

Widows' & Children's Fund

When Charity Begins at Home

The DEA maintains a not-for-profit charitable Widows' and Children's Fund to help support the families of those who die in the line of duty. The concept dates back to the founding of the union in 1917, at a time when the families of slain Police Officers received very little assistance, and it was up to the Officer's colleagues to look after the welfare of the loved ones of their fallen brothers. That protective spirit, bond, fraternity, and brotherhood still exists today amongst the members of New York's Finest.

Green Avenue at South Saxon Avenue in the Bay Shore section of Long Island was renamed "Det. Patrick Rafferty Way" to honor the 67 Squad Detective who made the ultimate sacrifice for the City of New York. While a location on Snyder Avenue near the 67 Precinct is named "Rafferty and Parker Way," and the NYPD Harbor Unit dedicated two launches in their honor last June, in Suffolk County, Highway Officer Jim Spadaro contacted the local County Legislator and the Town of Islip officials regarding renaming the street near the Rafferty home of more than 20 years. Spadaro, who began his career with the NYPD and who also lives in Suffolk County, was very helpful to the Rafferty family during the difficult days following the Detective's death. He still stays in touch with the family, as do the members of the 67 Squad. Pictured during the Long Island street renaming on Saturday, November 23, 2013, are (front row, left to right) NYPD Detectives Michael Braithwaite and Greg Barrett, Rafferty's widow Eileen, and Detectives Nelson Figueroa, Mark Mirailh, and Jeffrey Campo. Back row from left are Detectives Kevin Gasser and Michael Maffei, Lt. Frank Sciortino, Detectives Thomas Varghese (with son Joshua), Marco Balboni and Frank Kiernan, and P.O. Justin Cracchiola — all of the 67.



One of the DEA Widows' & Children's Fund's primary functions is providing to the families of the fallen select health benefits, as well as financial assistance with excessive medical bills, equipment, and other items. Additionally, when any active DEA member passes away, the Union provides a \$10,000 funeral expense to the Detective's family, and then provides full DEA health benefits coverage to the surviving spouse and children until the youngest child reaches the age of 19. The DEA Widows' and Children's Fund also gives scholarship awards to deserving children of DEA members (see our most recent winners on page 29), and maintains a number of specific educational Trust Funds on behalf of children of Detectives killed in the line of duty. The DEA's Widows' and Children's Fund has no overhead, as all labor, office space, and expenses associated with operating it fall under the auspices of the DEA. City workers can become biweekly supporters of the Fund through payroll deduction with the Combined Municipal Campaign (CMC code number 1979). Donations can be as small as \$1.00 per payday.

The DEA Widows' and Children's Fund is always looking for goods, services, theatrical or sporting event tickets, gift certificates, or other select new product donations that can be raffled off for the Fund at our various events, including our annual Winter Convention and our Annual Summer Picnic. If you have something to donate, please contact Paul Morrison or William McNeely at the DEA at **(212) 587-1000**. To all those who have contributed to the Fund during the years, we thank you!