

CPO Family

SPRING 2026



TAKING CARE OF OUR OWN

The people, stories, and support behind the correctional family

FEATURE STORY

Sergeant Jerison Lamb
CSP-Sacramento, California

Read more on page 15



Because when the call comes,
WE ANSWER.



CATASTROPHIC ASSISTANCE



HONORING OUR OWN



NATIONWIDE IMPACT



PROJECT 2000
REMEMBERING THE FALLEN

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HOW CPOF RESPONDS

When the Phone Rings

At the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation (CPOF), we often say that our mission, Taking Care of Our Own, is more than words. It is a promise. And that promise begins the moment the phone rings.

On the other end of that call is rarely good news.

Sometimes it's a warden reporting that an officer has suffered a catastrophic injury. Sometimes it's a family member trying to find their footing after an unexpected loss. Other times, it's a colleague calling on behalf of someone who would never ask for help themselves. No matter the circumstance, each call carries urgency, emotion, and a deep need for support.

And every call is answered.

The first step is listening. At CPOF, we understand that behind every situation is a person, a family, and a story that deserves to be heard with compassion and respect. We gather the necessary information, often working directly with department leadership or trusted contacts to verify details quickly and accurately. In moments of crisis, time matters, and so does trust.

Once a need is confirmed, action follows immediately.

Whether it's providing financial assistance after a devastating house fire, supporting a correctional professional facing a serious medical emergency, or standing beside a family in the

wake of a line-of-duty death, CPOF mobilizes with purpose. Our team works behind the scenes to ensure that support is delivered swiftly—often in the form of a direct check to help offset immediate burdens such as housing, travel, medical expenses, or daily living costs.

But our response doesn't end with financial assistance.

In many cases, we coordinate closely with local representatives, volunteers, and honor guard teams to ensure that no one stands alone. From hospital visits to memorial services, from quiet check-ins to long-term support, CPOF remains present. Because true support is not just about meeting a moment, it's about walking alongside someone through it.

Every call is different, but the heart behind our response is always the same: compassion, professionalism, and an unwavering commitment to those who serve.

For more than four decades, correctional professionals have dedicated their lives to protecting our communities, often without recognition and always with risk. When hardship strikes, CPOF is there to ensure they are not facing it alone.

Because when the phone rings, it's not just a call.

It's a call to action.





Catastrophic

Standing with the Hobia-Pavliska Family

When Correctional Counselor Maria Hobia-Pavliska of the Federal Transfer Center in Oklahoma City reached out to the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation, her family was facing one of life's most difficult challenges.

In September 2025, Maria's wife, Brandi, was diagnosed with breast cancer. In an instant, everything changed. Plans were replaced with appointments, and the future became filled with uncertainty no family is ever prepared to face. Like so many correctional families, they met that moment with strength, but they did not have to face it alone.

Through the Foundation's Catastrophic Assistance Program, CPOF stepped in during this critical time, providing support to help ease the financial burden as Brandi prepared for surgery and ongoing treatment. In doing so, the Foundation helped lift just enough of the weight so the family could focus on what mattered most—her health and their time together.

At home, Maria and Brandi were raising five children, Mackenzie (12), Brayson (11), Ezra (9), Riley (8), and Landon (6). Through it all, their focus remained the same: protecting their children from the full weight of the situation while quietly carrying it themselves. As the holidays approached, the challenges of balancing treatment, family life, and financial strain became even more significant. During that time, the support they received was more than assistance, it was reassurance.

It was a reminder that their corrections family stood beside them.

And then came the moment they had been fighting toward.

On January 19, 2026, Brandi rang the bell, officially cancer-free. A moment that represented months of fear, resilience, and unwavering hope, now replaced with relief, joy, and the promise of moving forward.

Reflecting on their journey, Maria shared:

"The amount of care and compassion CPOF showed my family was truly amazing. I was absolutely taken aback by everything that was done for us. The amount of appreciation I have for CPOF cannot be expressed enough. I was truly humbled by this experience and will forever be grateful for the outpouring of love and support."

The story of the Hobia-Pavliska family is one of resilience, love, and the strength found within the corrections community. It is also a powerful reminder of why the Catastrophic Assistance Program exists—not just to provide financial support, but to stand in the gap during life's most challenging moments.

Stories like this happen every day, often quietly, behind the scenes, but they are the very reason the Foundation exists. Because when one family faces the unimaginable, an entire community stands behind them.

