

Tunnel to Towers Foundation
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fallen First Responder Home Program:
Honoring and Helping Those Who Have Helped Us

New York, NY - Tunnel to Towers Foundation, a nonprofit created to honor Firefighter Stephen Gerard Siller and all other military and first responders, is honored to announce the Fallen First Responder Home Program. This program pays off the mortgages of the families of law enforcement officers and firefighters who lost their lives in the line of duty or from 9/11 related illnesses, and have left behind young children. With the goal of creating stability and security for families who have faced these tragic losses, Tunnel to Towers collects donations in order to provide mortgage free homes to the families of fallen first responders.

Firefighter Stephen Gerard Siller was a firefighter assigned to Brooklyn Squad 1, and had just finished his shift when he heard about the plane that had just hit the North Tower of the World Trade Center. He returned to the station to gather his gear, then drove his truck to Brooklyn Battery Tunnel. It had already been closed for security purposes, but Stephen put on all 60 pounds of gear, and ran through the Tunnel to the Twin Towers in order to help. Unfortunately, Stephen made the ultimate sacrifice and lost his life in 9/11, but the Tunnel to Towers Foundation continues to honor him by raising money to support first responders just like Stephen.

Cassie Muhlbauer, wife of James Muhlbauer, a fallen officer from Kansas City, said “We truly appreciated what Tunnel to Towers did...it has a huge impact on our lives not to have the

financial burden of a monthly mortgage. Thank you, Tunnel to Towers Foundation for all of your hard work and dedication within the foundation, and to all of those that donate to the organization.” Tunnel to Towers paid off the Muhlbauer’s mortgage after he was killed following a car crash that killed officer Muhlbauer and his K-9, Champ, that occurred in February of 2023.

About the Tunnel to Towers Foundation: Founded in 2002 by Frank Siller, Stephen Siller’s younger brother, to honor FDNY Firefighter Stephen Siller, who died during the 9/11 attack on the Twin Towers, the Tunnel to Towers Foundation seeks to honor law enforcement, military, and firefighters by providing a range of programs and events that provide a range of benefits. So far Tunnel to Towers has raised over \$500 million to support first responders, over 1000 mortgage-free homes have been delivered or are in progress to help homes of fallen first responders, and over 600,000 people have been able to learn about 9/11 through the NEVER FORGET mobile exhibit. Tunnel to Towers has received four stars every year from Charity Navigator, the nation’s largest evaluator of charities. In addition, out of every dollar donated 95% goes directly to programs.

For more information, please contact our press office at press@t2t.org or visit our website at www.t2t.org.