

2025 IMPACT REPORT



Stitched With Purpose



**FUNERAL SERVICE
FOUNDATION**



Dear Friends,

Like a patchwork quilt, our community of funeral service professionals is made up of unique individuals brought together with purpose. Each one contributes to the warmth, support and comfort offered to families during life's most difficult moments.

Each square of the Foundation's quilt comprises donors, volunteers, partners, stakeholders, grant recipients and staff. The "common thread" that connects us is a shared belief in the power of funeral service. Creating a network of care, compassion and resilience, this connection is what supports our Foundation and strengthens the entire funeral service profession.

As we reflect on the past year, I am filled with deep gratitude for the generosity and dedication of our community of supporters, from our Major Donors to individuals who simply believe in this mission.

Because of you, we awarded **more than 300 scholarships** to funeral service students and professionals and distributed **more than 7,000 resources** to funeral homes and medical facilities across the United States and Canada. These contributions help families understand they are not alone in their grief.

Alongside this ongoing work, 2025 brought new reasons to celebrate, including **the launch of IMPACT 1000 and its 100-plus founding members** and an unforgettable **Donor Reception honoring Bob Arrington**, whose endowed scholarship stands as a testament to the legacy one person can leave. It is a powerful reminder that when we invest together, we build something that lasts.

On behalf of our board, volunteers, staff and all those we serve, thank you for your generosity, your dedication and your belief in what funeral service can be. We are honored to do this work alongside you.

Sincerely,

Jeff Smith
2025-2026 Funeral Service Foundation Chair



2025-2026 Funeral Service Foundation Board of Trustees

BOTTOM ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT): Leili McMurrough, NFDA CEO Christine Pepper, Chair-elect Bryant Hightower, Immediate Past Chair John Heald, Chair Jeff Smith, Treasurer John Faulk, NFDA Liaison Ellen Wynn McBrayer, Kathy Kelley.

TOP ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT): Carmalita March-Harris, Tim Schramm, Will Bischoff, Matt Outcalt, Tyler Anderson, Jimmy Lucas, Lisa Baue, Ashley Cozine, Jenn Parvin, Thomas Pontone, David Hernandez.

NOT PICTURED: Jimmy Altmeyer, Michael Soper.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS			
	2025	2024	2023
Total Assets	\$15,616,425	\$13,131,992	\$11,940,325
Total Investment Earnings	\$1,844,651	\$1,093,765	\$1,187,470
Operating Expenses	\$541,057	\$402,518	\$441,817

Financial Stewardship & Outcomes

The Foundation's Board of Trustees brings together volunteer leaders from across the profession, united by a shared commitment to responsible stewardship and meaningful impact. Each trustee is a passionate champion of the Foundation's mission, dedicated to ensuring that donor contributions are managed with care, integrity and a clear eye toward results.

51%

Professional Development Scholarships and Programs:
\$247,838

38%

Academic Scholarships and Programs:
\$184,871

51%

38%

11%

11%

General Grants and Program Outreach:
\$52,487

IN 2025,
THE FOUNDATION
GRANTED:
\$485,196



GIVING MORE BY GIVING TOGETHER: IMPACT 1000

In April 2025, the Funeral Service Foundation launched IMPACT 1000, a collective giving initiative designed to unite funeral service professionals who want to make a lasting difference in the profession.

By combining individual contributions, members amplify their impact, supporting vital programs that help grieving families, strengthen funeral service, and ensure the profession's continued growth and innovation.

At its kickoff celebration in Napa, California, in August, the program gained early momentum by welcoming 14 new members to the already-growing initiative. With generous support from event sponsor Prudent Investor Advisors LLC and a remarkable \$50,000 matching gift from Homesteaders and Steve Shaffer — matching the first 10 pledges made at the event — the celebration set a powerful tone for what IMPACT 1000 is building.

By year's end, 110 founding members had joined the inaugural class by pledging \$5,000 each over five years. The Foundation will host its first-ever IMPACT 1000 community vote in 2026.

MAKING AN IMPACT at the 2025 NFDA International Convention & Expo

Held October 26-29, 2025, in Chicago, Illinois, the NFDA International Convention & Expo provided a meaningful opportunity for the Foundation to engage with and give back to the profession and the broader community. The Foundation was proud to support the NFDA Community Impact Zone, the convention's volunteer hub, which partnered with two Chicago-area organizations to make tangible impact beyond the convention floor.