Taking Care of Our Own.



Catastrophic Assistance at a Glance

Over 35,000 correctional professionals assisted nationwide

More than \$24.5 million distributed in support

Assistance for:

Medical crises

House fires

Natural disasters

Line-of-duty injuries

Unexpected hardships

Every dollar of catastrophic assistance comes from correctional professionals supporting one another.

Monthly contributions, no matter the amount, make it possible to respond when the call comes.

CATASTROPHIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Behind the Scenes



Lt. John Scheidt of the Central Florida Reception Center with the Florida Department of Corrections faced a long and difficult journey alongside his wife, Kimberly, whose strength and compassion touched everyone around her. Throughout it all, the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation stood beside their family—something he remains deeply grateful for. Pictured left to right: Major Michael Silba, Major Michael Redfern, Lt. John Scheidt, Assistant Warden PJ Catalano, and Major Gerald Miller.

When the phone rings at the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation, it is often because someone in the corrections family is facing one of the most difficult moments of their life. On the other end are two individuals who help carry that burden—Catastrophic Coordinators Stephanie Barone and Christina Labio.

Between them, Stephanie and Christina represent decades of service, compassion, and institutional knowledge. Stephanie began her career with CPOF in 1999, building a nationwide network of relationships with wardens, administrators, human resources representatives, field representatives, and volunteers. These connections are critical—ensuring that when a need arises, it is recognized quickly and support can be set in motion without delay. With their help, Stephanie has assisted more than 15,000 correctional professionals across the country, navigating each case with care, urgency, and attention to detail.

Christina's journey with CPOF began in 2000, when she worked part-time with the Foundation while also supporting Crime Victims United, two organizations united by a shared commitment to service and advocacy. By 2001, she joined CPOF full-time and has since become both a Catastrophic Coordinator and Survivor Services Manager. In that role, she is often the first voice families hear in their most difficult moments, offering not only guidance, but compassion and reassurance during times of uncertainty. "I enjoy building relationships with my families," she shares. "Even a small check can make a big impact, and when times are really hard, they look to me for comfort."

While Stephanie and Christina serve as the hub of the program, the reach of the Catastrophic Assistance Program extends far beyond the office. Field Representatives and volunteers play a vital role on the front lines, identifying needs within their facilities, helping staff navigate the process, gathering documentation, and often being the trusted voice that encourages someone to ask for help in the first place. They are the bridge between the Foundation and the membership, ensuring that no call for help goes unheard and no family is left without support.

Catastrophic assistance comes in many forms, support following house fires, medical crises, natural disasters, line-of-duty injuries, and other unexpected hardships that place an immediate strain on correctional staff and their families. In many cases, the process begins with someone simply recognizing a need. A request is submitted, often by a field representative, volunteer, or human resources staff member, along with basic documentation. From there, the coordinators work quickly to review the information and move assistance forward, ensuring support reaches families without unnecessary delays.

Together, this network of coordinators, field representatives, volunteers, and institutional partners has helped provide assistance to more than 35,000 correctional professionals nationwide, delivering over \$24.5 million in support. Every dollar of assistance is made possible by correctional professionals across the country, individuals who choose to give each month so that when the call comes, help is already on the way. While the numbers are significant, it is the individual lives behind them that define the true impact of the program.

Yet one of the greatest challenges isn't the ability to help—it's making sure people know that help exists. "I wish more people knew when someone in their prison or area was helped," Christina explains. "Even though we can't always share those stories without permission, I think more people would feel comfortable asking for help if they knew their coworkers were being supported. I just wish more people knew that it's okay to ask. Everyone is struggling with something different."

The stories shared throughout this issue reflect the real impact of this program, each one made possible by the work happening behind the scenes every day. It's more than a program, it's a promise to stand together.

Because behind every call, every case, and every check issued, there is a team, and a community, ready to respond.

Taking Care of Our Own.

CPOF FIELD REPS

Across the country, in facilities large and small, at conferences, academies, and roll calls, the mission of the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation is carried forward by a dedicated network of individuals who bring Taking Care of Our Own to life every single day.

These are our Field Representatives, Senior Field Representatives, and volunteers—the face of CPOF in the field.

They are often the first introduction someone has to the Foundation. They are the ones shaking hands in briefing rooms, answering questions in hallways, setting up tables at events, and building relationships that last far beyond a single visit. But more importantly, they are the ones who make sure that when something happens—when the unthinkable becomes reality—no one has to face it alone.

