



Tunnel^{TO}Towers Foundation

ANNUAL REPORT - 2023





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 lost their lives on that tragic day. We support those who put themselves in harm's way in service of others.

Tunnel to Towers has several initiatives to pay tribute to America's greatest heroes. The Gold Star Family Home Program and Fallen First Responder Home Program deliver mortgage-free homes to those who made the ultimate sacrifice serving our country or their communities and have young children. The *Smart Home* Program provides specially-adapted, mortgage-free *smart homes* to catastrophically injured veterans and first responders.

These efforts are to ensure those who serve, and their families, always have a place to call home. The Homeless Veteran Program provides housing assistance for previously homeless veterans. The Tunnel to Towers 9/11 Institute™ educates students and adults about the loss, heroism, and impact of 9/11, as well as the unity that followed.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Friends,

It's been more than two decades since the terror attacks of September 11, 2001, and the **Tunnel to Towers Foundation** continues to uphold its solemn promise to **Never Forget** the sacrifices that were made and the lives that were lost.

My siblings and I started the Foundation to honor our youngest brother, Stephen. Stephen was a New York City firefighter who was off-duty when he responded to the World Trade Center, where he gave his life.

After establishing the Foundation to support 9/11 family members in New York, we now assist America's greatest heroes and their families all across the country. We continue to expand our programs to help more people in more places and share the stories of those who have given so much to their country and community.

This year alone, we delivered 200 mortgage-free homes to Gold Star and fallen first responder families, along with catastrophically injured veterans and first responders. We continued to build homes at the **Let Us Do Good Village** in Land O' Lakes, Florida, a community developed exclusively for T2T program participants.

To ensure our neighbors Never Forget what happened on September 11, we launched the **Tunnel to Towers 9/11 Institute™**. This initiative continues to grow, educating the next generation about the events of 9/11. The Institute consists of resources to teach students and adults the true story of the heroes who stepped up to save lives.

The Institute also pays tribute to the memory of my oldest brother, Russell, who died in 2019. Russ was an educator for fifty years. The Foundation offers **Russell F. Siller Memorial Scholarships** to support students who share his selflessness and love of education.

Continues on next page.



**FDNY Firefighter
Stephen Siller**

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN (continued)

In 2022, the Foundation created a new, ambitious program. I made a promise that Tunnel to Towers would eradicate homelessness among our veterans. Since then, the **Homeless Veteran Program** has assisted more than 3,300 veterans in finding safe, stable homes.

In addition to housing, Tunnel to Towers is providing an array of comprehensive services, including mental health counseling, job training, benefits assistance, and more. All of these efforts are to ensure these heroes can better reintegrate into a society they fought to protect and defend.

This year, the Foundation opened its first **Veterans Village**. This new concept provides apartment-style living with the caring services of specially trained providers. We'll be expanding the program in the coming years, offering a fresh start for vets who have struggled since leaving the military.

None of this would be possible without the dedication and support of our remarkable volunteers, sponsors, and donors who have joined us on our mission to **Do Good**. You are transforming the lives of our program participants and their families with your willingness to give your time and money.

From our entire family, thank you for all that you do to help us serve America's greatest heroes.



Frank Siller
Tunnel to Towers Foundation
Chairman/CEO



2023 HIGHLIGHTS

\$500,000,000

RAISED IN SUPPORT OF OUR PROGRAMS

200+ MORTGAGE-FREE HOMES

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

3,300 HOUSING UNITS

through our Homeless Veteran Program

95¢ OF EVERY DOLLAR DONATED WENT DIRECTLY TO OUR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

NEARLY 650,000 PEOPLE EDUCATED THROUGH OUR 9/11 NEVER FORGET MOBILE EXHIBIT

MORE THAN 60
events in our
**National Run, Walk,
& Climb Series**



**FOUR-STAR RATING
FROM CHARITY NAVIGATOR
FOR 10th STRAIGHT YEAR**

[highest rating]



Student Athlete
Danny DeSanti

CONTENTS

- 07 IN THE LINE OF DUTY PROGRAM
- 08 GOLD STAR FAMILY HOME PROGRAM
- 11 FALLEN FIRST RESPONDER HOME PROGRAM
- 14 *SMART HOME* PROGRAM
- 17 HOMELESS VETERAN PROGRAM
- 18 LET US DO GOOD VILLAGE
- 19 NATIONAL RUN, WALK & CLIMB SERIES
- 24 TUNNEL TO TOWERS 9/11 INSTITUTE™
- 29 NATIONAL GOLF SERIES & COMMUNITY EVENTS
- 34 T2T STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVOCATE PROGRAM
- 35 MEDIA COVERAGE
- 36 FINANCIAL STATEMENT & EXPENSE RATIO
- 37 PARTNERS
- 46 OUR BOARD



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, along with Gold Star and fallen first responder families with young children.