During the convention, attendees joined Chicago Cares in assembling 1,000 hygiene kits for Chicagoans in need. These kits were then distributed directly to local community members. Attendees also had the opportunity to write letters to veterans through Honor Flight Chicago's Mail Call program, ensuring that each veteran receives a personal note of gratitude on one of the most meaningful days of their life.

The spirit of giving back extended to the Funeral Service Foundation booth, where a wall asked attendees to stop and reflect on the following: "Every Impact begins with a why. What's yours?" The interactive display invited donors, trustees and professionals to share their motivations for supporting the Foundation or dedicating their careers to funeral service. The exercise served as a striking reminder of the compassion and commitment that unite the profession.





HONORING VETERANS by Supporting Those Who Serve Them



On Veterans Day, November 11, 2025, the Foundation proudly sponsored the Voices for Valor Radiothon, hosted by the *Bob & Tom Show* to benefit Operation Honor Guard. Foundation

Chair Jeff Smith joined Rich Darby, Foundation Trustee Emeritus and President and Founder of Operation Honor Guard, as special guests during the Foundation's designated matching hour, matching up to \$5,000 in gifts raised in support of Operation Honor Guard.

The radiothon raised awareness and funds for Operation Honor Guard, a nonprofit dedicated to equipping and supporting the volunteers who perform military funeral honors for fallen veterans – volunteers who often purchase their own uniforms and cover travel costs to ensure every hero receives the tribute they deserve.

Supporting the radiothon was a natural extension of the Foundation's mission, as it reflected a shared belief that honoring a life of service is not just a gesture but a profound act of care for families and communities.



STRENGTHENING TRUSTED RESOURCES for Grief and Loss

The Foundation continued to make its trusted library of resources available to funeral service professionals across the country, distributing more than 7,000 resources in 2025. These tools support meaningful conversations with families navigating loss and help communities understand they are not alone in their grief.

The Foundation invested in expanding its delivery channels and laying the groundwork for new and enhanced materials, including content around *Youth & Funerals*, *When a Child Dies* and a new community crisis response program, all of which will continue to grow and take shape in 2026.

**ORDER RESOURCES
FREE OF CHARGE.
JUST PAY SHIPPING.**



JOURNEY TO SERVE

The Funeral Service Foundation and the ICCFA Educational Foundation's joint recruitment initiative continues to serve as a resource for recruiting U.S. and Canadian military veterans to funeral service. Visit JourneyToServe.com to download a free toolkit designed to help you hire veterans at your funeral service business.

SCHOLARSHIPS: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



APRIL 8-10 NFDA Meet the Mentors 25 Scholarships

NFDA's Meet the Mentors program pairs rising funeral service professionals with seasoned industry leaders for an immersive experience in leadership and career development. The 2025 program connected 25 mentees with three accomplished mentors — Dr. Camelia

Clarke, Lori Sheeler and Tim Schramm — through interactive roundtable discussions and networking opportunities. Participants also took part in NFDA's Advocacy Summit, allowing them to meet with members of Congress to gain firsthand insights into legislative issues impacting funeral service.



MAY 7-9 NFDA Embalming & Restorative Art Seminar 5 Scholarships

For the first time, the Foundation was proud to help five scholarship recipients attend the 2025 NFDA Embalming & Restorative Art Seminar at the Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science. Guided by leading industry experts, this hands-on training

brought students face-to-face with live donor-body demonstrations and advanced restorative techniques performed on Headzo models. Attendees left the seminar with sharpened skills and knowledge — including embalming best practices, restorative-art techniques and risk-management know-how — as well as real-world confidence.

MAY 15-18 NFDA Professional Women's Conference 19 David C. Baue Scholarships

Nineteen recipients of the David C. Baue NFDA

Professional Women's Conference Scholarship gathered in beautiful Santa Ana Pueblo, New Mexico, for the 2025 conference — an event designed by and for women in funeral

service. Attendees heard from dynamic speakers on topics, including leadership mindset, grief and family dynamics, AI in HR, advocacy, and innovative prep-

room practices. The conference is a celebration of women's contributions to the profession and a practical investment in their personal and professional growth.





**NFDA NATIONAL
EMERGING LEADERS
PROGRAM**

**JUNE 22-25
(Kickoff Event)
NFDA National
Emerging Leaders
Program**

16 Participants

NFDA's National Emerging Leaders Program (NELP) is a highly selective, yearlong initiative that develops the next generation of transformational leaders in funeral service. Participants engage in in-person retreats, virtual learning sessions

with top voices from inside and outside the profession, and ongoing mentorship and networking opportunities. In June, 16 early-career funeral directors from across the U.S. and Canada kicked off the 2025-26 program with a retreat at NFDA headquarters, and the 2024-25 class went on to celebrate its graduation at the NFDA Leadership Conference in August.



