



POAT Newsletter

Sergeant Chuck Duncan, Miami Dade Police Department
November 2009

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Miami-Dade Police
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The County-Wide United Way Campaign is presently underway.

This year is the 20th anniversary for the Police Officer Assistance Trust (POAT). POAT was founded under the auspices of the Miami-Dade County Association of Chiefs of Police in 1989 as a support organization for the law enforcement community of Miami-Dade County, Florida, to assist officers and their families in times of critical need. POAT offers assistance to all sworn law enforcement officers in Miami-Dade County from federal, state, county, and municipal agencies.

There are three main responsibilities of POAT.

1. *Remembering our fallen officers who have died in the line of duty by maintaining the Law Enforcement Memorial site, and coordinating the annual Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Service.*

2. *Provide financial assistance to officers disabled in the line of duty, suffering from a chronic or terminal illness, or some other catastrophic circumstance.*

3. *Provide educational assistance to the spouses and children of law enforcement officers killed or disabled in the line of duty in Miami-Dade County.*

After six hurricanes struck Florida in 2004 and 2005, POAT stepped in after each hurricane to assist those officers whose homes and lives were devastated by the storm. Through having work crews coordinated by POAT, supplying rebuilding materials, and necessities such as food, water, and clothing, POAT helped more than 323 law enforcement families statewide.

The Board of Trustees comprises representatives from the different levels of law enforcement in Miami-Dade County (federal, state, county, and municipal), as well as members from the Miami-Dade County business community and law enforcement related fraternal and labor associations. The Board of Trustees and staff meet regularly on a monthly basis to discuss and vote on various assistance cases, fund-raisers, and other matters pertinent to the operation of the organization.

The goals of POAT are clear to facilitate financial assistance whenever needed; and to continue to be a vital charitable organization within the law

enforcement community of Miami-Dade County.

There are numerous short and long-term individual assistance cases where financial relief is granted to officers and their spouses when they have become disabled or suffered a debilitating illness. POAT also provides support to several officers who are the primary care parents of disabled or chronically ill children whose specialized care has created an undue financial hardship on the family. The assistance covers expenditures that health insurance does not pay, or when insurance benefits have been depleted. To date, POAT has provided \$3.7 million to more than 560 officers.

POAT is committed to providing financial relief to the 8000 sworn officers working in Miami-Dade County, whenever needed. This commitment has created a sense of belonging and the knowledge that all officers are truly members of the law enforcement family.

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POAT continually strives to host fund-raisers that are professional and productive, as well as an enjoyable experience for players, sponsors, and other attendees. POAT is an all-volunteer organization and a group of dedicated law enforcement personnel and their families regularly donate their time to support the organization, and staff and run these events.

For the past 13 years, POAT's primary source of revenue has been payroll deduction donations. In 1996, POAT entered into an arrangement with the United Way that allows personnel from state, county, and municipal agencies to write in "Police Officer Assistance Trust" when they complete their contributors' form, thereby earmarking their donation to go directly to POAT. POAT continues to engage in activities that will ensure that the needs of the law enforcement community are met and participate in events that promote good will between law enforcement and the citizens of Miami-Dade County. Do your part by making your United Way donation to the Police Officer Assistance Trust.

Without the funds to perpetuate its programs, POAT would be unable to provide the assistance so many officers need. POAT's motto expresses its ideology succinctly, "Serving Those Who Serve."

Motorcycle Ride

The next POAT Motorcycle Ride will be held on Saturday, December 5, 2009, 9:00 a.m., starting at Tropical Park (in the front). Registration is \$20 with proceeds going to the Holiday Gifts for Surviving Children. POAT provides holiday gifts for the surviving minor children of officers killed in the line-of-duty and officers that have died of natural/accidental means. You can register by going to www.POAT.org, or by calling Lieutenant Rudy Gonzalez at 305-471-2312.

Scramble Golf Tournament

On Friday, December 11, 2009, a Scramble Golf Tournament will be held at Keys Gate Golf and Country Club, with all proceeds benefiting POAT. Entry fee is \$125. per golfer, includes green fees, cart fee, lunch, goodie bag, and beverages on course. For further information, please contact Richard Mestre at (305) 786-299-2188.