More Than Outreach—A Lifeline

Field Representatives do far more than grow membership. They build trust.

They become a familiar presence within facilities, someone staff know they can turn to when they have questions, need support, or simply need someone who understands. When a catastrophic event occurs, it is often a Field Representative who makes the first call, gathers information, and helps initiate support through the Foundation.

They stand beside staff and families during some of the most difficult moments of their lives, quietly, respectfully, and without hesitation.

Leadership in Action: Senior Field Representatives

As the Foundation has grown, so has the need for leadership in the field. The development of the Senior Field Representative program has strengthened our ability to expand our reach while maintaining the personal connection that defines CPOF.

Senior Field Representatives serve as mentors, leaders, and strategic partners. They help

guide outreach efforts, support newer representatives, and work to ensure consistency in how we engage with facilities and staff across their regions.

They play a critical role in identifying opportunities, strengthening relationships, and helping to grow the Foundation in meaningful and sustainable ways. Their experience and leadership allow CPOF to continue evolving while staying grounded in its mission.

The Power of Volunteers

Alongside our Field Representatives are the volunteers—correctional professionals who step forward within their own facilities to support the Foundation.

These individuals are often the bridge between CPOF and their coworkers. They help share information, distribute materials, and encourage others to become part of something bigger than themselves. They are trusted voices within their facilities, and their impact cannot be overstated.

Many of our strongest programs and most meaningful connections begin with a volunteer who simply wanted to make a difference.

A Nationwide Effort, A Shared Mission

From coast to coast, this network works together with a shared purpose: to ensure that every correctional professional knows that support is there when it is needed most.

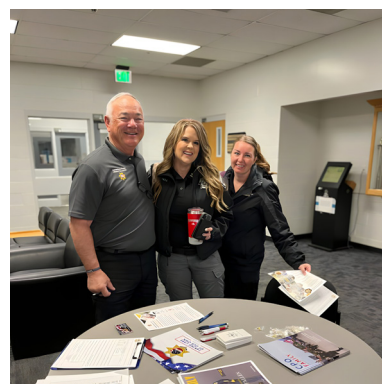
Whether it's a conversation in a break room, a presentation at an academy, or standing beside a family during a time of crisis, our Field Representatives, Senior Field Representatives, and volunteers embody what CPOF stands for.

They remind us that this Foundation is not just an organization—it is a community.

And because of them, Taking Care of Our Own is not just a mission statement.

It is a promise kept every single day.

In the Field: The Heart of CPOF in Action



Interested in becoming a volunteer in your community?
Visit CPOF.org for more information

CPOF in Florida



Standing with Sergeant LaGrandeur After Devastating House Fire

The Correctional Peace Officers Foundation is proud to stand beside Sergeant Leslie LaGrandeur of the South Florida Reception Center and his family following a devastating house fire that claimed their home and all of their belongings.

On December 19, 2025, Sergeant LaGrandeur, his wife, and their two children lost everything when a fire destroyed their residence—forcing them to begin again from the ground up.

In response, CPOF provided financial assistance to help ease the immediate burden. With a verified fire report and recommendation on file, support was coordinated through institutional leadership, with a check issued to Warden Acosta on their behalf.

Sergeant LaGrandeur has dedicated his career to serving others, and in this time of need, we are honored to support him. Through the strength of our membership, we respond when it matters most—ensuring our correctional family is never alone.



Standing with Officer Armstrong during cancer

When a member of our corrections family faces one of life's most difficult battles, the CPOF stands ready to answer the call.

Correctional Officer Armstrong of Okaloosa County, Florida, is undergoing cancer treatment, traveling nearly 54 miles each way while balancing life as a wife and mother of two.

After learning of her situation, CPOF moved quickly to review her case and provide catastrophic assistance to help ease the burden on her family.

Even in the midst of her own fight, the spirit of service continues. On May 16, Santa Rosa Jeeps hosted a community event benefiting CPOF in support of corrections and law enforcement. We look forward to sharing highlights and the impact of this event in an upcoming publication and on our website.

As Officer Armstrong continues her treatment, we stand with her and her family, sending strength and hope for healing.

To Those We've Lost

In Loving Memory of Sarah Louise Haynes

It is with profound sadness that the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation announces the passing of Sarah Louise Haynes, a former Field Representative and devoted mother of Correctional Case Manager Bonita Haynes, who was killed in the line of duty in 1996 and honored at PROJECT 2000.