**CERTIFIED CELEBRANT
TRAINING**

**JUNE 25-27
Certified Celebrant
Training Program
10 Scholarships**

Ten scholarship recipients attended Certified Celebrant Training in Brookfield, Wisconsin, during which NFDA and the InSight Institute prepare funeral professionals to meet

the growing demand for personalized memorial services. Participants build skills in family facilitation, ceremonial writing, presentation and community outreach so they can offer meaningful customized tributes that set their firms apart.



**NFDMA ANNUAL
NATIONAL CONVENTION & EXPO**

**JULY 5-8
NFDMA Annual
National Convention
& Expo
10 Scholarships**

Ten scholarship recipients attended the 2025 National Funeral Directors & Morticians Association (NFDMA) Annual National

Convention & Expo in Secaucus, New Jersey, where the association celebrated its 88th year. Recipients enjoyed educational sessions; an expansive expo; and networking centered on innovation, leadership and the future of funeral service.



NFDA INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION & EXPO

AUGUST 6-8
CANA's 107th
Cremation Innovation
Convention
5 Scholarships

The Funeral Service Foundation sent five scholarship recipients to the Cremation Association of North America's (CANA) 107th Cremation Innovation Convention. The annual event brought together cremation professionals from around the world for education; hands-on workshops; networking opportunities; and exposure to emerging ideas, technologies and products shaping the future of cremation services.

OCTOBER 26-29
NFDA International
Convention & Expo
22 Scholarships

Twenty-two funeral service professionals attended the 2025 NFDA International Convention & Expo in Chicago, Illinois, as

Foundation scholarship recipients. There was truly something for everyone, including engaging educational workshops, keynote addresses by Felipe Gomez and Crystal Washington, and a Service of Remembrance

celebrating Chicago's rich gospel tradition. Recipients also explored the world's largest funeral service expo, where the latest products, services and innovations from across the industry were on full display.



CANA'S 107TH CREMATION INNOVATION CONVENTION



NFDA STUDENT ARRANGER TRAINING PROGRAM

NFDA Student
Arranger Training
Program
4 Schools

In its ninth year supporting the NFDA Student

Arranger Training Program, the Foundation helped bring the curriculum to four ABFSE-accredited schools. The program equips students with practical skills to

better understand today's families, communicate and create meaningful memorial experiences.

MARCH 4
 North Shore Community College – Funeral Service Program, Danvers, Massachusetts
40 Students

MARCH 27
 Northeast Texas Community College – Funeral Service Education (Virtual), Mount Pleasant, Texas
15 Students

JUNE 13
 Worsham College of Mortuary Science, Wheeling, Illinois
50 Students

JUNE 18
 Cypress College – Mortuary Science Department, Cypress, California
28 Students

2025 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIPS



FUNERAL SERVICE FOUNDATION

NFDA Meet the Mentors

Craig L. Adams Jr.
Vaughn C. Greene
Funeral Service
Baltimore, Maryland

Christopher Boggs
MacNabb Funeral Home
Catonsville, Maryland

Makenzie Briggs
Roeder Mortuaries
Omaha, Nebraska

Jessica Cespedes
Patrick T. Lanigan Funeral
Home and Crematory
Turtle Creek, Pennsylvania

Simone Coplin
Hanson-Runsold
Funeral Home
Fargo, North Dakota

Lydia D'Atri
Thomas McAfee
Funeral Home
Greenville, South Carolina

Peyton Davis
Smith Family Funeral Homes-
Little Rock Chapel
Little Rock, Arkansas

Sarah Beth Drake
Cantlon Otterness & Viets
Funeral Home
Buffalo, Missouri

Amanda Earl
Phaneuf Funeral Homes &
Crematorium
Manchester, New Hampshire

Gregory Fountain
Newcomer Funeral
Service Group
Orlando, Florida

Jayme Fuscaldo
Jersey Memorial Group
Old Bridge, New Jersey

Hanna McClellan
Howe-Peterson Funeral Home
and Cremation Services
Taylor, Michigan

Haisten Murphree
Glover Funeral Home
Dothan, Alabama

Shelby Ogozaly
Perman Funeral Home &
Cremation Service
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

David Pryor
Piper Funeral Home
St. Mary's, Kansas

Stephen Rios
Altmeyer Funeral Home
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Aiyanna Rivera
Pollock-Randall Funeral Home
Port Huron, Michigan