To date, the Foundation has delivered over **1200 mortgage-free homes** to these heroes and their families.

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

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

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.





GOLD STAR FAMILY HOME PROGRAM

US Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Michael John Kardoes

On June 3, 2022, Lieutenant Colonel Kardoes died from undiagnosed cancers attributed to burn pit exposure in Afghanistan. He passed unexpectedly just 18 hours after his diagnosis. The doctors had told him his condition was treatable.

On Veterans Day, Tunnel to Towers paid off his family's mortgage.

Kardoes graduated from the US Air Force Academy in 1994. He was a pilot, squadron commander, and decorated veteran. He and his wife, Nicole, married at the end of that year. They had six children.

After his death, Nicole Kardoes was scared. *"My biggest fears were how do I financially support the kids? How do I emotionally support the kids, and how am I going to just keep our life intact? Our house, our vehicles,"* she said. *"I had a senior in high school who was about to start college, two other kids already in college, and just those very practical things of how does this work from here?"*

The Foundation's decision to remove the burden of her mortgage was life-changing. *"When I got the phone call from Tunnel to Towers saying that they were paying off my mortgage, I felt like I was seen,"* she said. *"I was being taken care of, and Mike's service mattered to somebody."*

GOLD STAR FAMILY HOME PROGRAM

US Army Sergeant Sammy Lee

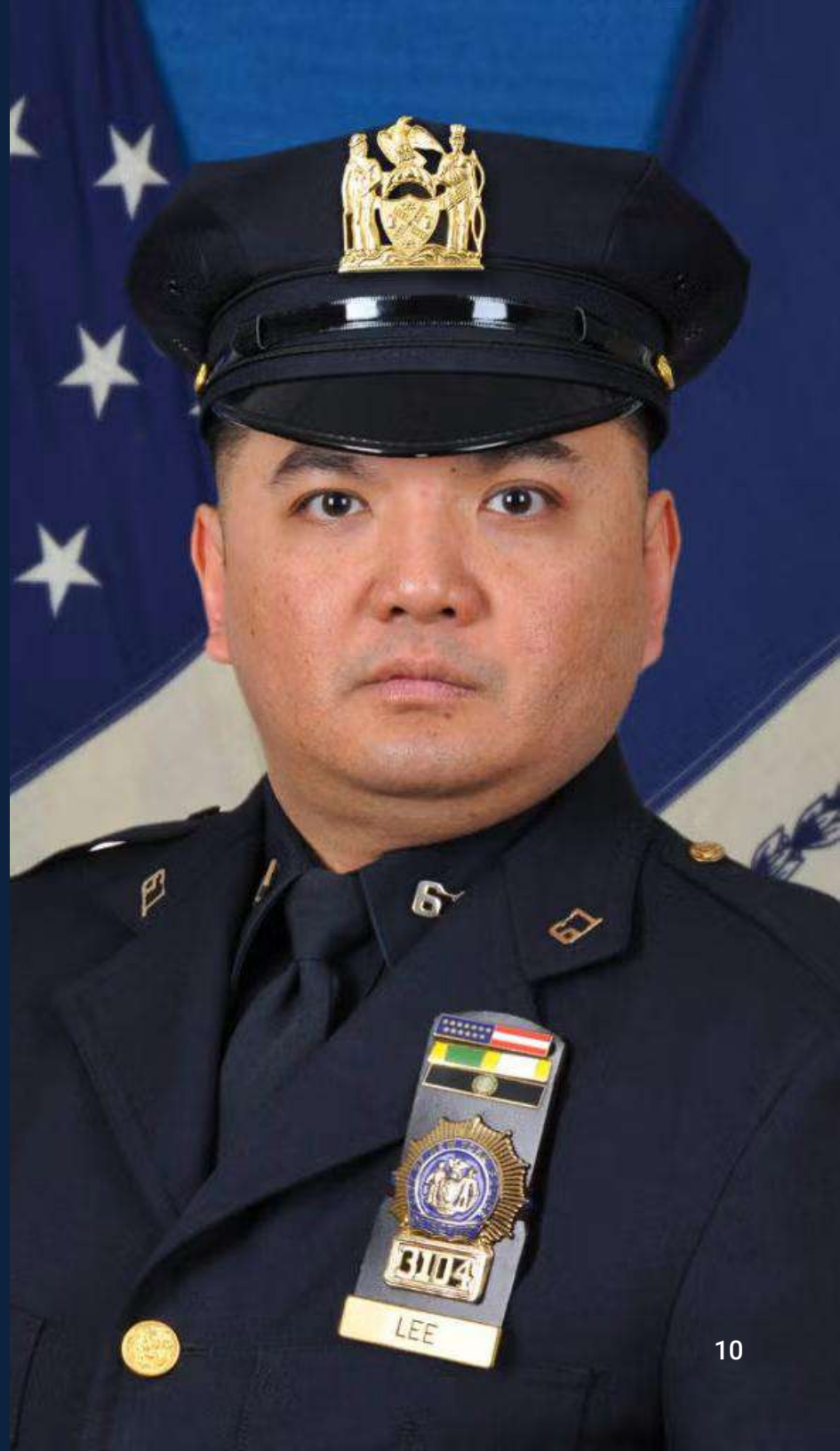
Sergeant Lee grew up in New York City and was inspired to join the Army after 9/11. He enlisted in 2003 and deployed to Iraq. When he came home, he joined the New York City Police Department and became a detective.

