was looking to make a more significant impact, by having an exclusive charitable organization, when it discovered T2T.

**findscout.com**



### **Ashley Furniture**

Ashley HomeStore is the No. 1 furniture retailer in the U.S. and one of the world's best-selling furniture store brands with more than 700 locations in 36 countries. From design through fulfillment, Ashley is committed to delivering the world's best home furnishing values, selection and service, and earning the loyalty and trust of its customers every day.

**ashleyfurniture.com**



#### **API Group, Inc.**

API Group, a multi-billion-dollar parent company for over 40 independently managed construction companies located in more than 200 locations worldwide, supplies the fire protection and life safety equipment for each of the *smart homes*. The sprinkler systems provided by API Group are extremely important to the safety of our home recipients.

**[APIgroupInc.com](http://APIgroupInc.com)**



#### **Hunter Douglas**

Hunter Douglas supplies each *smart home* with window treatments. Hunter Douglas products offer amazing design, variable light control, motorization, insulation against heat and cold while saving energy, protection from damaging UV rays, sound absorption, and child safety.

**[HunterDouglas.com](http://HunterDouglas.com)**



#### **Glidden**

Glidden PROFESSIONAL® Paints is a nationally-recognized brand, dedicated to serving the needs of the professional marketplace, specifically, commercial painting contractors, architects, building owners and facility managers. Glidden donates the paint for all of the *smart homes* we build. Glidden Professional is a trusted and recognized professional paint brand available at The Home Depot.

**[Glidden.com](http://Glidden.com)**





#### **United Rentals**

United Rentals, Inc. is the largest equipment rental company in the world. The company has an integrated network of 997 rental locations in 49 states and every Canadian province. The company's approximately 14,800 employees serve construction and industrial customers, utilities, municipalities, homeowners and others. The company is headquartered in Stamford, Conn.

**[unitedrentals.com](http://unitedrentals.com)**



#### **U-HAUL**

In addition to all it does for programs in local communities, U-Haul has made a commitment to support many military and veteran organizations, including the Tunnel to Towers Foundation. On the last weekend in September, as we carry out the annual NYC Tunnel to Towers 5k Run & Walk, U-Haul is a tremendous sponsor, donating its vehicles to transport supplies from our base on Staten Island to the starting line in Brooklyn and the finish line in Manhattan. And it doesn't stop there. U-Haul donates its vehicles to the Foundation for each of our service member homecoming ceremonies through our *Smart Home* program. This enables our crew to transport stages, platforms, chairs, video equipment, etc. at no cost. This type of donation allows us to continue to boast a program service percentage of over 95%.

**[uhaul.com](http://uhaul.com)**



#### **Northfield Bank**

Northfield Bank, which operates 38 locations in Staten Island, Brooklyn and New Jersey, is a key local sponsor for the Tunnel to Towers Foundation. Northfield has been a sponsor at each of our Veterans Day golf outings, and regularly provides the Foundation with the time and talent of its volunteers. The assistance Northfield employees provide at registration for the Tunnel to Towers Run & Walk is immeasurable.

**[eNorthfield.com](http://eNorthfield.com)**



### **Lincoln Property Company**

Lincoln Property Company was founded in 1965 as a developer and manager of high-quality residential communities. With development and investment properties in more than 200 cities, Lincoln is currently ranked the second largest property manager in the United States. Lincoln strives to provide its residents with superior service for a comfortable and convenient lifestyle. Lincoln Property Company has the distinct honor of being the first sponsor of the NYC Tunnel to Towers 5K Run & Walk.



### **American Airlines**

American Airlines Group (AAG) is the largest airline in the US and one of the largest in the world. The company's mainline carriers provide scheduled air transportation, along with its group of regional subsidiaries and third-party regional carriers operating as American Eagle. It also offers freight and mail services through its cargo division. In all, American operates nearly 6,700 flights daily to 350 destinations in more than 50 countries. It operates about 950 mainline aircraft and almost 600 regional aircraft. AAG is also part of the oneworld alliance, where member carriers share airport lounge facilities and offer interconnected loyalty programs.

**[www.aa.com](http://www.aa.com)**



### **Pentagon Federal Credit Union**

Established in 1935, Pentagon Federal Credit Union (PenFed) is America's second-largest federal credit union, serving over 2.1 million members worldwide with over \$26 billion in assets. PenFed's mission is to empower members of its community to achieve their financial well-being. PenFed has a strong legacy of supporting the military and first responders. The credit union donates 2% of its annual net income to charitable organizations, with the majority going to military charities. The PenFed Foundation, a national 501(c)3 founded by PenFed Credit Union, has provided more than \$38.5 million in financial support to veterans, active-duty service members, families, and caregivers.

**[www.penfed.org](http://www.penfed.org)**





### **Bassett**

Bassett Furniture Industries is busy building a better furniture business. The company, founded in 1902, makes wooden and upholstered furniture for home use, featuring bedroom and dining suites, sofas, chairs, love seats, and home office furniture. Bassett sells through 60 company-owned stores and some 30 licensed locations under the Bassett Home Furnishings brand. With about a dozen stores, Texas is the largest market among the 25 states in which Bassett operates. The company's logistics unit handles getting goods from factories and warehouses to stores. It has nearly 800 vehicles on the road.

**[www.bassettfurniture.com](http://www.bassettfurniture.com)**



### **Lenco Armored Vehicles**

Lenco manufactures a varied line of tactical armored vehicles designed to serve the specialized needs of law enforcement agencies, fire-rescue and EMS organizations, the U.S. military, and other government agencies. As a company offering dedicated grant funding aid and pioneering the industry's highest standards in safety, Lenco's mission aligns with that of the Tunnel to Towers Foundation to provide partnership and financial support and meet the needs of our nation's military and public safety professionals.

**[Lencoarmor.com](http://Lencoarmor.com)**

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