Sarah will be remembered for her warm spirit, unwavering faith, and her deep devotion to her daughter's memory and the correctional community. Her life was one of quiet strength, grounded in service and guided by an enduring love for her family.

Through the years, Sarah carried Bonita's legacy with dignity and pride, remaining a source of compassion and resilience to all who knew her.

Sarah is survived by her son Brian and his family, along with her loving sisters and grandchildren.

Sarah's presence will be deeply missed, but her legacy will live on. We honor you, Sarah, and we continue to honor Bonita, always.



In Loving Memory of Linda Dizmon

On January 13, 2026, Linda Ruth Dizmon passed peacefully, surrounded by her family, leaving behind a legacy of love and service.

A devoted supporter of the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation since its earliest days, Linda stood beside her husband, Steve Dizmon—a founder and the first Commander of the CPOF National Honor Guard—as both a proud spouse and a valued member of the Honor Guard family.

Linda will be remembered for her kindness and the lasting impact she made on all who knew her. She will be deeply missed, and her legacy will live on within the CPOF family.

Rest in peace, Linda. You'll always be a part of the CPOF family. Rest in peace, Linda. You will always be part of the CPOF family.



What to do if someone needs help

In your facility



In this profession, we are trained to respond. We respond to emergencies, to crises, to situations that demand immediate action. But when the call comes that one of our own needs help, whether it's a catastrophic event, serious illness, or unexpected tragedy, many don't know where to start.

At the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation, the answer is simple: You don't have to figure it out alone.

Recognizing When Help Is Needed

Sometimes the need is immediate, a house fire, medical emergency, or loss of a loved one. Other times, it's quieter, a coworker facing recovery, a family navigating a diagnosis, or someone struggling through uncertainty.

If you find yourself asking, "Is this something CPOF can help with?" the answer is almost always yes.

Step One: Reach Out

The most important step is the first one: reach out.

You can contact your local Field Representative, a CPOF volunteer, or the CPOF office directly. You don't need all the answers or details, just making the connection allows us to begin helping.

Step Two: Let Us Walk With You

Once contacted, our team works quickly and compassionately to understand the situation. We coordinate with trusted contacts, gather necessary information, and determine how best to provide support.

Every case is handled with care, respect, and confidentiality. Our goal is not just to assist, but to stand beside you.

Step Three: Support in Action

Through our Catastrophic Assistance Program, CPOF provides financial support to help ease the burden during times of crisis. This is made possible through the strength

of our membership, correctional professionals supporting one another.

But support goes beyond financial assistance. It's the check-ins, the guidance, and the reassurance that no one is facing hardship alone.

A Community That Shows Up

Time and again, we see the corrections community come together, coworkers rallying, facilities supporting one another, and families lifted up in times of need. It's a powerful reminder of what this profession represents.

You Are Not Alone

If you or someone you know needs help, don't wait. Make the call. Start the conversation. Reach out.

Because through CPOF, we never have to face life's hardest moments alone.

To request assistance or learn more, visit www.cpodf.org or contact your local Field Representative.

Standing with Sergeant Jerison Lamb

On September 30, 2024, what began as a normal day for Correctional Sergeant Jerison Lamb of California State Prison, Sacramento, quickly turned into a life-altering moment

After waking from a nap, Officer Lamb realized he could no longer see. His wife, Kylie, rushed him to the hospital, where doctors discovered a grade 4 brain tumor, later confirmed to be Stage 4 Glioblastoma, an aggressive and life-threatening form of cancer. In an instant, everything changed

At the time of his diagnosis, Jerison and Kylie were preparing to welcome a new baby into their family. With Kylie on maternity leave and their growing household, including Gunner (11), twins Jace and Ryder (9), and their newborn son—the uncertainty of Jerison’s condition brought challenges no family should have to face alone

Jerison underwent surgery to remove a tumor described as

being the size of a golf ball

Following surgery, he began an intensive treatment plan that includes radiation, chemotherapy, and electrotherapy, with months of recovery still ahead. The physical, emotional, and financial toll of this journey has been significant, but so has the strength surrounding them

As word of Jerison’s condition spread throughout CSP Sacramento and the surrounding corrections community, his fellow officers did what correctional professionals always do, they stepped up. A membership drive was organized in his honor, bringing staff together to support one of their own

