

TESTIMONIALS

*I am a police officer. My wife and I had good jobs and we were financially stable but that all changed when our son was born. Our son was born with severe birth defects. My wife had to quit her job and take care of him. We also had to hire nurse's aides for 24/7 help taking care of Jimmy Junior. We ran out of money and were scrambling to keep our house. Someone introduced us to **ForBadges** and we were given assistance to carry on until we could get financially organized. **ForBadges** saved us from losing our home.*

*My younger teenage brother died as the result of an accident. My family was not able to pay for his burial costs and we did not know where to turn for help. My department does not have an assistance program to help in these situations. I was referred to **ForBadges** and they paid for us to have a funeral for him. My family and I are very grateful for the help.*

*I am a civilian employee at the department and my adult son became brain damaged in a motorcycle accident. He needs 24 hour care and special equipment to care for him. His wife could not deal with the tragedy and we had to bring him home. We ended up losing our house while paying for his care. **ForBadges** helped us move into another home that we were able to outfit with the necessary ramps, bathing equipment, etc. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!*

*My department referred me and my wife to one of their financial counselors after we lost our home. We ended up moving into a one bedroom apartment that was a roof over our heads but not much more than that. When he learned that we have special needs child and that my wife developed a rare blood disease and could not work, he sent us to **ForBadges**. They helped us get special medical help for our daughter, a mobility van to transport her in her wheelchair and into a two bedroom apartment. Our marriage was really suffering as a result of all the pressure we were under. Today, we are a very happy family and our daughter is improving.*

***ForBadges** does not incur any administrative expenses. Therefore, all donations are used to achieve its mission. **ForBadges** is not politically motivated.*

ForBadges
17404 Ventura Boulevard, Second Floor
Encino, California 91316
(323)607-6875 | ForBadges.org

ForBadges



*In memory of **Michael Bluestein**, co-founder of **ForBadges**, who passed away on October 26, 2020 after a valiant battle with cancer, Through Michael's vision and leadership **ForBadges** has provided compassionate assistance to first responders and their families who suffered have traumatic events. Right up to the end Michael was focused on that mission giving time, energy and wisdom, expecting nothing in return. We honor Michael by carrying forward his mission through **ForBadges**.*

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FORBADGES

ForBadges is an Internal Revenue Code Section 501© (3) tax exempt non-profit corporation that was formed in 1999 as Badge2Badge with the mission to provide funds to police officers of the Los Angeles police department and their families who have experienced traumatic situations and need urgent financial assistance. In 2020 the mission was expanded to include all **first responders and their families**, and therefore the name was broadened to **ForBadges**.

ForBadges has provided over \$800,000 in financial assistance in achieving its mission since its inception. The corporation does not have administrative overhead expenses, so all donations (which the exception of tax filing fees) are used towards its mission.

Over the years the donations have provided medical care for critically ill children and spouses of police officers, paid funeral expenses for officer's family members, provided funds to buy food, pay rent, purchase medical equipment and other urgently needed items. **ForBadges** has benefited from donations from individuals as well as corporations and charitable foundations.

ForBadges federal tax identification number is 95-4759981.

LEADERSHIP

David Bluestein is an active police officer with the Los Angeles Police Department. He has served for 23 years and is currently a Lieutenant II assigned to the Training Division. David is a past member of the Police Unity Tour and has dedicated his career to helping those in need. He is honored to continue his father's legacy and serve **ForBadges**.

The late **Michael Bluestein** was a founder of ForBadges. He served as a Reserve Police Officer for the Los Angeles Police Department and through his business PIP Printing and Marketing Services has been a generous contributor to numerous charitable organizations related to the Los Angeles Police Department including the Police Unity Tour of Southern California and the LAPD Centurions. His insight and experience was invaluable in guiding ForBadges for over 20 years.

Kwame Cooper retired as an Assistant Chief of the Los Angeles City Fire Department, at the culmination of a 38-year career. Chief Cooper served in multiple major command and leadership roles including Operations Central Bureau, Fire Prevention and Public Safety Bureau, Training and Support Bureau, Employee Relations Officer, and the Community Relations Officer for the department. Over the years, Kwame has provided leadership and diversity training in fire service communities throughout the United States, and internationally. He is a graduate of the Executive Fire Office Program at the National Fire Academy and the Harvard Kennedy School Executive Leadership Program, and the Carl Holmes Executive Development Institute. He is a doctoral candidate at Grand Canyon University where he has successfully defended his doctoral degree in Organizational Leadership. He also serves on the Board of Directors of the National Fire Protection Association.

Stephen N. Getzoff is a Certified Public Accountant and 20+ Reserve Officer with the Los Angeles Police Department. His current assignments include holding the designation as a LAPD Professional Specialist assigned to the Employees Assistance Unit and is a member of the Financial Counseling Team. Steve also serves on the Board of Directors of several charitable organizations related to the Los Angeles Police Department including the Police Unity Tour of Southern California, LAPD Centurions and the Topanga Police Foundation.

Paul C. McDonald is a senior executive in the talent, staffing and recruitment industry. He has served on numerous boards including non-profits and a university. His passion for helping first responders and their family members in need is the motivator for involvement in supporting **ForBadges**. Paul has mentored, coached and led many people in his 40 year career.

Karen Slider is a retired Firefighter/Paramedic who was a member of the Los Angeles Fire Department for 25 years. In addition to her 22 years of front line service in fire stations, Karen was a valued Critical Incident Stress Debriefing Officer. She was actively involved in fire safety programs for kids, represented at after school programs like the Boys and Girls clubs and was the LAFD's national symbol of fire safety for kids "Sparky the Dog." Additionally Karen served the LAFD in the recruitment and retention of women in the fire service.