Don't forget to sign-up for the Holiday Gifts for Surviving Children

This is an annual event POAT embarks upon during the holiday season to remember the children of officers killed in the line of duty or who died while actively sworn with an agency within Miami-Dade County. Funds are raised in order to purchase gifts for approximately 66 recipients. We are requesting volunteers to work the POAT collection tables, which will be set-up at Aventura Mall, Dadeland Mall, The Falls Shopping Center, Southland Mall, and the Village of Merrick Park. Collections will begin on Friday, November 27th during the evening hours. Aventura Mall is coordinated by Lt. Dwight Snyder, Sunny Isles Beach ~ (305-792-1893), Dadeland Mall is coordinated by Officer Chris Hodges, Miami-Dade ~ (305-970-0769), The Falls is coordinated by Sgt. David Greenwell ~ Miami-Dade (305-471-2506 or 305-970-7214), Southland Mall Sgt. John McLaughlin (786-367-6491), and the Village of Merrick Park is coordinated by Sgt Vinnie Peterson, Coral Gables ~ (305-283-8905); or you can call the POAT office at 305-594-6662. Volunteers will hand-out POAT brochures explaining the program and will be collecting donations. If everyone reading this, volunteers for just one night, we will be able to have the tables up and running every evening. We always fill the weekend days first, as they are the most productive days for generating donations. Let's all work together to make this a success and help bring a smile to the children's faces during this holiday season. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Milledge, John

EOW: Nov 1, 1946

Miami

Saenz, George

EOW: Nov 2, 1989

United States

Customs

Mertes, Carl

EOW: Nov 5, 1980

North Miami

Miyares, Emilio

EOW: Nov 6, 1986

Hialeah

Ferguson, Jerrel

EOW: Nov 7, 1962

Miami

Hodge, Lynette

EOW: Nov 16, 1993

North Miami

Jester, Robert

EOW: Nov 18, 1933

Miami

Cainas, Pedro

EOW: Nov 19, 1992

Hialeah

Gonzalez, Carmen

EOW: Nov 19, 1993

Miami-Dade

Stephens, Billy

EOW: Nov 23, 1957

Coral Gables

Schulz, Lavern

EOW: Nov 27, 1987

South Miami

Boles, Richard

EOW: Nov 28, 1988

Miami-Dade

Marler, Richard

EOW: Nov 28, 1921

Miami

Strzalkowski,

David

EOW: Nov 28, 1988

Miami-Dade

[Click here for more information for Paul Janosky Art Scholarship](#)

[Download application here](#)

[Click here for more information for Mike Byrd Crime Scene Scholarship](#)

[Download application here](#)

Service Legacy Brick

The Service Legacy Bricks for retired officers would make a great Christmas gift for that special retired officer in the family. The Service Legacy Brick is placed in the walkway at the new Law Enforcement Memorial in Tropical Park. You can get a brick in the walkway by completing the application that is on our website at POAT.org and making a \$50 donation to POAT. The funds raised from the brick donations goes towards maintaining the Law Enforcement Memorial and funding the annual Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Ceremony.

POAT Scholarships

The POAT has two scholarships that we offer to students getting ready to attend a university, college, or vocational school and are the children of a sworn officer, federal, state, county, or municipal, serving within the boundaries of Miami-Dade County. The deadline for both scholarships has been extended to May 1, 2010. **The Paul Janosky Art Scholarship** is offered to students majoring in visual, graphic or computer arts. **The Mike Byrd Crime Scene Scholarship** is offered to students majoring in Biology, Chemistry, Forensics, Pathology, or any major affiliated to Crime Scene Investigation. Applications for these scholarships can be obtained by downloading them from the POAT web-site at <http://www.POAT.org> or calling the POAT office at (305)594-6662.

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Thanks for your support and stay safe!

Make a tax deductible donation:

Mail to: Police Officer Assistance Trust

1030 NW 111 Avenue

Miami, Florida 33172

POAT offers assistance to all sworn officers in Miami-Dade County from federal, state, county, and municipal agencies. **Your contributions make these efforts possible!** Checks should be made payable to the Police Officer Assistance Trust or POAT. If you wish to make a donation to a specific area of assistance (educational, general, holiday gifts, police memorial, Paul Janosky Art Scholarship, Mike Byrd Scholarship), please notate the information in the memo area of your check.

The Police Officer Assistance Trust is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization operating within Miami-Dade County, Florida. POAT provides assistance to law enforcement officers and their families in times of crisis or critical need