Shortly after buying a house on Long Island, he was diagnosed with terminal liver cancer. He died just six months later, on January 17, 2023. His illness was attributed to burn pit exposure while in Iraq. He left behind his wife, Audrey, and two children, ages 2 and 1.

"I just felt helpless," Audrey Lee said. "And fear. The fear of losing my home. Like, we're going to get kicked out. We're not going to have a place to live."

Then, she said, "Tunnel to Towers called me, and they told me that they have good news for me. They are going to pay off our mortgage. At first, it was almost like this cannot be real. Nobody does that."

The mortgage was paid off in honor of Veterans Day.





FALLEN FIRST RESPONDER HOME PROGRAM

The Tunnel to Towers Foundation pays off the mortgages for the families of law enforcement officers, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians 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-related illnesses. The collapse of the Twin Towers and the fires that burned for months resulted in the release of a host of toxic chemicals.

FALLEN FIRST RESPONDER HOME PROGRAM

Buffalo Fire Department Firefighter Jason Arno

On March 1, 2023, Firefighter Arno was with his fellow firefighters in Engine Company 2 when he was killed responding to a four-alarm commercial fire. He had been with the department for three years.

Before enrolling in the fire academy, Arno had attended culinary school and worked in a number of restaurants and bars. In an effort to find a more stable career after his daughter was born, Arno chose firefighting. He left behind his wife, Sarah-Elizabeth, and their daughter, Olivia.

"To the entire Tunnel to Towers Foundation, from the bottom of my heart, thank you," Sarah-Elizabeth Tierney said. "Not only did you give us a home of our own, a place to build a new foundation, but you gave us hope when we had none. You shone some light at the end of a very dark tunnel."





FALLEN FIRST RESPONDER HOME PROGRAM NY State Police Sergeant F. Brent Chomyszak

After the 9/11 attacks, Sergeant Chomyszak spent six months working on the rescue and recovery effort in Lower Manhattan. In 2019, he was diagnosed with a rare gallbladder cancer that was attributed to the toxic air at Ground Zero.

Before he died on August 23, 2022, he learned Tunnel to Towers was going to renovate his house to make it easier for his family to care for him. In 2023, the Foundation took over their mortgage.

Chomyszak's widow, Tanya, said, *"The mortgage payment has been an amazing gift from Tunnel to Towers."* She added, *"I feel that people should support Tunnel to Towers because they are helping so many people. They're helping to make families whole. They're helping so that families don't have to move out of their homes."*

SMART HOME PROGRAM

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





SMART HOME PROGRAM

US Army Major Jonathan Turnbull

On January 16, 2019, Major Turnbull was part of a unit providing security for a girls' school in Syria. An ISIS suicide bomber approached the group and detonated his vest, killing four Americans and 19 Syrians. Turnbull was one of three Americans who were critically wounded.

He endured more than 20 life-saving surgeries. His right eye was destroyed, and his left eye was punctured. Despite the efforts of doctors, he's now completely blind.