Jason Sertich
Wenig Funeral Homes
Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin

Tina Spedden
Lee Funeral Home
Owings, Maryland

Loran Spence
Carmon Community
Funeral Homes
Windsor, Connecticut

Jarell Springfield
Calumet Park Funeral Chapel
Merrillville, Indiana

Nicholas Todd
Stewart Baxter Funeral &
Memorial Services
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Amy Trigoura
Fred Hunter's Funeral Home,
Crematory & Cemetery
Davie, Florida

Anna Urciuoli
Leo P. Gallagher & Son
Funeral Home
Greenwich, Connecticut

Gary T. Whitley Jr.
Nelms Memorial
Funeral Home
Huntsville, Alabama

NFDA Embalming & Restorative Art Seminar

Avery Henson
Wilks Funeral Home
Chubbuck, Idaho

Luz Martinez
Pilar Funeral Home
Garland, Texas

Thomas Slagle
Pulaski Funeral Home
Somerset, Kentucky

Sara Sochor
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, Virginia

Jordan Wren
Castlegar Funeral Home
Castlegar, British Columbia

NFDA Student Arranger Training Program

**Cypress College – Mortuary
Science Department**
Cypress, California

**North Shore Community
College – Funeral Service
Program**
Danvers, Massachusetts

**Northeast Texas Community
College – Funeral Service
Education**
Mount Pleasant, Texas

**Worsham College of
Mortuary Science**
Wheeling, Illinois

NFDA Professional Women's Conference (David C. Baue Scholarships)

Tanisha-Lynn Ayotte
First Memorial Funeral
Services-Riverview Chapel
Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta

Simone Bricker
Hamilton's Funeral Home
Des Moines, Iowa

Andrea Brookins
Brookins Funeral Home
Chicago, Illinois

Nicole Caldwell
Chandler-Gilbert Community
College – Mortuary Science
Program
Chandler, Arizona

Andrea Delap
Higgins Funeral Home
Fayetteville, Tennessee

Akhelia Gardner
Hall Ferguson Hewitt
Mortuary
Miami, Florida

Lindsay Harden
Crevasse's Simple Cremation
St. Augustine, Florida

Emma Hawk
Grandstaff-Hentgen
Funeral Service
Wabash, Indiana

Summer Koehler
Charles F. Snyder Jr.
Funeral Home and
Crematory FH
Lititz, Pennsylvania

Ashley Latham
Beard Mortuary
Huntington, West Virginia

Angela McLaurin
Wiseman Mortuary Inc.
Fayetteville, North Carolina

Lilly Meade
Colorado Crematory Services
Wheat Ridge, Colorado

Brittany Moton
Commonwealth Institute
of Funeral Service
Houston, Texas

Mary Perkins
Baum Carlock Bumgardner
Funeral Home
Mineral Wells, Texas

Kolleen Primm
Tristate Cremation and
Funeral Services
Texarkana, Arkansas

Christie Redmon Moore
Mansfield Funeral Home &
Cremations
Mansfield, Texas

Holly Reiss
Ballhorn Chapels
Sheboygan, Wisconsin

Lindsay Wentworth
Baue Funeral Homes
St. Charles, Missouri

April Yurkovich
Dawson Funeral Home
East Liverpool, Ohio

Certified Celebrant Training Program

Caroline Bailey
Blessingway Enterprises LLC
Holden Beach,
North Carolina

Norval I. Brown
Cary United Methodist
Church
Cary, Illinois

Gina Hansen
Forest North Funeral
Chapel
Staten Island, New York

Karrie Houtz
Barndt Funeral Home
Wayne, Ohio

Robert Little
Guibord-Pearsons & Sayles
Funeral Homes
St. Johnsbury, Vermont

Lilly Meade
SCI – Denver Mortuary
Service
Wheat Ridge, Colorado

2025 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

John Montney
O'Guinn Family
Funeral Home
Clio, Michigan

Brian Pinter
Nolan-Fidale Funeral Homes
Aston, Pennsylvania

Cassandra Springborn
Haskell Funeral & Cremation
Services
Princeville, Illinois

Angela Ulen
Hooper Memorial Home Inc.
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

