

# Westport Uniformed Firefighters Charitable Foundation

By Anthony Maisano



For decades the men and women of the Westport Fire Department have served bravely in service to the community. Through the many incidents they see daily from house, barn and boat fires to motor vehicle accidents and rescue incidents our members perform their best when things are at their worst. For the last two decades the Westport Fire Department has hosted our annual Firefighters Golf Tournament donating funds raised to local organizations. This along with members' participation in 5Ks, triathlons and stair climbs to raise funds for disease research represents the dedication of our members to supporting others.

In early 2013 members of the Westport Fire Department wanted to know how to optimize the time they were already putting in during events aimed at assisting the community. At the same time there was an increase in residents, local businesses and sponsor organizations asking how they could assist the fire department financially or by

donating equipment in support of the departments mission to protect life and property. It was in this desire to be most effective that the idea of the Westport Uniformed Firefighters Charitable Foundation was born.



This new organization had the ability to offer a tax benefit to those who wished to donate items and funds no matter how big or small.

In the early days when members were meeting to establish the charitable foundation, the goal was to be thorough, taking a step-by-step approach. That first Christmas set the organization on its current path with the popular Santa Run. Two weekends with Santa delivering gifts to the children of Westport and later with the assistance of Saugatuck Financial, to less fortunate children outside of Westport. With proceeds from our events, The Westport Uniformed Firefighters Charitable Foundation and its members also support many local organizations including Connecticut Burns Care Camp, The Center for Senior Activities, Westport Warm Up Fund and the Hole in the Wall Gang.

*Anthony Maisano is a local firefighter with the Westport Fire Department. For more information on how to get involved, visit [www.westportfirefighters.com/foundation/](http://www.westportfirefighters.com/foundation/).*

Do you know of a local charity or cause that you would like to see featured in the Westport Coastal Neighbors publication? Message [nkroft@bestversionmedia.com](mailto:nkroft@bestversionmedia.com) with more information. ❖

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