In November 2023, Tunnel to Towers transformed the West Point graduate's Michigan house into a *smart home*. The kitchen has accessible pull-down cabinets and smart technology. Turnbull can now control his lights, thermostat, and security system through a smartphone app.

In addition, the Foundation installed new floors with different surfaces for each room, so he can easily identify where he is in the house based on feel.

"We were worried. We didn't know how we were going to pay for the house, how we were going to continue to pay our mortgage," Turnbull said. "That's when the Tunnel to Towers Foundation stepped in and said, 'we have a solution for your problem.' We don't have to worry about packing up and moving somewhere else because the Tunnel to Towers Foundation is going to help us make this a forever home."

He added, *"Tunnel to Towers Foundation didn't just provide me with a way to be independent in my place, but they gave me hope. Hope for the future with the knowledge that I can overcome these things, but I don't have to do it alone."*

SMART HOME PROGRAM

US Army Sergeant First Class Dustin Magner

On June 1, 2009, Sergeant First Class Magner was part of a quick reaction force rushing to help fellow soldiers in Iraq when his vehicle struck an IED. He sustained spinal damage and was left paralyzed.

In December 2023, Tunnel to Towers delivered a *smart home* with features that would make him more independent. It also allowed him to more easily spend quality time with his wife and children.

"Tunnel to Towers built me a smart home that will greatly improve my life," Magner said. "It came together better than I could have ever imagined. It's hard for me to express the gratitude that I have for them. You'd be lucky to have them on your side."

Magner was one of more than 40 of America's heroes to receive their homes during the Foundation's annual Season of Hope.





HOMELESS VETERAN PROGRAM

Following up on its national campaign launched in 2022, **Tunnel to Towers** has begun to expand its efforts to eradicate homelessness in the veteran community.

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

In fewer than two years, the Foundation has been able to provide housing for 3,300 homeless veterans in their time of need. Our National Case Management Network assists veterans and their families across the nation, regardless of their location. We currently provide housing assistance and access to necessary supportive services in nearly every state.

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, benefits assistance, and addiction support.

This year, the Foundation opened its first Veterans Village in Houston, Texas. The former hotel is being converted into stable housing for more than 100 veterans. Other Villages are planned for the years ahead. Each of these facilities will offer a complete suite of wraparound services.

In addition, Tunnel to Towers contributed to the opening of a veterans housing complex in West Los Angeles, California. Nearly 70 veterans have already found homes there, and hundreds more will be welcomed in the future.

Similar efforts are in the works in Riverside, California; Austin, Texas; and Phoenix, Arizona.

The Foundation's Homeless Veteran Program furthers its mission to Do Good in honor of America's heroes.

LET US DO GOOD VILLAGE

In December 2022, Tunnel to Towers opened its Let Us Do Good Village in Land O' Lakes, Florida. The 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 Program home recipients. This will allow families to live alongside others who have shared similar experiences. The opportunity for bonding is designed to reduce the stress on those who have faced traumatic circumstances.

The Let Us Do Good Village is exclusively a Tunnel to Towers community for catastrophically injured veterans and first responders, along with Gold Star and fallen first responder families.

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





NATIONAL RUN, WALK & CLIMB SERIES

Tunnel To Towers 5K Run & Walk NYC

The Tunnel to Towers 5K Run & Walk NYC, the Foundation's signature event, was held on September 24, 2023.

This year's iconic Run & Walk attracted more than 30,000 participants, as they retraced Stephen Siller's final footsteps from Brooklyn through the Hugh L. Carey Tunnel to Lower Manhattan.

The event paid tribute to fallen Newark, New Jersey, firefighters Wayne Brooks Jr. and Augusto Acabou. The families of both men received mortgage-free homes after they were killed in a July fire. Brooks' widow and Acabou's fiancée were honorary starters at the race.

The event ended with an inspiring post-race concert by seven-time Grammy Award-winning trio Lady A.

NATIONAL RUN, WALK & CLIMB SERIES

Tunnel To Towers Tower Climb NYC

Another signature event, the Tunnel to Towers Tower Climb NYC, concluded at One World Observatory atop One World Trade Center on June 4, 2023.

This iconic event gave 1,000 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.

