

America's Female Firefighters Present \$40,000 to People's Burn Foundation

America's Female Firefighters publish a classy calendar many readers may already have. The calendar is a beautiful depiction of woman dedicated to the fire service. Woman who are not only public servants ---- they are philanthropists.

Three years ago, the Executive Director of the People's Burn Foundation met Capt. Laura Kupinski, Miami Dade Fire, during FDIC. There was a brief conversation about the young girls who attend Brave Hearts' Burn Camp that wanted their "own firefighters" to come and stay with them. Up until that time, female firefighters had not participated as counselors. What followed the initial conversation was an email from Kupinski a week later, offering to send female firefighters to burn camp.

America's Female Firefighters attended Brave Hearts' Camp for the first time in 2003. Five firefighters attended from the southeastern part of the United States and the girls at Brave Hearts' finally had their very own heroes. "After our first experience at Brave Hearts' Camp, our hearts found a home. It was a life changing experience for us. One that motivated us to set and accomplish goals to insure burn survivors had every chance for emotional recovery," said Kupinski.

Over the course of the last three years, the relationship between America's Female Firefighters and the People's Burn Foundation has grown to the point of collaborative endeavors reaching far beyond Brave Hearts' Camp, as evidenced by the \$40,000 check presented to the Foundation by Capt. Laura Kupinski on August 20, 2005 at Summer Ice, the Foundation's black-tie event. Accompanying Capt. Kupinski for the presentation were AFF staff, Gil Baiz, Pam Lillard, Shawn Levine, Christine Jordan and Kathryn Messina.

Longerich is "proud to have America's Female Firefighters by our side on so many levels." Beyond their substantial monetary contribution to the Foundation, they are partners in a national initiative known as *To Hell and Back*, which will launch during FDIC 2006. *To Hell and Back* is a firefighter burn prevention program that will be distributed to fire departments throughout the United States. With the AFF involvement, we are sure to have this program in the hands of every firefighter in the United States.

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