



**FIREFIGHTERS**  
FOR HEALING

# HEROES TOGETHER CAMPAIGN

## NEED FOR SUPPORT: STATE OF MINNESOTA

### REQUEST

Firefighters For Healing (FF4H) is seeking a \$3.75 million bonding appropriation to support the construction of a new Transitional Healing Center for our hero first responders, burn victims, and trauma survivors from throughout MN.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- FF4H is partnering with Sherman & Associates to develop its new Transitional Healing Center located at 500 7th Street South, Minneapolis, MN.
- The Firefighters for Healing Transitional Healing Center will include:
  - Twelve fully-furnished 800-square-foot apartments, including six fully-accessible units and three two-bedroom units for families with children;
  - Program space for services that complement existing services provided by HCMC, the University of Minnesota Children's Hospital, Gillette Children's Hospital, Regions Hospital, Phillips Northwestern Hospital, and others;
  - Social and gathering space for family members of patients, allowing them to engage in needed downtime and relaxation activities;
  - Therapy rooms for patients.

### MISSION

Firefighters for Healing supports three populations:

- **The Family:** The family of a burn survivor or firefighter faces the staggering prospect of immense investments of time, money and emotion – as they support their loved one.
- **The Burn Survivor:** They alone brave the pain, frustration and challenges that their injuries bring them. We help them transition home gradually giving them time to learn their “new normal” level of mobility.
- **The Firefighter:** Firefighters are first on scene at the time of burn or trauma and are instrumental in providing life-saving help. Their unwavering bravery deserves our attention and support and we are here for them in their time of need.

### CONTACT

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### FOUNDER'S STORY



Firefighters for Healing was founded by Jake LaFerriere, a former Minneapolis firefighter. In 2010, Jake was on the scene of a fire when a backdraft explosion severely injured him, resulting in third and fourth degree burns. While in recovery, Jake met several children in the burn unit, each undergoing painful treatments for their injuries. This inspired him to create Firefighters for Healing (FFFH), a non-profit foundation that provides financial and emotional support to children & first responders who are survivors of severe burns.

Our current focus is to create a special, supportive, *Transitional Healing Center* with living space for families of first responders and burn and trauma survivors coming from a distance, healing and therapy spaces to serve survivors and their family members, and living space for any firefighters in the region who are in the Twin Cities to receive medical treatment.

**BUDGET**

Sources	Amount
Foundations and Corporations	\$2,750,000
Individuals	\$1,000,000
State of Minnesota	\$3,750,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$7,500,000</b>

**USES**

Sources	Amount
Acquisition & Predevelopment	\$1,000,000
Professional Fees	\$1,000,000
Construction	\$5,500,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$7,500,000</b>

## PROJECT IMPACT

**The new FF4H Transitional Healing Center will:**

- Create a first-of-its-kind resource that will not only serve Minnesota but will create a model for other communities to replicate;
- Facilitate opportunities to better understand how complementary services can work together for better outcomes and continue to improve best practices;
- Provide families with a place to stay indeterminate lengths of time while their child or loved one is in recovery, at no cost to them;
- Support firefighters and first responders who have traveled to the Twin Cities from around the upper Midwest during their treatment and recovery process; and
- Elevate awareness about the dramatically underserved and courageous children and their families who struggle each day to overcome the trauma and injuries from which they suffer.
- Help build awareness for the scope of the issue – over 16,000 fire-related incidents every year, each with the potential to permanently injure children and forever change their families.

## MINNESOTA DATA

- On average, each year nearly 7,000 children and adults are treated for severe burns and burn trauma at the HCMC Burn Center and Regions Hospital in the Twin Cities alone.
- Across Minnesota, there are 22,000 firefighters who respond to more than 16,000 fire-related incidents statewide each year.
- Burn injuries and burn trauma are significant issues that can permanently affect lives and cost our communities significant financial resources and lost workforce productivity and economic activity.
- Unfortunately, there are limited resources and treatment options for burn victims at most hospitals – meaning inadequate access to the ongoing physical and psychological healing care required in the weeks, months, and years of recovery and rehabilitation.
- The innovative Transitional Healing Center will serve and support kids and families who are burn and trauma survivors in ways that caregivers and insurance companies cannot and also serve first responders who need care.