There were three honorary starters:

- ★ Irene Maiello, wife of FDNY Lieutenant Joseph Maiello
- ★ Shannon Slutman, wife of USMC SSgt and FDNY Firefighter Christopher Slutman
- ★ Irene Sullivan, wife of FDNY Lieutenant Brian Sullivan





NATIONAL RUN, WALK & CLIMB SERIES 2023 TCS New York City Marathon

In 2023, for the fourth time, the Tunnel to Towers Foundation fielded a charity team for the TCS New York City Marathon. Nearly 100 runners traversed the course on a five-borough tour through the city's various neighborhoods and enclaves. Funds raised during the 26.2-mile run benefitted the Foundation.

The Tunnel to Towers team included active first responders, families of 9/11 victims, and Tunnel to Towers home recipients. The team raised more than \$500,000.

NATIONAL RUN, WALK & CLIMB SERIES

Tunnel to Towers Endurance Series

In addition to the New York City Marathon, Tunnel to Towers added other races to create its new Endurance Series. Runners were able to represent the Foundation while taking part in the Chicago Marathon, Marine Corps Marathon, and the New York City Half Marathon.

Combined, the three races attracted 65 athletes who raised nearly \$140,000.





NATIONAL RUN, WALK & CLIMB SERIES

In 2023, more than 60 Tunnel to Towers Run, Walk & Climb events were held around the country. The Run & Walk event in Columbia, South Carolina, on September 8 attracted more than 2,000 attendees, the largest Run & Walk outside of New York.

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

TUNNEL TO TOWERS 9/11 INSTITUTE™

The Tunnel to Towers 9/11 Institute™, launched in 2022, is an expanded effort to uphold the promise to Never Forget what happened on that fateful day. The Institute does this 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 nonfiction 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 are distributed exclusively by the Institute.

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

Since creating the Institute, the material has been downloaded in all 50 states and Puerto Rico. The educational plan includes 70 individual lessons, which form a comprehensive, age-appropriate curriculum.





TUNNEL TO TOWERS 9/11 INSTITUTE™

9/11 Speakers Bureau

The Institute's 9/11 Speakers Bureau provides students and educators with access to both virtual and in-person testimonials from 9/11 first responders, their loved ones, and survivors.

In 2023, T2T had 105 Ambassadors who appeared at 165 events in 31 states across the country.

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

TUNNEL TO TOWERS 9/11 INSTITUTE™

9/11 Never Forget Mobile Exhibit

The Institute also deploys the Foundation's 9/11 NEVER FORGET Mobile Exhibit, a high-tech, 83-foot tractor trailer that transforms into an 1,100-square-foot interactive museum, with 9/11 artifacts and guided tours carried out by retired members of the FDNY.

In 2023, the 9/11 NEVER FORGET Mobile Exhibit made visits to 38 states hosting 650,000 visitors.

Since launching in 2013, the exhibit has been to nearly all 50 states and has welcomed almost three-quarters of a million attendees interested in learning more about the 9/11 terror attacks.





TUNNEL TO TOWERS 9/11 INSTITUTE™ Russell F. Siller Memorial Scholarships

For the second straight year, Tunnel to Towers offered college scholarships to the children of program recipients. This year, nine students received scholarships and grants worth nearly \$60,000.

The program was started to pay tribute to Russell Siller, brother of FDNY Firefighter Stephen Siller, who was an educator for fifty years and passed away in 2019. Russell believed in encouraging leadership and inspiring others to get involved in educating and serving the community.

The scholarship honors his memory by supporting passionate individuals who share his selflessness and love of education.

The educational funding is worth up to **\$10,000 for each student.**

TUNNEL TO TOWERS 9/11 INSTITUTE™

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 1, 2023.

This year, the Foundation honored actor Cole Hauser and Southpoint Capital Advisors. Hauser stars as Rip Wheeler in the hit television series *Yellowstone*. He's an extraordinary supporter of T2T, having been involved in several events and appearing in Foundation PSAs.

Southpoint Capital is a New York-based hedge fund and a longtime partner. It has been instrumental in helping us provide mortgage-free homes for first responder and Gold Star families, as well as catastrophically injured service members and first responders.

Speaking at the benefit dinner, Hauser said, *"To see an organization like Tunnel to Towers do the amazing work they have done, it's a real testament to Frank and his creativity and determination to continue to push the limits of caring. Caring for others. Not just first responders, but our military."*

He added, *"As Americans, we each have a responsibility to care for each other. If we do that, this country will stay strong."*





TUNNEL TO TOWERS NATIONAL GOLF SERIES & COMMUNITY EVENTS

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

In 2023, there were 31 golf outings in 12 states that supported the Foundation and its programs.