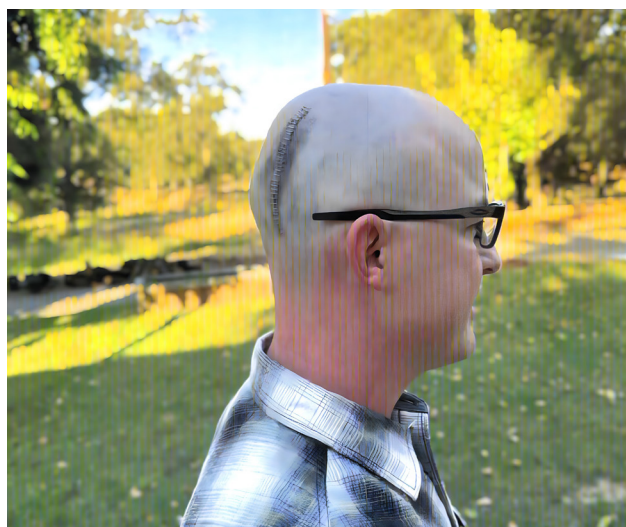
Through the generosity of his colleagues and the strength of the corrections family, the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation was able to provide catastrophic assistance to the Lamb family during this incredibly difficult time. This support helps ease the financial burden,

allowing the family to focus on what matters most, Jerison’s treatment and their time together

Jerison’s story is a powerful reminder of why the Foundation exists. It reflects the reality that in this profession, we are more than coworkers—we are family. When tragedy strikes, correctional professionals come together, ensuring that no one stands alone. In a message shared by the Lamb family, they expressed their gratitude:

“We are deeply grateful for the outpouring of love, prayers, and support you’ve given during this challenging time. Your generosity and kindness have provided us with strength and comfort when we need it most. As we move forward, we will carry the resilience and hope that you all have given us.

Through the support of its members, CPOF continues to stand beside correctional professionals and their families, when they need it most.





The Power of Membership

Join the mission. Stand with your fellow officers.
Become a member at www.cpod.org

For many, membership starts as a simple decision.

A form filled out.
A payroll deduction.
A small monthly contribution.

It may not feel like much in the moment.

But the truth is—membership is one of the most powerful things we have.

Because behind every membership is a promise.

The Call No One Expects

In this profession, there are moments that change everything.

Sometimes the call comes from a family who has just lost everything in a house fire.

Sometimes it comes after a devastating medical diagnosis. Sometimes it comes when a correctional professional is suddenly unable to work, unsure of what comes next.

And sometimes... it's a call no one is ever prepared for.

At the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation, those calls are answered every single day.

Not by chance.
Not by luck.

But because of membership.

What Membership Really Means

Membership is not just about receiving a benefit.

It's about making sure that when that call comes—whether it's for you, your partner, or someone you've never met—there is an answer on the other end.

It's about knowing that in a profession where so much is asked of you, there is an organization built to stand beside you when it matters most.

Because the reality is, the job doesn't end when the shift ends.

Life happens outside the walls. And when it does, the impact can be just as overwhelming.

Strength in Numbers, Power in Purpose

Individually, a single membership may feel small.

But together, they create something extraordinary.

They create the ability to respond quickly.

To provide support without hesitation.

To stand beside families during the most difficult moments of their lives.

Every membership strengthens that ability.

Every membership expands

that reach.

Every membership ensures that no one is left behind.

More Than Support—A Community

One of the most powerful parts of membership is what happens beyond the Foundation.

It's the coworker who signs up because they saw someone helped.

It's the facility that rallies together during a membership drive.

It's the quiet understanding that we take care of our own.

Membership connects correctional professionals across the country—many of whom may never meet—but who are bound by a shared commitment to one another.

A Promise That Matters

At its core, membership is simple.

It is a decision to stand with others. To be part of something bigger than yourself. To ensure that when the unthinkable happens, no one has to face it alone.

Because one day, the call may come.

And when it does, membership is what ensures that someone is there to answer.

A YEAR OF IMPACT. A MISSION IN MOTION.

CPOF By the Numbers

Numbers can tell a story.

But behind every number is something far more powerful, a person, a family, a moment when help was needed and support was there.

In 2025, the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation continued its mission of Taking Care of Our Own, and the impact can be seen not just in what we did—but in who we stood beside.

