



August 3, 2015

The Des Moines Police Foundation tax id #30-0825353 is a tax deductible 501 (c) (3) charity organization dedicated to improving our community through strengthening our local police department by means of grants for equipment, training, and technology. Our commitment to increasing public safety goes further than department staff, we have also made it our goal to support community outreach projects that help to lift our residents and improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods.

We understand full well how important it is to foster a strong relationship between members of the police department and the public. By supporting each other, we can work together to ensure every member of our community is given the opportunity to succeed.

A huge need that is present in our community is an emergency intervention fund. Many times currently Officers feel compelled to use their own personal money to help when they are faced with a situation that requires immediate intervention until our community social support services can be arranged. We are calling this fund the Des Moines Police Foundation's Chaplaincy Fund. This fund is not intended to be used for general costs, bills, etc; but rather for immediate emergency needs such as food and shelter for vulnerable members of our community in crisis. Our intention is for the fund to be reactive in that we will not be accepting solicitations for assistance.

An example of when this fund would be tapped into occurred just a couple months ago when a 12 year old boy jumped out the top story window of his family's home to escape a viscous domestic violence assault. He fled to safety wearing nothing but underwear. The staff of the Des Moines Police Department teamed up to meet the needs of this young victim while he was being processed through the system to enter into the custody of Child Protective Services. He was provided with food and clothing that staff could locate from excess event clothing, locker items, personal lunches, etc. If the Chaplaincy fund had been in place at this time, we would have the ability to purchase an outfit for this young man in his own size, saving him the embarrassment of entering the foster system in strangers clothing.

Another example occurred just today. Our Officers responded to a welfare check of a man who was the victim of an assault. He was laying on the pavement unconscious with his two small children in a stroller looking on. The family found themselves homeless after being kicked out of their hotel, and both the man and the children were filthy and hungry. Sleeping on the street led to the unsafe conditions leading up to the man's assault. Officers were able to make arrangements using their personal money to put the family up in a motel for the night to give CPS a chance to meet with the family and get them situated into shelter.

While we know that the purpose of the Police Department is not to provide social services to the community; as a first line response to community members in crisis, the job of a Police Officer encompasses so many different roles. In a single day he or she may find themselves as a mentor, a

guardian, a crossing guard, an enforcer, a lifesaver, an educator, a social worker, a mediator, a counselor, and so many other things it is difficult to list.

We are asking for the community's support to help provide monetary support for the Chaplaincy Fund. We know that by working together, we can make a difference in the lives of the most vulnerable members of our community in their time of greatest need.

Thank you for your support,



Ellie Hooman/Board of Directors Secretary Treasurer