This included the annual Veterans Day Golf event on Staten Island. This is New York City's largest one-day golf tournament. The outing was played on three courses: Silver Lake Golf Course, Richmond County Country Club, and La Tourette Golf Course, and attracted 600 attendees for golf and dinner.

This year was the tenth annual Veterans Day Golf Classic held at Pelican Preserve Golf Club in Fort Myers, Florida. This has become one of the most successful of the Tunnel to Towers golf events across the country.

TUNNEL TO TOWERS NATIONAL GOLF SERIES & COMMUNITY EVENTS

Liberty National Golf Classic

The Tunnel to Towers Foundation held its seventh annual Golf Classic at Liberty National Golf Club in Jersey City, New Jersey, on October 10, 2023.

The dinner program was hosted by Fox News personality Johnny Joey Jones. Jones is a Marine Corps veteran and Tunnel to Towers *smart home* recipient. He received his home in 2019. Since then, he has become an active Foundation supporter. Singer Chris Macchio performed while guests dined.

The event benefits the Foundation's In the Line of Duty program, which gives back to those who have served and sacrificed for our country. There were 120 golfers who played on the course, which has unparalleled views of Manhattan.





TUNNEL TO TOWERS NATIONAL GOLF SERIES & COMMUNITY EVENTS Tunnel to Towers Pickleball

Tunnel to Towers Foundation is also benefiting from the popularity of pickleball.

The Foundation held a golf, tennis, and pickleball outing in Florida. The enthusiasm for the event led to a fundraising haul of more than \$85,000.

TUNNEL TO TOWERS NATIONAL GOLF SERIES & COMMUNITY EVENTS

Tunnel to Towers Boxing

This year, Tunnel to Towers was honored to receive support from FDNY Bravest Boxing and NYPD Fighting Finest, along with fighters from other departments. One event, the Battle of the Badges Boxing Match, was held on March 31 at Terminal 5 in New York City and featured FDNY vs. NYPD matches. A second showdown was the FDNY Boxing Thrilla in Camilla, starring the FDNY vs. Garda Siochana (Irish police) at St. Camillus-St. Virgilius Parish in Rockaway Beach, New York, on June 30, 2023.





TUNNEL TO TOWERS NATIONAL GOLF SERIES & COMMUNITY EVENTS

Bravest BBQ

On October 8, the thirteenth annual Bravest BBQ was held at the Hillside Swim Club on Staten Island.

The event featured Man of the Year, John Hodgens, the FDNY Chief of Department and Woman of the Year, Donna Tillman, a restaurateur and Tunnel to Towers donor.

The picnic also paid tribute to five FDNY fallen heroes who succumbed to 9/11-related illnesses. They were Lieutenant William Irvine, Lieutenant Joseph Maiello, Firefighter Vincent Mandala, Firefighter Richard Murray, and Firefighter Mark Ryan.

Guests were treated to an all-you-can-eat pig roast, BBQ, and concert.

Proceeds from the Bravest BBQ help fund the Tunnel to Towers Foundation's In the Line of Duty program, which supports our nation's military, first responders, and their families.

T2T 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 driven to connect current student-athletes to the mission of the Foundation by delivering critical messages to a younger audience. This is to ensure we Never Forget the sacrifices first responders and military members make for our country every day.

The Foundation added four outstanding collegiate players to its Tunnel to Towers Student-Athlete Advocate Program in 2023.

- ★ Daniel DeSanti - Hofstra University Men's Lacrosse
- ★ Megan Biase - Wingate University Women's Lacrosse
- ★ Ryan Tursellino - Salisbury University Women's Soccer
- ★ Paul Maguire - Clemson University Cross Country

Advocates are expected to become familiar with the organization's mission and talking points, participate in Tunnel to Towers events, and engage with T2T followers through content creation on their own social media channels and the Foundation's website.

The program, which now includes 11 Student-Athlete Advocates, 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.

