



## Spotlighting Community Partners: Chula Vista Firefighter's Foundation

Established by dedicated members of the Chula Vista Fire Department, the Chula Vista Firefighter's Foundation is a nonprofit focused on providing disaster relief during times of crisis, increasing awareness of fire and water safety practices, and improving quality of life through comprehensive programming.

"The Chula Vista Firefighter's Foundation is a heart-centered, service-before-self nonprofit," said Foundation President Sean Lowery, who is also a Chula Vista Fire Department Battalion Chief. "The foundation is unique in the sense that we allocate our funds solely for direct disaster relief and education within Chula Vista."



According to Lowery, former Chula Vista Fire Department Captain Gary Keller founded the foundation in 2004 after seeing a need for a nonprofit arm of the Chula Vista Fire Department and International Association of Firefighters Local 2180. At the helm of the all-volunteer led foundation's impactful work are the people who support it. Lowery says the majority of the City's firefighters are active or have been active as foundation volunteers. The foundation's Board of Directors is comprised of Chula Vista Fire

Department personnel and local business leaders who meet year-round to plan fundraisers and events, oversee the organization, and appropriately allocate donations.

All funding received goes directly to those in need through daily community assistance and annual events to provide aid. Educational programming also focuses on public safety and awareness.

The foundation provides disaster relief through grocery store vouchers and other types of gift cards to local families in need. The families are referred by fire personnel.

Annual community service events include Christmas in October, which provides home improvements repairs at no cost or obligation to low-income homeowners in Chula Vista.



The foundation also organizes an Annual Easter Egg Hunt and a Pancake Breakfast. Ongoing educational programming also includes:

- Classes in CPR, First Aid, and swimming
- The Water Safety Initiative, a partnership launched with the Chula Vista Recreation Department to provide awareness on the importance of water safety
- The Roger Haley Memorial scholarship for aspiring public service professionals

The foundation "is not for firefighters," said Lowery. "It is firefighters who are for our community."

For more information or to help, visit the [Chula Vista Firefighter's Foundation website](#).