NFDA National Emerging Leaders Program

Kerri Bittner
Elm Ridge Funeral Home &
Memorial Park
Muncie, Indiana

Elijah Bragg
Heritage Funeral and
Cremation
Spokane, Washington

Dane Chasca
McPherson Funeral Home
Cranbrook,
British Columbia

Renee Childs
A.A. Rayner & Sons
Funeral Home
Chicago, Illinois

Madison Carihfield
Covington Funeral Home
Covington, Tennessee

Desirae Delgado
Harrell Funeral Homes
Austin, Texas

Ryan Drake
Watkins Brothers
Funeral Homes
Owosso, Michigan

Monica Hall
Hills Mortuary
Statesboro, Georgia

Caitlin Johnson
Evanson Jensen
Funeral Home
Lemmon, South Dakota

Nicole Lutz
Mueller Memorial
Saint Paul, Minnesota

Michael McGaffigan
McGaffigan Funeral Home
Pepperell, Massachusetts

Andrea Rief
Hoy Kilnoski Funeral Home
Council Bluffs, Iowa

Loran Spence
Carmon Funeral Home
Windsor, Connecticut

Jarell Springfield
Calumet Park Funeral Chapel
Merrillville, Indiana

Katlyn Tauetia
Coleman-Taylor
Funeral Services
Cecil, Pennsylvania

Tyler Wilson
Arch L. Heady & Son Funeral
Home-Okolona Chapel
Louisville, Kentucky

NFDMA Annual National Convention & Expo

Leon Harris
LH Design LLC
Atlanta, Georgia

Brelan Holston
John A. Gupton College –
Funeral Service Programs
Conyers, Georgia

Chanda Jeffers
Wylie Funeral Home
Owings Mills, Maryland

Ly'Geria Mathis
Gupton-Jones College of
Funeral Service
Lithonia, Georgia

Janet McGee
University of Minnesota –
Program of Mortuary
Science
Eagan, Minnesota

Jarell Springfield
Calumet Park Funeral Chapel
Gary, Indiana

Wanda Triggs
Jones Funeral Home
Houma, Louisiana

Dreall Williams
Florida State College at
Jacksonville – Funeral
Service Program
Gainesville, Florida

Minnelle Williams
Ending Well with Minnelle
Mississauga, Ontario

Brashad Young
Gupton-Jones College of
Funeral Service
Edna, Texas

CANA's 107th Cremation Innovation Convention

Hayde Alcaraz
University of Minnesota –
Program of Mortuary Science
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Calvin Amato
Jacob Schoen & Son
Funeral Home
New Orleans, Louisiana

Kevin Brooks
Northeast Texas Community
College – Funeral Service
Education
Mount Pleasant, Texas

Edwin Jackson
Community College of
Baltimore County-Catonsville
– Mortuary Science Program
Catonsville, Maryland

Lorena Velasco
Daneri Mortuary
Jackson, California

NFDA International Convention & Expo

Miranda Baker
Graceful Journey Mortuary
Solutions LLC
Marine, Illinois

Kaitlin Bigelow
Minor Funeral and
Cremation Center
Rutland, Vermont

Kerri Bittner
Elm Ridge Funeral Home &
Memorial Park
Daleville, Indiana

Ben Bohl
Heritage Funeral Homes
Muskego, Wisconsin

Paul Stephen Buonfiglio
Boston Cremation
Malden, Massachusetts

Mandy Butler
Cyrus Works Smith
Family Funeral
Macon, Georgia

Randi Cloud
Lake Washington
Institute of Technology –
Funeral Service
Education
Issaquah, Washington

Twuleeka Davis
O. H. Pye Funeral Home
Eastpointe, Michigan

Lucia Dickinson
Northeast Texas Community
College – Funeral Service
Education
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Brockton Elkins
Ronk Funeral Home
Dyersburg, Tennessee

Monica Hall
Hill's Mortuary
Statesboro, Georgia

Edwin Jackson
Community College of
Baltimore County-Catonsville
– Mortuary Science Program
Baltimore, Maryland

Chanda Jeffers
Wylie Funeral Home
Owings Mills, Maryland

Jaret Jones
Qualicum Beach
Memorial Services
Parksville, British Columbia

Anna Junkins
Altmeyer Funeral Home/
Bucktrout Funeral Home
Newport News, Virginia

Retanna Mire
Lafond Ardoin Funeral Home
Opelousas, Louisiana

Dennis Ryans II
Kemp Funeral Home
Southfield, Michigan

Katlyn Tauetia
Coleman-Taylor
Funeral Services
Cecil, Pennsylvania

Jules Tetlow
R.T. Foard Funeral Home PA
North East, Maryland

Hailey Tolman
Jones and Jones Betts
East Wenatchee, Washington

Brandy Warner
SCI – Coffey Funeral Home
Tazewell, Tennessee

Dillan Williams
TR Dallas Funeral &
Cremation Services
Gainesville, Florida



"As a woman entering this field, I am especially inspired by the way that this scholarship uplifts and empowers women to pursue a career in funeral service. It recognizes the unique perspectives, resilience and empathy that women bring to this profession. It also helps pave the way for us to grow as leaders, caregivers and advocates for the communities we serve."

