



## 2023 Year in Review

Proudly Supporting Those Serving You

### President's Message



The Mission of the HBFOF is to promote a safer community for all by supporting the Huntington Beach Fire Department (HBFD).

2023 was an outstanding year for the HBFOF in many ways and we appreciate all of your support.

The most wonderful thing that happened was the outpouring from community members like you for an injured Huntington Beach lifeguard name Lizzie. See her story on [page 6](#).



The HBFOF has a multi-prong approach to engage with the City's residents, schools, and businesses to fulfill our mission. We participate in community events, sponsor HBFD programs, and provide funding for the HBFD Peer Support Team and their peer support dog named Kingman!

The Corporate Sponsorship program was started in 2023. We wish to thank and acknowledge the first five corporate sponsors added this year and hope to include more in the coming year.

We want to thank you for your interest in the HBFOF. We look forward to several new initiatives to promote safety in our community in 2024 and hope you will follow our progress via our web site.

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## Community Safety

### Trauma for Teachers Program

Huntington Beach High School student Sophie Cendro had a vision that every high school classroom in the City would have a trauma kit and the teachers and staff trained to use it if ever needed. In conjunction with the HB Fire Department, the HBFOF did a fundraiser to buy all the needed kits.



This is Sophie!

As of September 1, 2023, the program was completed!

Every classroom in every HB high

school has a 'Stop the Bleed' kit and all of the teachers and staff were trained by HB Fire personnel and other volunteers from the community.



The training involved proper tourniquet usage as well as wound packing and basic first response procedures.

HBFOF would especially like to thank and acknowledge a generous donation from Memorial Care that provided for the purchase of over 100 of the trauma kits!



### The Water Watcher Program

Each year, the Huntington Beach Fire Department responds to hundreds of water-related issues. It is interesting to note that more of those calls come from the inland side of HB rather than the ocean side! To help minimize drowning calls, the Marine Safety team created an educational program called "Water Watcher"

The concept is simple: if you're hosting a pool party, you get someone to volunteer to be the 'Water Watcher' for a few minutes.

They get a whistle and a card with instructions on what to do. Then that job rotates to someone else so no one is left out of the party for long and someone always has eyes on the pool.



HBFOF was proud to be able to use funds donated by people like you to procure the cards, lanyards and whistles for this important program.

To learn more visit:

<https://www.hbfof.org/WaterSafety>



## Community Safety

The Huntington Beach fire Department has two volunteer programs that provide safety services to the community.

### Disaster Preparedness Classes



The Community Emergency Response Team program is a nationwide effort by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to help train individuals to take care of themselves in a disaster.

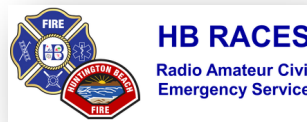
The HB CERT program was the first one in Orange County back in 1992 and now there are 26 CERT programs in the OC.

HB CERT offers two classes every year: one in the spring, and one in the fall. Topics include fire extinguisher use, first aid, leveraging and cribbing, light search & rescue, basic personal preparedness, and hazard mitigation.

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### Emergency Ham Radio Support



RACES stands for Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service. The HBFD RACES volunteers operate under the authority of the Emergency Management and Homeland Security Office. The goal of RACES is to provide auxiliary communications services to the City in the event of a significant emergency in Huntington Beach.

RACES supports City events such as the HB Marathon, 4th of July parade, US Open, and the Great Pacific Airshow.

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### HEARTSafeHB

February is American Heart Month, a time when all people - especially women - are encouraged to focus on their cardiovascular health!

Each year, over 350,000 people die from sudden cardiac arrest in the United States. Nearly 70% of all sudden cardiac arrests occur out-of-hospital. Despite tremendous advancements in emergency medicine, survival rates from out-of-hospital sudden cardiac arrests remain very low (less than 10% survival rate).

Our goal is to rally our HB community to achieve the "HEARTSafe Community" designation for the city of Huntington Beach in order to improve our community's readiness for cardiac events.

The HEARTSafe Community program is a set of criteria and guidelines designed to improve sudden cardiac arrest emergency outcomes through a specific set of community-wide training, preparation, and response protocols.

The aim is to help communities improve the chance of survival for anyone suffering a sudden cardiac arrest by strengthening each link in the

*(Continued on page 4)*



## Community Safety

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Registration and information for CERT classes can be found in the HB Community Services Sands (magazine and online).

