



ILLINOIS FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION

Educational and Research Foundation

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Members and Friends of the Illinois Fire Service:

The Covid19 pandemic has challenged the first responders, medical community and the entire economy of this country. But in the spirit that we all have learned to work within - we shall survive.

The Illinois Fire Chiefs Educational and Research Foundation has been impacted too. Our biggest fundraiser, the Annual Golf Outing to be held in July had to be cancelled seriously impacting our financial condition. All other lesser fundraising activities have been cancelled or seriously impacted too.

Since the Foundation began sponsoring scholarships in 1985, over \$1.8 million has been given to Illinois firefighters to improve their formal and certification education. Again, In April, we selected 78 scholarship winners totaling \$59,000 dollars to further the education of our Illinois Firefighters as our continued commitment to the fire service.

Now we have launched a "no contact" tee shirt fundraiser to help replace some of the funds expended. An appeal to help us regain some of our outlay is honoring all "the heroes" involved with the pandemic to maintain the health and wellbeing of the public.

The shirts will be ordered through our partner, Unique Apparel Solutions in Elk Grove Village. CEO Jim Clifton donated his website, production and shipping departments to assist the Foundation in raising funds in the absence of our regular Foundation fundraisers. Jim and his team worked on the custom design in the development of the RED Fundraising, "We're in this Together" shirt. Jim works with over 200 fire departments and is also the nationwide apparel provider to the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation in Emmitsburg, MD.

To order your shirt(s), select the link at <https://ifcftshirt.itemorder.com> to see the shirt and logos and place an order. The Foundation will receive \$10 for each shirt ordered. Thanks much for your participation.

Sincerely,

Andrew O'Donnell
Foundation President