

Press Release
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PRESS RELEASE

DECEMBER 8, 2020

For Immediate Release

GULF BREEZE FIRST RESPONDERS CRISES FUND

The City of Gulf Breeze Police Department and Volunteer Fire Department give our sincerest “thank you” for the lasting gift to our Gulf Breeze First Responders. The Gulf Breeze First Responders Crisis Fund is a program entirely developed and funded by four families—Dr. Joe and Susan Story, Tom and Gigi Owens, Matt and Tammy Dannheisser, and John and Susan O’Conner.

Last summer, the Stories sent a letter of appreciation to the brave men and women of the Gulf Breeze Police Department, the Gulf Breeze Volunteer Fire Department, the Pensacola Beach Fire Department, and the Midway Fire Department for saving homes from a fire on the evening of Wednesday, July 1, 2020. Letters were mailed to each responder, stating that each was owed a debt of gratitude.

Monday, December 7th, these four families announced a first responders crisis fund with an initial deposit of \$115,000 managed by the Community Foundation of Northwest Florida. The purpose of the fund is to provide tax-exempt donations to first responders who experience personal crisis.

Online donations can be directed to the Gulf Breeze First Responders Crisis Fund at <https://cfnwf.org/gbfrcf/>. Checks can be made payable to the Community Foundation of Northwest Florida with a further note to the Gulf Breeze First Responders Crisis Fund. Questions can be directed to:

Suzie West, Executive Director
Community Foundation of Northwest Florida
17 West Cedar Street, Suite 2
Pensacola, FL 32502
850.434.5890

The maximum grant award is \$2,000 and payments are made directly to vendors including, but not limited to, utility company, water/sewer company, telephone company, mortgage company, or for other expenses which are a result of a crisis/tragedy. Qualified incidents

include catastrophic illness or injury, death incident, natural disaster, and extreme catastrophic or extreme circumstances.

Read the original letter of appreciation to first responders by clicking here: [Letter of Appreciation](#)