Graduates can become volunteers for the HBFD. These individuals provide a variety of safety services to the community including first aid at City events such as the 4th of July parade, US Open, and the Great Pacific Airshow.

HBFOF is proud provide funding for CERT training supplies and needed equipment.

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RACES volunteers are also trained to assist with the dispatch of HBFD equipment should the main dispatch system fail.



They have special equipment that allows them to ride in fire apparatus and provide real-time communication with the command staff.

## Sandbag Service



CERT has a sandbag team that is able to deliver and install sandbags to qualified residents that cannot do it themselves. The service is free and you can call 714-536-5974 if you qualify and need help with sandbags.

In 2023, a tropical storm came up the coast and many residents were quite concerned. As a result, CERT sandbag operations filled and delivered over 1800 sandbags in conjunction with help from the HB Fire Explorers, Marine Safety, and Public Works to satisfy 233 requests from residents!

HBFOF is a strong supporter of the sandbag team and appreciates all the effort they donate to the City.



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American Heart Association's "chain of survival."

Activities include:

- Widespread CPR instruction
- Public access defibrillators
- Aggressive resuscitation protocols for first responders and area hospitals

HBFOF was able to provide the HEARTSafeHB program with \$2,500 to purchase CPR manikins for you to practice with!

If you would like to become a HEARTSafeHB Ambassador or learn more, scan the QR code below.

**BECOME A HEARTSAFE HB AMBASSADOR!**





## Community Outreach

### Easter Egg Hunt For Visually Impaired

In conjunction with HB Kiwanis and the Braille Institute, at Easter we hosted an audible egg hunt for visually impaired children. 50 eggs that emit a high-pitch “beep-beep-beep” sound were purchased along with huge and very brightly colored chromatic eggs.



That made it easy for any child to be able to locate eggs by site,

sound, or touch! It was fantastic, and several children that said it was their first-ever Easter egg hunt.



Put March 30, 2024 on your calendar for this year's event!

### Spark of Love Campaign

The 2023 Spark of Love Campaign was another huge success. With toys and financial donations from you, over 9,000 toys, games, and other items were distributed to needy children and youth.



We were able to provide gift cards to the HB Youth Shelter for those that come through that facility. Visit their website at <https://waymakersoc.org/sheltering-children>

We also worked with the public high schools to provide them with gifts cards for some of the students that are in need of financial help. Pictures next column show Phil Burtis, Shawn Wood (HBFOF Vice President) and Fire Marshall Janice Van Mullem presenting the gift cards at the schools.

Coordinated by Fire Marshal Janice Van Mullem, the HBFD Community Risk Reduction team collects, stocks and delivers all these gifts!



Huntington Beach High School with Principal Brenna Orr and Guidance Specialist Maria Salas



Edison Beach High School with Principal Danny Morris, Mental Health Specialist Kerstin Laye, and Counselor Breanne Sabol.



Ocean View High School with Community Outreach Liaison Robert Tapia, and Student Support School Psychologist Claudia Gomez.



Marina High School with Principal Morgan Smith and Student Support Psychologist Jodi Keidel.

## Community Outreach



### Lifeguard Elizabeth Lovat

On Monday, July 3, one of our Huntington Beach lifeguards, Elizabeth Lovat, sustained a spinal injury while performing her duties. She was transported to a hospital where she began a long recovery period. After a month there, she transferred to a special world-renowned clinic near Denver for rigorous physical therapy.

After many weeks, she was able to have enough arm strength and control to get around in a wheel chair and continue to work on leg strength, all the while keeping up with her studies. Her smile and infectious attitude never waned.



She has now gone back to school in New York where she will graduate this spring after completion of her Speech Language Pathology classes at Iona College.

With donations from community members like you, the HBFOF was able to collect over \$110,000 for the Elizabeth Lovat Recovery Fund that has been instrumental in providing for things not otherwise medically covered.

The HBFOF, HBFD, and the entire Lovat family want to thank everyone who supported her over the last seven months.



Elizabeth attended Huntington Beach High School and is a Huntington Beach City Lifeguard. She currently attends Iona College in New York and played D1 Women's Water Polo. She was recognized as an All-American Athlete and received numerous athletic awards. She has been on the Dean's List (4.0) in the last year and graduated with honors from high school.