\$1.1 Million in Catastrophic Assistance

In moments of crisis, time matters.

In 2025, CPOF provided more than \$1.1 million in catastrophic assistance to correctional professionals and their families facing life-changing events. These are the moments no one plans for—house fires, medical emergencies, unexpected tragedies.

Because of membership, help was there when it mattered most.

8,500+ New Members

Every new member strengthens the Foundation.

With more than 8,500 new members joining in 2025, our network of support continues to grow. Each membership represents a commitment, not just to oneself, but to every correctional

professional across the country.

Together, those individual decisions create a nationwide safety net.

400+ Scholarships Awarded – \$210,000 Invested in the Future

Supporting our own means supporting families, too.

In 2025, CPOF awarded more than 400 scholarships totaling \$210,000, helping students pursue their education and build their futures. These scholarships are more than financial assistance, they are a reflection of a community investing in the next generation.

Honoring Service and Sacrifice

At the heart of everything we do is remembrance and recognition.

5 Line-of-Duty Death families supported
12 fallen officers honored at PROJECT 2000
15 assault survivors recognized

Each number represents a story, of sacrifice, resilience, and the strength of the corrections community. At PROJECT 2000, we come together not just to remember, but to stand beside those forever impacted.

CPOF IN 2025: A YEAR OF IMPACT

Because of **YOU**, we made a difference.

 <p>\$1.1+ MILLION IN CATASTROPHIC ASSISTANCE</p>	 <p>8,500+ NEW MEMBERS STRENGTHENING OUR SUPPORT NETWORK</p>	 <p>400+ SCHOLARSHIPS \$210,000 AWARDED</p>
 <p>5 LINE of DUTY DEATH FAMILIES SUPPORTED</p>	 <p>12 FALLEN OFFICERS HONORED AT PROJECT 2000</p>	 <p>15 ASSAULT SURVIVORS HONORED AT PROJECT</p>



Correctional Peace Officers Foundation
"Taking Care of Our Own"

Stronger Than Ever

In 2025, CPOF continued to evolve.

Through updated policies and improved processes, we strengthened our ability to respond faster and more effectively. Because when someone needs help, every moment matters—and we are committed to being there without hesitation.

Looking Ahead to 2026

The mission continues.

As we move forward, we are focused on expanding our reach and strengthening our programs:

Growing our Field Representative and volunteer teams nationwide
 Launching the Steve Dizmon Training Center, elevating Honor Guard training and preserving tradition

Each step forward ensures that we remain ready to meet the needs of those we serve.

More Than Numbers

While these numbers reflect a year of impact, they represent something far greater.

They represent a correctional professional who didn't have to face a crisis alone.

A family who felt supported during their darkest days.

A community that continues to show up, time and time again.

Because at the end of the day, CPOF is not defined by numbers.

It is defined by people.

And because of you—we **made a difference.**

How to Connect with CPOF

Your Local Connection When It Matters Most

When something happens, whether it's a crisis, a question, or simply a desire to learn more, knowing where to turn can make all the difference.

At the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation, help is never far away.

A Call Away

If you or someone you know needs assistance, the first step is simple: reach out.

Our office team is here to guide you, answer questions, and help connect you to the resources you need. Whether you're inquiring about catastrophic assistance, membership, scholarships, or general information, you will always be met with compassion, professionalism, and a commitment to helping in any way we can.

CPOF
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Sacramento, CA 95834

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Website: www.cpof.org

Your Local Connection

Beyond the office, one of the greatest strengths of CPOF is our presence in the field.

Across the country, Field Representatives serve as a direct connection between correctional professionals and the Foundation. They are often a familiar face within facilities, someone who understands the challenges of the job and the importance of having support when it's needed most.

Field Representatives assist with:

- * Sharing information about CPOF programs
- * Answering membership questions
- * Coordinating outreach and presentations
- * Helping connect individuals and facilities with available

resources

But more than that, they build relationships. They are there not just when things are going well, but when they're not.

Finding Support Near You

No matter where you are, there is someone ready to help.

To find your nearest Field Representative or learn more about how to get connected, visit: www.cpof.org

You're Never Alone

In corrections, it's easy to feel like you have to handle things on your own.

CPOF exists to remind you that you don't.

Whether you need assistance, have a question, or simply want to learn more about how to get involved, reaching out is the first step, and it's one you never have to take alone.