BRYN CLEARY

Spring 2025 Shipley Rose Buckner Memorial Scholarship Recipient



"Funeral service is more than a career to me; it is a calling. I am deeply committed to serving families with compassion, dignity and respect during some of the most difficult moments of their lives. With the support of the Funeral Service Foundation, I feel even more empowered to pursue this meaningful work and uphold the values that define this remarkable profession."

BRASHAD YOUNG

Spring 2025 Foundation '45 Scholarship Recipient



"I have a strong passion for restorative arts, and I believe in the deep healing that comes from helping families see their loved ones at peace. This scholarship allows me to further develop these skills with focus and dedication so I can serve each family with compassion, care and professionalism."

CHRISTIE WHITE

Spring 2025 Memorial Classic Scholarship Recipient



"After spending over a decade serving my community as a deputy and later as a sergeant, I've seen firsthand the emotional toll that death takes on families. That experience sparked something in me. I realized I wanted to continue helping people, but in a different way, by guiding them through grief and loss with compassion and care. Funeral service allows me to do just that. It's a calling I feel strongly about and one that gives me purpose."

Balancing this new path hasn't been easy. I'm a full-time public servant, a husband and father of two children. Between work, family, life and school, there are lots of demands on my time and energy. This scholarship helps relieve some of the financial pressure and, in doing so, gives me peace to stay focused on my studies and training."

STANLEY MURRAY

Spring 2025 Steve Lang Scholarship Recipient

2025 ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

During the 2025 spring and fall scholarship cycles, the Foundation awarded 63 total academic scholarships ranging from \$2,500 to \$5,000, including four scholarships for military veterans, to funeral service students across the United States and Canada. These recipients brought exceptional dedication to their studies and a genuine commitment to serving families through funeral service.

Many of these scholarships carry a name to honor the legacy of a beloved funeral service

professional, the generosity of a longtime donor or the vision of someone who believed deeply in investing in the next generation. Together, they forge meaningful connections between donors and the deserving students they empower, ensuring the profession's future remains in capable, caring hands.



**FUNERAL SERVICE
FOUNDATION**

**APFSP/Fitzgerald
Memorial Scholarship**

*Mallory Brown
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Pittsburgh Institute of
Mortuary Science*

*Ethan Yoder
Sioux City, Iowa
Des Moines Area Community
College – Mortuary Science
Program*

**Shipley Rose Buckner
Memorial Scholarship**

*Bryn Cleary
Savage, Minnesota
University of Minnesota –
Program of Mortuary Science*

*Azuree McGee
Nashville, Ohio
Gupton-Jones College of
Funeral Service*

**John Carmon
Scholarship**

*Linda Barajas
Kissimmee, Florida
Florida State College at
Jacksonville – Funeral Service
Program*

*Robin Warren
Danville, Virginia
Brightpoint Community
College – Funeral Services
Program*

**CANA/Jack Springer
Scholarship**

*Christopher Bobo
Le Roy, New York
Pittsburgh Institute of
Mortuary Science*



"As a retiring hospital corpsman and a student at Fayetteville Technical Community College, I am committed to serving families during their time of greatest need with compassion, professionalism and dignity. Your support is more than just financial assistance; it is an affirmation of the path I have chosen. It encourages me to continue carrying the values of honor, service and dedication from my military experience into my career in funeral service."

RODERICK WARD

2025 Spring Journey to Serve Veteran Scholarship Recipient



"Thank you so much for this extraordinary gift to help me pursue my calling as a funeral director and embalmer. When I embarked on this journey, I knew it would be challenging – funeral services are my second career and meant starting over in many ways. But every day I spend working with families affirms for me – with absolute certainty – this is where I'm supposed to be."

JASMINE YANG

Fall 2025 Bob Horn Scholarship Recipient



"Your investment in my education enhances my capacity to enter the field prepared, self-assured and determined to provide compassionate care."

SAMIA CRAFT

Fall 2025 CANA/Jack Springer Scholarship Recipient



"I am writing to express my deepest gratitude for selecting me as a recipient of the 2025 fall military academic scholarship. As a veteran Navy officer pursuing a vocation in mortuary science, this scholarship is much more than financial assistance – it is an affirmation of my commitment to continue to serve others in a new and most important way."