Elizabeth has a passion for helping others and has learned and used her communication skills with American Sign Language to help her community, which has in turn shaped her career and educational goals. She knows what it takes to overcome life's most challenging setbacks and persevere. Her dad taught her "not to be afraid of failure" and her attitude has inspired those around her.



## Fire Department Support



### Fire Explorer Program

The Huntington Beach Fire Department Fire Explorer Program is a youth-based program that focuses on an introduction to the fire service and emergency medical services. This program puts an emphasis on education, training, career development, and positive mentoring. HBFD Explorers also gain leadership, character development, teamwork and life skills.

In July of 2023, the HBFOF sponsored seven of the Explorers to attend the Orange County Fire Authority Academy. That program offers activities that help youth explore the many facets of the fire service, through an experience that balances both classroom and hands-on learning.



### Peer Support Team

The International Association of Fire Fighters have a note on their website saying there is growing concern about behavioral health issues and the significant impact on wellness. The stresses faced by fire fighters, paramedics and EMTs throughout the course of their careers - incidents involving children, violence, inherent dangers of firefighting and other potentially traumatic events - can have a cumulative impact on mental health and well-being.

To address this concern, the HBFD has created a Peer Support Team that is able to assist departmental personnel with issues like stress.

The HBFOF is very proud to have been able to provide funding for a special one-day training program for family members to hear about the peer program, insights into stress issues their loved one face and strategies to help at home.

One member of the peer support program is special dog named Kingman! He is trained as a support dog and with the help of his human Kane is ready and willing to provide dog love whenever it is needed. The HBFOF has a special fund-raising page for "Club Kingman" on the website and all receipts from club membership do directly for Kingman food, vet, and supplies!

By enrolling in the Kingman club you can get a stuffed plush mini-version of Kingman that has an info card and even a neck scarf with his paw print on it!



## Fire Department Support



### Fire Department Open House

HBFOF was very excited to be a major sponsor of the 2023 Fire Department Open House in October.

One of the most fun events during the day is a mini fire skill course for the children! They get to try tasks such as dragging a fire hose and using it to put out a simulated fire. HBFOF provided the funding for some of the materials used to build part of that course. We also provided hot dogs and condiments for all attendees. The HB Firefighters Association did the cooking of the hot dogs.

The CERT team taught the kids how to use a fire extinguisher using an electronic fire simulator. And the RACES group gave ham radio demonstrations.



Kingman's human "Mom"

HBFOF Secretary Bill Reardon





## Corporate Sponsorship



### Corporate Sponsorship Program

2023 marked the rollout of the HBFOF Corporate Sponsorship Program. The goal of the program is to give businesses that want to help the HBFOF with its mission of supporting the HB Fire Department a place to get special recognition for their donations.

For 2023 we want to welcome and thank AES, the Mayer Corporation, ReMax/TerraSol, StudentMovers, and the Weaver Consulting Group for their participation in our Sponsorship Program.

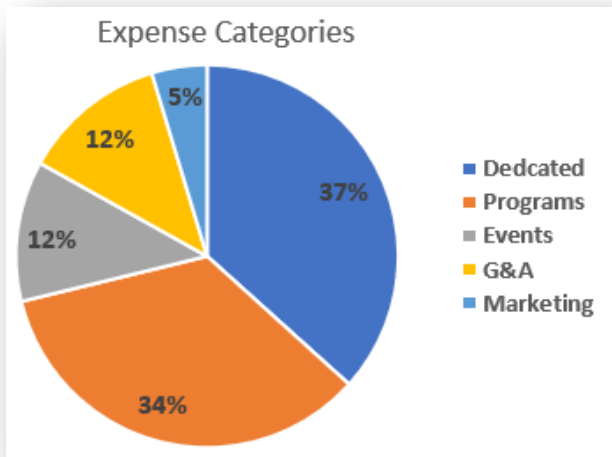
Contact us if you would like information on how you can become a Corporate Sponsor!

Visit <https://www.hbfof.org/sponsors>



### Where Your Donations Go

83% of all HBFOF expenditures go to dedicated accounts such as the Trauma kits, programs such as Peer Support, and Events like the HBFD Open House. The General and Administrative expenses are insurance, software and office supplies which account for only 12% of expenses, well below the accepted norm of 25% for G&A. Your donations directly support our Mission.



### Donation Station

