



THE BLUE FAMILY TREE

Newsletter article September, 2022

## STATE OF THE ORGANIZATION

The Blue Family Tree was founded in October 2016 to create a collective financial gift for law enforcement families that have endured a line of duty death. A gift that comes from other law enforcement families and close law enforcement supporters. A gift that comes from like minded people who most closely can relate to the loss they are dealing with.

Since our inception we have been blessed to provide a gift to 29 families. These gifts are a direct result of the support from our monthly donors, as well as customers in our online store, Amazon Smile contributors, and Kroger grocery store card holders who took the time to enroll their store cards with TBFT.

The exciting part of being a new non-profit was really unknown to us back in 2016. Yes, meeting our primary goal is exciting and will always be the big focus, but we had no idea the directions The Blue Family Tree would ultimately go in.

We did a lot of research on line of duty death in order to have a better understanding of the issues and the families that we have set out to impact. As a result, we found we have a wealth of information that could very well save police officer's lives if it were shared with them in a classroom format. We created an eight hour class titled Reducing Factors For Line Of Duty Death and have hosted a handful of classes before COVID restraints halted our progress. Look for the class to ramp back up in 2023! COVID didn't stop us from reaching cops and saving lives though. Instead we created a monthly newsletter where many of you are

reading this article. We archive old articles on our website, and we even created a podcast, all to save police lives. The old adage we all hold dear to at work as police, rings true here at TBFT as well: "There is no way to measure the incidents that haven't happened because of our efforts, but if we have saved one life, the existence of The Blue Family Tree was all worth while." And to think that was an afterthought!

We traveled around the country meeting law enforcement officers and handing out literature and business cards. It wasn't long before we identified a common response. "We love your logo because it supports law enforcement, and you could wear it to the grocery store and not scream, 'cop!' to everyone around." Naturally, we decided to create some merchandise and contribute the proceeds back to the family gift. Today, about \$5,000 worth of TBFT laden shirts, hats, mugs, and bracelets are wondering the streets of America. There's even one or two overseas.

The Blue Family Tree is alive and well with donors from all across the country. We are always searching for ways to grow more and affect more lives and more families of LODD. Our goal has always been, and will always be, to send a financial gift to every family that loses someone in the line of duty. In order to achieve this we need everyone's help. The donorship we have now is an incredible start but it will forever need to be growing in order to shower our love on so many families.

Share TBFT with your agency. Share us with your POA, PBA, Union, or Association. Encourage new hires to sign up for monthly donations by including something about us in your new-hire packets. Encourage your existing staff to think about the funerals they have been to, and remember how they wished they could do something more, but their small amount seemed unimportant so maybe they did nothing at all. Now we can all give a small amount and have a tremendous impact. Invite us to your agency to talk to your officers about reducing the factors that lead to line of duty death. There are so many ways and opportunities

that you can interact with The Blue Family Tree and help us grow and touch lives. The best part is, none of them have a downside.

Patrick Rice  
CEO - Founder  
The Blue Family Tree

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