MARK BIOLO

Fall 2025 Hunter M. Harbeson Veteran Scholarship Recipient

*Samia Craft
Castle Rock, Colorado
Arapahoe Community
College – Mortuary Science
Program*

Foundation '45 Scholarship

*Alexandra Allen-Byam
Peterborough, New
Hampshire
FINE Mortuary College*

*Katy Bernard
Lubbock, Texas
Southern Illinois
University – Mortuary
Science and Funeral Service*

*Anna Bruess
Roseville, Minnesota
University of Minnesota –
Program of Mortuary Science*

*Amy Burr
Grovetown, Georgia
Pittsburgh Institute of
Mortuary Science*

*Taryn Dallas
Corona, California
Cypress College – Mortuary
Science Department*

*Jelene Eliassen
Lynnwood, Washington
Lake Washington Institute of
Technology – Funeral Service
Education*

*Cecilia Fajardo
Downey, California
Cypress College – Mortuary
Science Department*

*Stephany Garber
Black Delta, British Columbia
Canadian College of Funeral
Service*

*Rane Halloran
Frederick, Maryland
Community College of
Baltimore County-Catonsville
– Mortuary Science Program*

*Christine Jesoraldo
Beverly, Massachusetts
North Shore Community
College – Funeral Service
Program*

*Aylissa Koskey
McKeesport, Pennsylvania
Pittsburgh Institute of
Mortuary Science*

*Tess Martin
Winnipeg, Manitoba
Canadian College of Funeral
Service*

*Lilly Meade
Englewood, Colorado
Arapahoe Community
College – Mortuary Science
Program*

*Thiago Nielsen
Millcreek, Utah
Salt Lake Community College
– Mortuary Science Program*

*Amber Revelt
Parma, Ohio
Pittsburgh Institute of
Mortuary Science*

*Riley N. Roldan
Loveland, Ohio
Cincinnati College of
Mortuary Science*

*Marina Shafer
Bella Vista, Arkansas
Commonwealth Institute
of Funeral Service*

*Erika Stark
Catonsville, Maryland
Community College of
Baltimore County-
Catonsville – Mortuary
Science Program*

*Cora Tinker
Wethersfield, Connecticut
Goodwin University – Funeral
Service Program*

*Jenifer Williams
Hoschton, Georgia
Gupton-Jones College of
Funeral Service*

*Brashad Young
Edna, Texas
Gupton-Jones College of
Funeral Service*

Funeral Directors Life Memorial Scholarship

*Jody Bryant
Statesboro, Georgia
Ogeechee Technical College –
Funeral Service Education*

*Nora Derthick
Galloway, Ohio
Cincinnati College of
Mortuary Science*

Joseph E. Hagan Memorial Scholarship

*Simone Fournier
North Providence,
Rhode Island
Cape Cod Community College
– Funeral Service Program*



"This scholarship fuels my desire to excel in funeral service. It symbolizes the benefactor's unwavering faith in me and only reinforces my commitment to making a meaningful impact in the funeral industry."

BRELAN HOLSTON

*Spring 2025 Steve Mack
Scholarship Recipient*

*Lauren Kreuser
Mayville, Wisconsin
Milwaukee Area Technical
College-West Campus –
Funeral Service Program*

Mark Hornibrook & Harry Pontone Memorial Scholarships

*Funded by a generous gift
from NGL*

*Jane Baden
Washington, D.C.
University of
District of Columbia
Community College –
Mortuary Science Program*

*Karen Coles
Gainesville, Florida
Gupton-Jones College of
Funeral Service*

*Dustin Mangum
West Jordan, Utah
Arapahoe Community
College – Mortuary Science
Program*

*Ly'Geria Mathis
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*In partnership with the ICCFA
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veterans transitioning into
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which offers the \$5,000
Journey to Serve Scholarship
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The Foundation extends its deepest gratitude to its major donors (those who contributed \$10,000 or more in 2025) for their extraordinary generosity

and steadfast belief in the Foundation's mission.

Investing in the people and programs that bring compassion, dignity and healing to those in their

most vulnerable moments, major donors strengthen the vital connection between funeral service professionals and the families and communities they serve.

The Founding Members of IMPACT 1000
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\$10,000



The shared belief in the power of funeral service was perhaps best expressed by AJ White, vice president of marketing at Carriage Services, when he presented Carriage's ceremonial check at the 2025 NFDA International Convention & Expo General Session:

"Through scholarships, resources and programs that strengthen funeral service, the Foundation helps to ensure that everyone who encounters our profession experiences the very best of what we have to offer. This gift reflects our commitment to that mission and to the Foundation's work."



