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# 2008 Annual Report

Spokane Fire Department Foundation

44 West Riverside • Spokane, WA • 99201

January 31, 2009

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*"The SFD Foundation has a profound impact on the SFD's ability to fulfill its mission."*

## **The Foundation Leadership...**

Board members serving on this non-profit foundation are: Chief Brian Schaeffer, Captain Mike Bacon and retired MSO Dave Byrnes. 2008 was a busy year spent mostly on 'administrative' tasks, fundraising and supporting the Mission of the SFD via the CARES Program.

The strategic goal of the SFD Foundation is to provide assistance for the Spokane Fire Department's support activities for the citizens and visitors of the City of Spokane. Primary funding for the SFD is provided through local taxes, however budgets are ever-shrinking and often funding for non-emergency programs are the victims. The Foundation provides an opportunity for resources that would otherwise be unmet within the SFD budget.

The SFD, through your tax dollars, provides excellent service to the citizens of the City of Spokane... the Foundation's gifts fortify and strengthen the system. We thank all those who have donated during 2008 through memorials, special occasion remembrances, or "just because".

SFD Foundation works collaboratively with the SFD through the Board to identify and prioritize resources that the Foundation may be able to provide to enhance services to residents in the City of Spokane. This "wish list" is updated periodically.



## Accomplishments

The Foundation successfully received 501c3 Status from the Department of Internal Revenue Service in 2008. This accomplishment was an incredible hurdle which has brought with it an exciting opportunity for additional Grant Funding and an enterprising future.

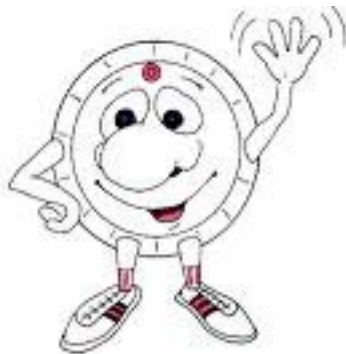


The SFD Foundation was able to distribute **\$1,798.00** to needy citizens and visitors through the SFD's "100 Dollar Program." The SFD has long recognized that some situations our fire companies responded require something other than a hose line or bandage. 2008 was the initial year of the program which gives firefighters the authority to spend up to \$100 - at their discretion - to help a citizen in need. Be it groceries for a single mom, a bed for a child post-fire, gas for a stranded motorist, or a space heater for an elderly couple, our \$100 Program is a means for getting people back on their feet again.

The \$100 Program involves empowerment and trust - traits sometimes missing within government and public sector arenas. If they see someone in need, firefighters can spend up to \$100 - no questions asked! The \$100 Program is easily accessed by firefighters. They carry the money on apparatus and are reimbursed through the Foundation after submitting an explanation (situation, purpose, amount of expenditure, etc).

In 2008, the Foundation also purchased 72 smoke detectors with funds primarily received from a grant through the Wal-Mart Corporation. These detectors are stored on fire apparatus and in Fire Stations. When Administration receives a request for a smoke detector from a citizen in need; or when Fire Companies identify a need, we install them promptly and correctly--no questions asked, no charge and no cost to the taxpayer.

Hundreds of free smoke detectors have been installed by SFD companies around the City. While it is difficult to quantify the number of lives this program has saved; Spokane has definitely been made a safer by providing this life-saving tool for those in need.

