

For Immediate Release

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The Front Line Foundation Provides Funds to Support the Well-Being of Police Officers and Firefighters in Minneapolis and White Bear Lake

Because of its' annual Remembering 9.11 Golf Tournament the Foundation can provide first responders with tools that are not included in city budgets

MINNEAPOLIS, MN (April 22, 2024) – [The Front Line Foundation](#) (TFLF) announced today that it has granted more than \$10,000 in funds to support two local groups of first responders. TFLF recently granted \$6,500 to the Minneapolis Fire Foundation, an entity of the Minneapolis Fire Department to purchase and install an infrared sauna. In addition, TFLF then donated \$3,600 to the White Bear Lake Police and Fire Departments for fitness training equipment. Both donations stay true to the Foundation's mission of providing equipment and resources that department budgets cannot afford.

"These two recent grants strengthen our commitment to the health and well-being of our state's first responders," said Suzanne Holt, President and CEO of TFLF. "We know that both of these additions will ensure that these first responders are getting a higher level of wellness, which will in turn help them provide the public with the utmost in service."

In White Bear Lake, the \$3,600 gift will update and replace gym equipment in the workout facility shared by the police and fire departments. The new equipment will be used daily to prepare first responders for the rigors of their work. In addition, the new equipment will also be used to help in rehabilitation when police officers or firefighters are injured. It is also noted that the enhanced gym will become a place where first responders can congregate and decompress after an intense call.

TFLF's grant to provide an infrared sauna will provide Minneapolis firefighters with a new way to protect themselves from the occupational hazards of the job. Infrared saunas have become a valuable tool for aiding the recovery of firefighters. On a daily basis, firefighters are exposed to toxins that can cause cancer or lead to an early death. In addition, high stress levels and physical strain also contribute to health issues among firefighters. Recent research suggests that regular

sauna use may improve specific health conditions associated with the work performed by first responders.

“We are so grateful to The Front Line Foundation for their generous support of the health of our firefighters,” said Steve Shapira, Executive Director of the Minneapolis Fire Foundation. “Our long-term goal is to have an infrared sauna in each of our 19 fire stations. The Front Line Foundation was one of the first to step up and provide the support we needed.”

Since its inception in late 2018, The Front Line Foundation has supported Law Enforcement Officers, Firefighters, EMTs and members of the National Guard across Minnesota, to grant financial support to families of first responders who have died in the line of duty. The Foundation’s mission is to bridge the gap between the death and benefits being paid, which can help families with ongoing expenses. The Foundation also provides support in the purchase of tactical equipment for first responders which is not included in department budgets. To date The Frontline Foundation has paid out \$520,000 in death benefits and equipment funding.

To provide resources to first responders, TFLF relies on the generosity of donors. The Foundation’s largest fundraiser of the year is its’ annual [Remembering 9.11 Golf Tournament](#). This year’s tournament will be held on Monday, September 9 at Edinburgh USA, one of the top public golf courses in the country and created by Robert Trent Jones II. Funds raised at the tournament go directly back to support Minnesota’s first responders in a variety of ways.

“Our tournament is the greatest way to support our mission,” said Holt. “When people ask how they can help, I point to this event. Whether you golf or not, there are many ways to be involved and show your support. Gifts like the ones given to Minneapolis Firefighters and first responders in White Bear Lake only happen with a great group of donors.”

About The Front Line Foundation:

[The Front Line Foundation](#) began as an attempt to help and support our Fallen Heroes, including Law Enforcement Officers, Firefighters, EMTs, and the Minnesota National Guard. The Frontline Foundation provides support to those who died while in the line of duty, by giving benefit payments to dependents of fallen first responders. Law Enforcement Officers, Firefighters, and EMT First Responders face armed and dangerous criminals, impaired individuals wielding weapons, even emotionally charged, and threatening domestic disputes. They are The Front Line Defenders of our neighborhoods, towns, and cities who face and diffuse the high-risk, frequently appalling situations we know or hear about, with disbelief, on the news. In addition to providing endowments and support for the families of fallen heroes, The Front Line Foundation will underwrite scholarships and training registration costs for Front Line personnel as well as support preparedness training for safety officers in hospitals, schools, and places of worship. Further, we assist with the purchase of needed safety and tactical equipment not currently within the budget of the local unit of government. For more information, please visit www.thefrontlinemn.org

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