Tursellino is the daughter of Port Authority Police Officer Steven Tursellino. After her father died from a 9/11-related cancer, the Foundation paid off the mortgage on her family's home. She said, *"I am honored to be chosen to represent the Tunnel to Towers Foundation's Student-Athlete Advocate Program. I'm excited to be given this platform to help as many families as possible and carry on the Foundation's mission of 'Let Us Do Good.'"*





MEDIA COVERAGE

Scores of Tunnel to Towers events over the course of the year generated significant media coverage. Between the 5K Run & Walk NYC, Tower Climb NYC, National Run, Walk & Climb Series, golf outings, home dedications, ribbon cuttings, mortgage payoffs, and special events, the Foundation garnered nearly 8,500 media mentions on TV, radio, print, and online. The online and print reach is believed to be over three billion. The national and local television reach is believed to be 170 million.

The National Run, Walk & Climb Series generated nearly 600 media mentions, and the 2023 5K Run & Walk NYC resulted in over 500 media placements.

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 2023, 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 ten years running, the Foundation has achieved a four-star rating, the highest given, from Charity Navigator, the nation's largest and most utilized evaluator of charities.





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-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-billion dollars by 2025 for veteran-related causes.

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



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.

mertzfoundation.org



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 an 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 \$1.2 million to Tunnel to Towers.

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 Home* 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



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 provides the highest quality laminate and engineered hardwood flooring products, and has innovated the softest, most family-friendly and pet-friendly carpets ever.

mohawkflooring.com



WABC Radio

WABC Radio, an award-winning commercial radio station licensed to New York City, serves as a proud media supporter of the Tunnel to Towers Foundation. Owned by Red Apple Media, a subsidiary of Red Apple Group, it is one of the nation's most iconic talk radio stations, serving New York and audiences nationwide with influential voices, breaking news, and compelling conversation. In addition, the station serves as the flagship for the Red Apple Audio Networks. One of the country's oldest radio stations, WABC began broadcasting in 1921, originally as WJZ in Newark, New Jersey.

wabcradio.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, provide 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



Oldcastle

Based in Atlanta, Georgia, 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. More information can be found on their website.

oldcastleinfrastructure.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 5K 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](https://www.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](https://www.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](https://www.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. Learn more on their website.

ashleyfurniture.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



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 for each of the *smart homes*. The sprinkler systems provided by APi Group are extremely important to the safety of the service members.

apigroupinc.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, Connecticut.

unitedrentals.com



Hunter Douglas

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

hunterdouglas.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 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



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



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.

lpc.com



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.

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 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.

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 roughly 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.

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

New York Giants

The patriotism and dedication of the Mara family led to a partnership with one of the NFL's most storied franchises. Artist Lynn Mara created a moving tribute to the 13 American service members killed at the Kabul, Afghanistan airport on August 26, 2021. Each service member was memorialized with a colorful, individual portrait for a series of prints titled *First Class Forever*. The Giants have joined forces with the Foundation to help support America's heroes.

giants.com

OUR BOARD

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Frank Siller
Chairman/CEO

Regina Siller Vogt
Secretary

Janis Siller Hannan
Vice Chair

Mary Siller Scullin
Treasurer/Chief
Administrative Officer

George Siller
Vice Chair

Salvatore Cassano
Commissioner, FDNY (Ret.)

John V. LaBarbera
Battalion Commander, FDNY (Ret.)

BOARD

Jennifer Brekke
CEO, SCOUT Marketing

Anthony J. Buffalano III
COO & CFO, Southpoint Capital
Advisors LP

Pete Capel
VP, Home Depot

John Carroll
Battalion Chief, FDNY (Ret.)

Jerry Chan

Kathy Cunningham
9/11 Family Member

Joseph D. Davidson
Colonel, U.S. Army (Ret.)

Charlie Dilks
CPO, CCA Global Partners

Peter Dunn

Jay Feldman
Chairman & CEO, Feldman
Automotive Group

Theresa Fisher
SVP, CCA Global Partners

Bill Gaddis
VP Sales, Mohawk
Industries, Inc.

Steve Hill
SVP, General Motors China

John P. Huvane
Detective, NYPD (Ret.)
First Responder Engagement

Jack Kielty
Lieutenant, FDNY (Ret.)

Anthony L. Lacorazza
ATSAIC – U.S. Secret Service,
New York Field Office

Joseph LaPointe
Lieutenant, FDNY

Rich Latek
Director of Marketing, GMC

Tony Lemma
Regional Vice President,
Home Depot

Michael Lentin
President, Champion
Windows/CitiQuiet Windows

Thomas O'Connor
Lieutenant, FDNY (Ret.)

Jack Oehm
Battalion Commander,
FDNY (Ret.)

Jean R. Ringhoff
VP, Northfield Bank

John Turturro
Actor/Writer/Director

