



While it is important to provide support for families who lose a loved one in the line of duty immediately after the tragedy occurs, it is also important to provide support long into the future. This list contains numerous resources that families can utilize long-term and will be updated regularly as we identify more trustworthy sources.

Angels of America's Fallen

For all children of military and first responders, Angels of America's Fallen provides \$1,000 each calendar year for any extracurricular activity where the child has a mentor. In addition to the \$1,000/year, Angels of America's Fallen also has select activities where organizations have donated a set number of free participation slots. Visit <https://aoafallen.org/> for more information.

Blue Line Bears

Blue Line Bears is a non-profit organization with the goal of helping the children of fallen Law Enforcement officers cope with the devastating loss of a parent. Blue Line Bears is the creation of the 14-year-old daughter of a police officer whose goal it is to help the children of fallen officers through the difficult loss of their parent. Children of law enforcement officers grow up realizing that their parent's life is at risk every day they go to work. Add to that the fact that there is much public ridicule of law enforcement officers, and deaths in the line of duty are sudden, shocking, and violent. With all of this in mind, Blue Line Bears will not only provide a lasting keepsake to help keep the officer's memory alive but will also help their child to see that there are caring individuals who respect and appreciate men and women in uniform.

Children of officers killed in the line of duty are oftentimes young, perhaps too young to remember the parent who died. For those children, a bear from Blue Line Bears will provide a tangible reminder that their loved one will always be with them. The organization will reach out to Law Enforcement agencies across the nation in order to get information about the fallen officer, as well as a uniform shirt(s) to create a personalized bear for each of the officer's children. Blue Line Bears will contact a Victim's Advocate, Public Information Officer, or Watch Commander to assist with making contact with the appropriate individual within the agency. Once contact is made, Blue Line Bears will request that uniform shirt(s) will be transformed into a teddy bear keepsake be mailed to Blue Line Bears.

Due to concerns that agencies may have regarding the release of uniform shirts and/or patches, Blue Line Bears recommends that the agency remove one of the patches and cut off the shirt collar to ensure that it could never be used to impersonate an officer. The agency will be given the option of mailing the shirt(s) to Cape Coral Police Department to the attention of the Victim's Advocate. The shirts will be cut, sewn, and stuffed into a teddy bear. Additionally, a personalized badge with the officer's last name and badge number will be sewn on the bear's stomach, while the officer's department patch will be stitched onto the back of the bear. If the officer had stripes for rank or service, those would also adorn the bear. Finally, each bear will be given a St. Michael medal and blessed by a priest before being mailed to the family. All of this will be done at no expense to the family. Through the use of donations and other contributions, Blue Line Bears will purchase all materials, as well as cover the cost of shipping. Visit <https://bluelinebears.org> for more information.

Boys & Girls Clubs of America

Boys & Girls Clubs of America is a national organization of local chapters which provide voluntary after-school programs for young people. Some states waive the financial worksheet so that gold star children qualify for the programs. Visit <https://bgca.org> for more information.

Colorado Fallen Hero Foundation

The Colorado Fallen Hero Foundation is a non-profit organization made up of Colorado law enforcement officers and civilian personnel who serve in a voluntary capacity. When a line of duty death occurs, the Colorado Fallen Hero Foundation can assist, support, and provide resources for a host agency in their effort to serve the deceased officer's family based on their needs and wishes. Colorado Fallen Hero Foundation's presence allows agency members to participate in honoring their colleague without the pressure of funeral planning, allowing them an appropriate time to grieve.

Planning a line of duty death funeral, while handling the associated investigation and the routine of the everyday call load can overwhelm any agency. Colorado Fallen Hero Foundation's team of professionals integrates with agency personnel to assist with funeral planning to whatever extent the family and the agency desire. Horan & McConaty donates their services and provides a casket or an urn at no charge. Over the course of the last 30 years, H&M has donated their services for nearly 30 public safety officers. Additionally, John Horan provides consultation services to the organization regarding process and ceremony.

In addition to providing line-of-duty death response and memorial planning, the Colorado Fallen Hero Foundation is proud to provide peer support and mental health resources for agencies that do not have access to such resources. In partnership with Dr. Sara Metz and Code 4 Counseling, they are able to deploy a team of trained public safety peer support professionals anywhere in the state to assist agencies dealing with a line-of-duty death. The Colorado Fallen Hero Foundation understands the impact such a tragedy has on an agency and a community and want to ensure that they are taking care of our fellow officers. Colorado Fallen Hero Foundation's services are provided at no cost to the agency or the family. Visit <https://cofallenhero.org> for more information.

Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.)

Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.) programs for survivors include the National Police Survivors' Conference held each May during National Police Week, scholarships, peer-support at the national, state, and local levels, "C.O.P.S. Kids" counseling reimbursement program, the "C.O.P.S. Kids" Summer Camp, "C.O.P.S. Teens" Outward Bound Adventure for young adults, special retreats for spouses, parents, siblings, adult children, extended family, and co-workers, trial and parole support, and other assistance programs for those who have lost someone in the line of duty. Visit <https://concernsofpolicesurvivors.org> for more information.

Never Alone Widows of Heroes

Never Alone Retreats are weekends of healing and comfort where Christian widows who have known the pain of untimely death can find a place of community. If you are newly widowed and have children in the home, then this retreat will help you change your perspective and shift into the possibility of using your pain for a divine purpose. In addition to Never Alone Retreats, the organization hosts Widows of Heroes Retreats specifically for widows of fallen military and first responders. Never Alone Retreats, facilitated by Be Still Ministries, has received a very unique sponsorship by the Gary Sinise Foundation. The organization believes the most effective way to turn pain and grief into purpose and healing is through the love of Jesus Christ. The retreats are limited to 20 widow attendees. Never Alone Widows of Heroes will cover all activities, food, and lodging, as well as travel to and from the retreat. Each participant is required to book their own travel and will be refunded for transfers and airfare when they get to the resort. *Airfare will be refunded only if participant attends retreat. Visit <https://neveralonewidows.com/widows-of-heroes-application> for more information.

The Gary Sinise Foundation

The Gary Sinise Foundation serves our nation by honoring our defenders, veterans, first responders, their families, and those in need through creating and supporting unique programs designed to entertain, educate, inspire, strengthen, and build communities. The organization has various online programs via Zoom, such as music lessons or virtual tours of places around the country. The organization hosts several events and initiatives, such as the Snowball Express for Gold Star families. Visit <https://garysinisefoundation.org> for more information.

Tunnel 2 Towers

The Tunnel 2 Towers Foundation is committed to ensuring we never forget the events of 9/11 and the sacrifices that were made and continue to be made by our first responders in the line of duty. Through the Fallen First Responder Home Program, Tunnel 2 Towers aims to pay off the mortgages of fallen law enforcement officers and firefighters killed in the line of duty who leave behind young children. The Foundation's goal is to ensure stability and security to these families facing sudden, tragic loss. Visit <https://t2t.org> for more information.