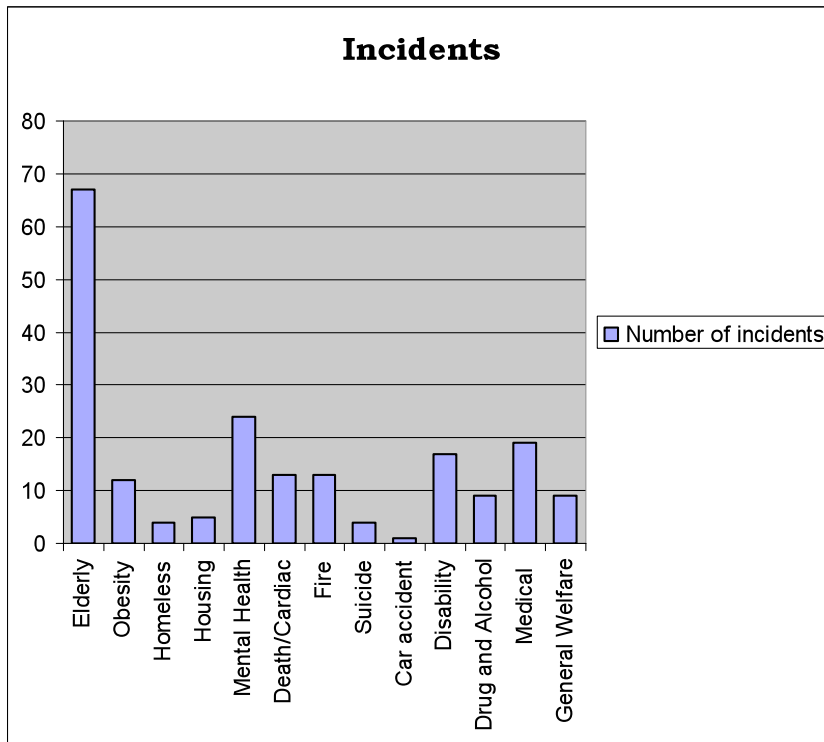


## ***C.A.R.E.S. Creative Solutions to Complex and Ever Growing Challenges***

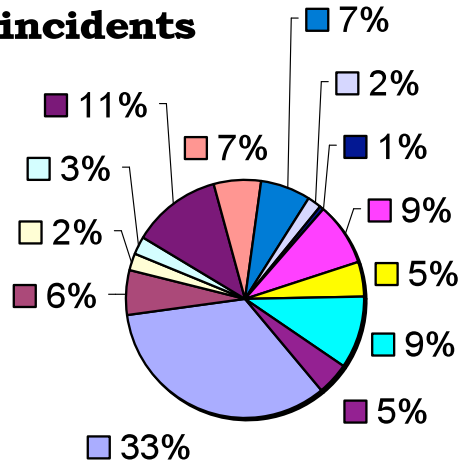
The Community Assistance Response Team (CARES) debuted as a stronger, evolving aspect to the SFD in 2008 with incredible success in a such a short amount of time. The Community Assistance Response Team (CARES) collaborates with the Spokane Fire Department and emergency responders to help vulnerable populations who face barriers in identifying and utilizing appropriate community resources. CARES assists these individuals by connecting them with appropriate resources that address their immediate, short term, and long term needs. The program aims at solving community problems by enhancing independent living for seniors or individuals with disabilities, increasing access to healthcare and other basic needs, participate in organizing the community around issues that are important to a broad sector of Spokane City, all while promoting diversity awareness, understanding, and inclusiveness. The **Foundation** provides small amounts of funding to the CARES Team for small equipment, perishables, clothing and other items that help them respond to the needs of the companies in the field.



The graphs on Page 6 represent a breakdown of the types and frequency of incidents the CARES Team responded to and provided care in 2008.



### Number of incidents



- |                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| ■ Elderly          | ■ Obesity       |
| ■ Homeless         | ■ Housing       |
| ■ Mental Health    | ■ Death/Cardiac |
| ■ Fire             | ■ Suicide       |
| ■ Car accident     | ■ Disability    |
| ■ Drug and Alcohol | ■ Medical       |
| ■ General Welfare  |                 |

## New Strategic Partners



The Foundation has forged a business relationship with “Rekindled Pride” in Idaho to share revenue of Fire Service items made from recycled, condemned fire service personal protective equipment (PPE). Rekindled Pride will cut up the old equipment, ensuring it will never see a fire building again. The pieces will then be sewn together to give the old garment a new purpose, continuing its rich history of service. In exchange for the equipment, Rekindled Pride has agreed to offer the following donations to the Spokane Fire Department;

- Rekindled Pride agrees to pay Spokane Fire Department Foundation fifteen percent of the proceeds from the sale of products to Spokane Fire Department employees or their families.
- Rekindled Pride will make efforts to supply Spokane Fire with an inventory of dog toys to sell in their offices. Fifteen percent of the proceeds from the sale of these toys will be retained by Spokane Fire or its designee.