2025 FUNERAL SERVICE FOUNDATION GOLF CLASSIC

FOR THE BENEFIT OF FUNERAL SERVICE



For its 25th anniversary, the Funeral Service Foundation Golf Classic brought together funeral service professionals and golf enthusiasts for friendly competition, networking and fun! Held at Topgolf Schaumburg, 160 golfers and supporters gathered to sip, swing and socialize while raising vital funds to support the funeral service profession.



With the support of major co-benefactors Service Corporation International and Foresight, golfers competed for the 2025 prize via Topgolf's Top Contender game. Rounding out another successful year for the Golf Classic's 25th anniversary, LPI and Matthews Aurora took home the first- and second-place trophies.

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DONOR RECEPTION

"ONE OF THOSE MOMENTS YOU DON'T FORGET"

On the evening of October 27, more than 350 of the Foundation's dedicated donors, alongside current and former trustees and volunteers, gathered for the invitation-only Donor Reception, generously underwritten by Global Atlantic Financial Group for the 12th consecutive year.

Hosted by Immediate Past Chair John Heald, and emceed by Heald and Past Chair Mark Krause, the evening celebrated the generosity, dedication and impact of the Foundation's supporters by honoring 27 major donors with ceremonial checks displayed throughout the reception. These donors included Service Corporation International, Carriage Services, Tukios and the collective Founding Members of IMPACT 1000. Landmark Funeral Group was also recognized for its meaningful pledge of \$50,000 this past year.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

The evening's most memorable moment came with the presentation of the 2025 Distinguished Service Award to Bob Arrington. The award honored his long-standing leadership and dedication to funeral service. As a loving tribute to Arrington's tradition of emceeding the paddle raise with humor and heart, Heald and Krause playfully donned *Dumb and Dumber* attire while the duo led the raise.

Responding with remarkable generosity, guests pledged more than \$225,000, a historic total that fully endowed the newly established Bob Arrington Scholarship, which will be awarded to students enrolled in accredited mortuary-science programs beginning in 2026.

"Watching the room rise in support of the Bob Arrington Scholarship was one of those moments you don't forget," said Heald. "Bob's leadership has touched so many of us over the years — his generosity, humor and heart



have shaped the Foundation's spirit."

Fundraising for this special scholarship continues. To make a donation to the Bob Arrington Scholarship, please visit *FuneralServiceFoundation.org/Donate-Now-Bob-Arrington* or scan the QR code.

**DONATE TO THE
BOB ARRINGTON
SCHOLARSHIP.**



2025 DONOR HONOR ROLL



The Donor Honor Roll celebrates the generosity of those who have believed in and supported the Foundation since 2002. Donors who have contributed \$25,000 or more cumulatively are recognized at that level as lasting pillars of the Foundation's mission. Those who gave in 2025 and have not yet reached that threshold are celebrated for their most recent expressions of generosity. We are deeply grateful for every gift, at every level.

WAYS TO GIVE:



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THE ESTATE OF EDWARD FITZGERALD



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THANK YOU!

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It started with a belief: By giving together, funeral professionals could do something none of them could do alone. The members below were the first to act on this belief — and their early commitment made IMPACT 1000 real.

Thank you to our IMPACT 1000 Founding Members, who have all made a gift or pledge of at least \$5,000 over the next five years.

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To Our Friends and Supporters,

There is something quietly powerful about not only a quilt's design but also what it represents. Someone took the time to gather the pieces, to see how they might fit together and to create something meant to last.

That is what you do. Together, every thread of this profession finds its way to a family in need.

Your piece of that patchwork — whether a gift, your time or your belief in this mission — makes it possible for funeral professionals across the country to show up for families in their hardest moments. Because of you, students find their path, professionals grow in their craft and communities receive the care they deserve.

We don't take that lightly. Every year, we are reminded that the heart of this Foundation isn't a program or a dollar amount. It's the people. It's you.

As we look ahead, we do so with full hearts and deep gratitude. What we are building together is something that endures, stitch by stitch, year by year.

Thank you for being part of this.

With appreciation,

FuneralServiceFoundation.org



13625 Bishop's Drive
Brookfield, WI 53005 877-402-5900

Since 1945, the Funeral Service Foundation has served as the philanthropic voice of the funeral profession and has identified as the charitable arm of the National Funeral Directors Association since 1997. Donors and volunteer leaders profession-wide support the Foundation in its mission of lifting up grieving communities by investing in people and programs that strengthen funeral service.

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