



DETECTIVES' ENDOWMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.

POLICE DEPARTMENT • CITY OF NEW YORK

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The DEA Widows' and Children's Fund ...When Charity Begins at Home

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

One of the 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. We have serviced, and continue to service, at least **324 "line of duty" families**.

Additionally, when any active DEA member passes away, the DEA 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. We also provide a funeral benefit for the spouses of active DEA members.

The "pandemic years" of 2020-21 were particularly daunting as we witnessed the deaths of eight active members who passed away from the coronavirus: **Detectives Raymond Abear, Robert Cardona, Stanley Dash, Cedric Dixon, Christopher McDonnell, Shantay L. Neal-Baker, Jack Polimeni, and Jeffrey Scalf**. These brave Detectives worked on the front lines of public service during the most precarious health crisis in more than 100 years, and their deaths have been deemed "in the line of duty." We also witnessed the recent combat deaths of **Detectives Jason Rivera (2022), Wilbert Mora (2022), Anastasios Tsakos (2021), Brian Mulkeen (2019), and our DEA Delegate Brian P. Simonsen (2019)**. Donations may always be earmarked for the surviving spouse, children, or other family member of any of our "line of duty" Detectives, or submitted for the Fund in general.

Over the years, the DEA maintained specific Trust Funds on behalf of the children of Detectives killed in the line of duty, including: **Miosotis Familia**, shot and killed on July 5, 2017; **James Nemorin** and **Rodney J. Andrews**, shot and killed on Staten Island on March 10, 2003; **Patrick Rafferty** and **Robert Parker**, shot and killed on September 10, 2004; **Sean Carrington**, shot and killed on January 19, 1998; **Dillon Stewart**, shot and killed on November 28, 2005; and **James Zadroga**, who passed away in January of 2006 from illnesses related to his work on the World Trade Center rescue and recovery efforts.

THE POLICE UNION REPRESENTING THE GREATEST DETECTIVES IN THE **WORLD**

AFFILIATIONS — NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS (NAPO)

NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF PBAs

The DEA Widows' and Children's Fund was also a conduit for **9/11 police and fire relief**, and the DEA collected and distributed more than \$1.2 million to the families of those NYPD, FDNY, and PAPD Officers who made the ultimate sacrifice when the World Trade Center was attacked and destroyed in 2001.

Sadly, for first responders, the ramifications of the rescue and recovery work from the WTC disaster are still being felt. In the 22 years since **Detectives Joseph Vigiano and Claude Richards** were killed during the attack, **at least 121 of our Detectives died officially "in the line of duty" (with currently 22 others pending Pension Fund approval)** as a result of cancers and illnesses they contracted as a result of their work in the toxic WTC debris at "the pile," "the morgue" and the Freshkills Landfill. And many other DEA members have fallen gravely ill.

The DEA Widows' and Children's Fund also gives scholarship awards to deserving children of DEA members. These awards are selected in a random drawing each fall at one of the union's events or meetings. In 2023, we gave ten scholarships of \$5,000 each in memory of the DEA's late, beloved Vice President Det. Jack Healy.

Financial support for the DEA's not-for-profit Widows' and Children's Fund is always gratefully accepted. The Fund has **no** overhead, as all labor, office space, and expenses associated with operating it fall under the auspices of the DEA.

The Fund is financed through donations from other foundations, corporations, individual civilian supporters, and donations made by representatives of the law enforcement community, including the DEA's own generous membership.

City workers can become bi-weekly supporters of the DEA's Widows' and Children's Fund through payroll deduction with the **New York City Gives Campaign** (formerly known as the Combined Municipal Campaign/CMC). Donations can be as small as one dollar (\$1.00) per payday. The DEA Widows' and Children's Fund's **NY Gives** code number is **11979**.

Members of the service can also show their support by purchasing the promotional items the DEA produces and sells at our headquarters building at 26 Thomas Street, Manhattan. Shoppers will find high-quality shirts, hats, pins, coffee mugs, and other items emblazoned with the trademarked DEA logo and Detective's gold shield. Some of the proceeds from the sale of these items benefits the DEA's Widows' and Children's Fund.

The DEA Widows' and Children's Fund can also accept select new product donations that can be raffled or auctioned off for the Fund at one of our events, such as our Winter Convention or Summer Picnic. We can also use toys or other children's items that can be distributed to needy

children at one of the many events handled by the DEA's Entertainment and Public Relations Committees.

The **DEA Widows' and Children's Fund** is a **501(c)(3) charity** and all donations to the Fund are *tax-deductible as allowed by law*. Donations can be earmarked specifically for any line-of-duty family or simply sent to the Fund in general.

Donations can be made electronically by visiting our DEA website at www.nycdetectives.org

Or, donations can be made by writing a check or money order made payable to the **DEA Widows' and Children's Fund**. Please mail donation(s) to ...

The Detectives' Endowment Association, Inc.
c/o **DEA Widows' and Children's Fund**
26 Thomas Street
New York, NY 10007
Attn: Paul DiGiacomo, President

*To all those who have given so generously to this Fund
throughout the years, we sincerely thank you.*

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