



Professional Fire Fighters of Wisconsin Charitable Foundation

PRESS RELEASE

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February 26th, 2021

2020 FIRE SAFETY NEWSPAPERS IN EDUCATION AND

2020 FIRE SAFETY RECOGNITION LUNCHEON AWARDS

The Professional Fire Fighters of Wisconsin Charitable Foundation is an independent self-supporting 501(c)(3) public charity serving as a champion for burn survivors, fire fighters, and safe communities all across Wisconsin. The Fire Fighters Foundation impacts everyone in Wisconsin whether through their fire safety and burn prevention initiatives or through their work to support fire fighters and their families during times of need. Obviously, their goal is to prevent fires and burns from happening at all. However, when a burn injury does occur, they are there to provide meaningful support to burn survivors of all ages and in all stages of recovery. The Fire Fighters Foundation is no different than any person, business, or organization affected by COVID-19 and subsequently had to cancel or postpone multiple programming and fundraising events in 2020. In 2021, the organization continues to pivot and make an impact.

Almost a half-million print copies of the 23rd Annual Fire Safety Newspapers in Education Program were developed and distributed by the Professional Fire Fighters of Wisconsin Charitable Foundation to schools, fire departments, and community organizations last October to commence National Fire Prevention week in Wisconsin. Within the newspaper is a fire safety student poster and teacher essay contest. Every October is when the organization also recognizes fire safety, burn prevention, and service excellence at their Annual Fire Safety Recognition Luncheon. Last October would have been a 30-year milestone for the luncheon.

Today, 30 students, 11 teachers, 7 volunteers, and 6 awardees were announced via Zoom and will soon be presented with awards, framed posters, plaques, and more than \$7,500.00 in cash prizes. *"This is a highlight every year for us,"* said Michael Wos, Executive Director of the Fire Fighters Foundation. *"Seeing kids, teachers, and supporters that make a difference is what keeps us going day after day."* The annual newspaper is printed by the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel but is developed inhouse with content obtained from some of the best fire safety and burn prevention organizations in the country. *"We've seen a sharp increase in fire deaths, injuries, and burns this year,"* said Aine King, Program Coordinator with the Fire Fighters Foundation. *"Fire deaths, injuries, and burns were all at an 8-year high last year. Fire safety and burn prevention is more important than ever, and we are proud to showcase our programming and recognize individuals and organizations for all their hard work and support."* The Fire Fighters Foundation plans on presenting the awards in person as soon as everyone is comfortable and will formally recognize everyone the next time, they are able to host a gathering.

(Listing of all awardees is on back)

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2020 Fire Safety Newspapers in Education – 23rd Annual Edition (www.pffwcf.org/FireSafety)

A video of today's program can be found at:

https://pffwcf.sharepoint.com/:v/g/ESzmSxKlcnLqMfsx864GCcBzD8aSgkxok4Q_bsHWK-bEg

**Professional Fire Fighters of Wisconsin Charitable Foundation
23rd Annual Fire Safety Newspapers in Education
2020 Fire Safety Poster Contest Awards**

1st Grade

- 3rd place - Violet Kaufman, St John Lutheran, Berlin
2nd place - Evelyn Steffes, Winneconne Elementary, Winneconne
1st place - Evelyn Corey, Eagle Elementary, Eagle

2nd Grade

- 3rd place - Jon Bruss, St John Lutheran, Berlin
2nd place - Alayna Heiden, Allenton Elementary, Allenton
1st place - Adam Darelius, St. Jacobi Lutheran School, Greenfield

3rd Grade

- 3rd place - Brady VanHandel, St. John's, Little Chute
2nd place - Ellie Vogelmann, St. Matthews, Oak Creek
1st place - Grace Heus, St. Gabriel, Hubertus

4th Grade

- 3rd place - Ashlynn Dunn, St Gabriel, Hubertus
2nd place - Avery M, Wonewoc-Center Elementary, Wonewoc
1st place - Aidan Collins, St Gabriel, Hubertus

5th Grade

- 3rd place - Grace Parker, St. Gabriel, Hubertus
2nd place - Grant Rauls, Rio Elementary School, Rio
1st place - Shepherd Cook, Rio Elementary School, Rio

6th Grade

- 3rd place - Alli Ruether, Our Saviors Lutheran, Wausau
2nd place - Ella Brei, Our Saviors Lutheran, Wausau
1st place - Greta Jensen, St Clement, Lancaster, WI

7th Grade

- 3rd place - Sylvia Ball, Lancaster Community School District Middle School, Lancaster
2nd place - Vivian Bernhardt, Lancaster Community School District Middle School, Lancaster
1st place - Brooklyn Bauer, Lancaster Community School District Middle School, Lancaster

8th Grade

- 3rd place - Emma Braaksma, Cambria Friesland Middle School, Cambria
2nd place - Cassidy Klebsch, St. Gabriel, Hubertus
1st place - Mackenzie Roland, Our Saviors Lutheran, Wausau

10th Grade

- 3rd place - Grace Seffrod, Monticello High School, Monticello
2nd place - Angela Cash, Monticello High School, Monticello
1st place - Evelyn Rickards, Notre Dame Academy, Green Bay

11th Grade

- 2nd place - Katelyn Eyler, Monticello High School, Monticello
1st place - Brayden Ryan, Monticello High School, Monticello

12th Grade

- 1st place - Emily Hintz, Waterford High School, Waterford

**Professional Fire Fighters of Wisconsin Charitable Foundation
23rd Annual Fire Safety Newspapers in Education
2020 Teacher Essay Awards**

1st Place

- Hailey Breidel, Wisconsin Rapids

2nd Place

- Heather Gayton, Adams

3rd Place

- Maya Kasch, Milwaukee

4th Place

- Teri Eberhardy, Wausau

5th Place

- Deanna Giovengo, Lake Geneva

6th Place

- Jolene Slater, Argyle

7th Place

- Tammy Black & Lori Bongert, Rio

8th Place

- Terry Debink, Sheboygan Falls

9th Place

- Meagon Shields, Wonewoc

10th Place

- Shari Higgins, Mukwonago

**Professional Fire Fighters of Wisconsin Charitable Foundation
2020 Fire Safety Recognition Luncheon Awards**

Media Award

- Bill Walsh, CBS 58

Dan Genegler Fire Sprinkler Advocacy Award

- Kenny Asselin, West Bend F. D.

Corporate Responsibility Award

- Adams Outdoor Advertising

Bosanko Brothers Support Award

- WI Fire & Iron Motorcycle Clubs

Joe Vorce Career Fire Safety Award

- Vernon Green, Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue

Larry Ceretto Fire Safety Education Award

- Allenton Fire Department

**Professional Fire Fighters of Wisconsin Charitable Foundation
Summer Camp for Burn Injured Youth
2020 Staff Milestone Awards**

5 Years of Service

- Ryan "Hero" Hintz
- Samantha Blaylock
- Brittney Schwantes

10 Years of Service

- Brian Bieganski
- Robert Aschenbrener

15 Years of Service

- Kevin McDonald
- Christine Covert