

**For Immediate Release**

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**The Front Line Foundation Works with High School Senior to Raise Funds to Support Minneapolis' Third Precinct**

*Sophie Brenteson, a student at Spectrum Charter School raises more than \$3,500 at a 5k she organized to support law enforcement workers*

**MINNEAPOLIS, MN (December 20, 2023)** – [The Front Line Foundation](#) (TFLF) announced today it has accepted a donation of \$3,500 from Sophie Brenteson, a senior at Spectrum Charter School in Elk River. Brenteson raised the funds for TFLF by organizing a 5k run this past October. The money will be donated to our equipment fund to support Minneapolis' Third Precinct, where Sophie's mentor and family friend Officer Brian Heaton works. The 5k fundraiser went from a senior project to a unique partnership between a 17-year-old and a nonprofit organization that focuses on serving Minnesota's 60,000 first responders.

"Sophie is a true agent of change. Her dedication to making a difference is inspiring," Suzanne Holt, President and CEO of TFLF. "We are humbled she shared her plan with us. When we heard of it, we instantly embraced it."

Sophie, who has always had an interest in law enforcement, said that shadowing Officer Heaton opened her eyes to what first responders encounter everyday while on duty. The fallout from the unrest following the death of George Floyd in 2020 only made her passion grow for supporting the men and women of law enforcement.

"When I saw how burnt out these police officers are from the conditions they have to work in, I was inspired to do all I could to make a change," said Sophie. "I was fortunate to have a lot of people help me to make this a success. Sometimes, I believe our police are not respected for all they do for us."

Sophie, who is a two-sport athlete, participating in soccer and alpine skiing, has always wanted to be in law enforcement. Being mentored by Officer Heaton and partnering with TFLF has solidified her career intentions.

“I will be attending University of Northwestern - St. Paul next fall,” said Sophie. “I plan to major in criminal justice. It is a field that I have always been attracted to.”

TFLF salutes the foresight and passion Sophie has displayed in raising funds and presenting gift baskets for the Third Precinct. It is proof that impactful donations can be of any size.

“Here is a high school senior who saw a need to support law enforcement in a location that was near ground zero of chaos and disobedience,” said Holt. “She stood up, made a plan, held strong to her convictions and in the end did a wonderful thing in supporting her friend Officer Heaton and all of those who work at the Third Precinct. With kids like Sophie around there is hope for the future.”

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 \$450,000 in death benefits and equipment funding since it was founded in 2018.

“I am very grateful to be working with the Foundation,” said Sophie. “I think the project was a success. I am happy with how it ended up, but I know there is more to be done in the future.”



**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](http://www.thefrontlinemn.org)

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