Another recent partnership in 2008 was with SFD’s own Lori Lacy. SFD Dispatcher Lacy spent innumerable hours designing and marketing “SFD Clocks” to many of the members which resulted in an initial \$70.00 donation from those sales this year to the Foundation and will hopefully become an annual necessity during Christmas Time.



## **How much does it cost?**

The Foundation spends a significant amount of energy and financial support to the Public Education and CARES functions of SFD due to our strong belief that it is more productive to prevent a catastrophe than to respond to its consequences. The Public Education program of the SFD has been the hardest hit through the years from budget cuts and is now even barely funded--hence the need for the Foundation's support. The programs managed by the Public Education Officer are some of the most efficient--as a small citizen donation goes a long way. For example;

### **Fire Prevention cost for 1 preschool classroom:**

#### **\$50 (Kit plus handouts)**

Spokane Fire Department visits approximately 40 preschool classrooms per school year.

Includes Teacher Kit with NFPA "Learn Not To Burn" Preschool book and cassette of firesafety songs, BIC "Play safe! Be safe" story cards and video. along with parent pamphlets ("Babysitter Safety", "Firesafety for Preschoolers", home fire escape planning) and individual coloring books and cardboard fire truck to reinforce the lessons.

### **Primary School children, Kindergarten - Grade 2**

**\$1.25 per student x 25 per classroom = \$31.25 per classroom**

Set includes "The ABCs of Fire Safety" activity book, "Test your smoke alarm" Sparky sticker, Sparky's Home Inspection brochure, fire escape plan and note to parent, and "Practice your escape plan" Sparky magnet.

### **Primary School children, Grades 3 and 4**

**\$2.40 per student** Average of 150 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders per school

#### **(Participates in the Children's Fire Safety House)**

Includes Children's Fire Safety House booklet, "Test your smoke alarm" sticker, "Practice your escape plan" Sparky magnet, and Sparky Pencil caddy with "Get out! Stay out!" message and letter to parents.

## **Middle School students, grades 5 through 8**

**\$1.00 per student**

Set includes “Firesafety Workbook, grades 5 – 8” designed by Spokane Fire Department and Spokane Fire Department magnet with message on fireworks.

Spokane Fire Department teaches “Fireworks and Flammables to approximately 600 Middle School students per year.

## **Fire Station Tours**

**\$2.40 per student (300 persons x 14 stations = \$10,080)**

Set includes red plastic firefighter hat (for preschool through grade 1) or clip-on flashing safety light for pedestrian safety for kids grade 2 and older, age-appropriate activity book (e.g. Sparky’s “Stuff-to-do”, Sparky’s Fire Safety Show comic, or Risk Watch (injury prevention) workbook), and fire escape plan and letter on photoelectric detectors.

## **Senior Citizens**

**\$42** buys the two NFPA brochures on preventing fires and falls for 100 older adults.

**\$24** buys two photoelectric smoke detectors for low-income seniors or homeowners.



## Looking Forward

The SFD foundation continues to grow because of your generous support. During 2009 the Foundation Plans to accomplish two important tasks:

1. Launch a funding campaign
2. Continue to aggressively seek Grant Opportunities from Private and State/Local/Federal Sources

Our warm thanks go to the membership of the SFD and the City of Spokane. Their considerable time and effort ensured that this Foundation will continue to grow.

Please continue to support us in our efforts so we may continue to improve the lives of the Citizens and Visitors of Spokane. For information regarding how to donate to the foundation, please call the Foundation at 509-625-7002.

Together, we can lay a solid foundation for the future.

Sincerely,

You 2008 SFD Foundation Board of Directors