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A Life of Service, A Legacy of Love

Honoring Georgia Field Representative Rose Williams



On December 22, 2025, the correctional community lost a remarkable leader, mentor, and friend with the passing of Field Representative Rose Marie Williams. Her life—spanning more than five decades of service—was defined by faith, strength, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to others.

Born on June 20, 1949, in Milledgeville, Rose was raised with a deep sense of responsibility and faith—values that guided her throughout a lifetime of service.

A Trailblazer in Corrections

Rose devoted 34 years to the Georgia Department of Corrections, retiring as a respected prison Warden. In a profession traditionally dominated by men, she broke barriers with professionalism, integrity, and quiet strength.

She continued her service for 17 years as a member of the Georgia Board of Corrections,

helping shape the future of corrections in Georgia.

In November 2025, she was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award—recognized by colleagues, wardens, and leaders who deeply respected her impact.

A Heart for People

While her career was extraordinary, Rose will be remembered most for her heart.

She never met a stranger. If you needed help, she was already on the way.

Known to family as “Marie” or “Ree,” she had a contagious smile, a joyful spirit, and a presence that lifted those around her. Family was everything to her, especially her daughter, Nikki Renée Renfroe, who she guided with strength, love, and unwavering support.

Her faith remained central throughout her life, reflected in her service at Greater Springfield Missionary Baptist Church,

where she gave generously of her time and compassion.

Serving Beyond the Badge

Even after retirement, Rose continued to serve as a Field Representative for the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation.

She played a vital role in supporting correctional staff and their families across Georgia—ensuring that no one faced hardship alone. Through her work, she strengthened CPOF’s mission and embodied the true meaning of Taking Care of Our Own.

A Lasting Legacy

Rose Williams lived a life of purpose—marked by service, leadership, and love.

Her legacy will endure in the lives she touched, the officers she mentored, and the families she supported.

She will forever remain a cherished part of the CPOF family.

Welcoming Our Newest National Directors

The Correctional Peace Officers Foundation is proud to announce the appointment of two outstanding leaders to our Board of Directors as National Directors. With decades of experience, proven leadership, and a shared commitment to Taking Care of Our Own, Patrick Gallaway and Gary Bell strengthen the Foundation's ability to support correctional professionals and their families nationwide.



Patrick Gallaway — Preserving History, Honoring Service

Patrick Gallaway of New York brings decades of dedication to the corrections profession, along with a deep commitment to honoring its history and those who have served.

Patrick began his career with the New York State Department of Corrections in 1994, serving 27 years across multiple facilities before retiring from Attica Correctional Facility.

His introduction to the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation came in 2010 during PROJECT 2000 in Buffalo. After witnessing the Foundation's impact on correctional officers and their families, he became committed to supporting its mission.

A respected member of the honor guard community, Patrick joined the CPOF National Honor Guard Team in 2021. He is also widely recognized for his dedication to preserving the history of the profession, particularly the legacy of the Attica Riots.

Patrick's leadership, historical knowledge, and passion for honoring service bring a unique and invaluable perspective to the Board as he steps into his role as National Director. For honoring those who have served bring a unique and invaluable perspective to the Board.

Gary Bell — A Legacy of Leadership and Innovation

With more than 23 years of service in corrections, Gary Bell's career reflects a steadfast commitment to leadership and service. He began in 2002 as a Correctional Officer with the Georgia Department of Corrections while also serving as an Infantryman in the Georgia Army National Guard, completing a combat tour in Iraq.

After earning his degree, Gary became a Probation Officer in the Towaliga Judicial Circuit, where he quickly rose through the Probation Tactical Team to serve as Assistant Commander and later Commander for the Central Region.

In 2012, Gary moved into a headquarters role managing statewide initiatives for both the Probation and Facility Divisions. He was instrumental in developing Veterans Dorms within Georgia prisons and became a founding member of the National Institute of Corrections Justice Involved Veterans Network.

He also played a key role in establishing the agency's Statewide Honor Guard Team in 2015. Today, he serves as Superintendent of State Offices South, overseeing the Communications Center, Emergency Management operations, and the Statewide Honor Guard Team.

A CPOF member since 2015, Gary attended his first PROJECT 2000 in 2016—an experience that strengthened his commitment to the Foundation's mission. As he steps into his role as National Director, he carries a guiding principle from the late Mrs. Rose Williams: "May the work I've done speak for me."



CATASTROPHIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Membership dollars at work



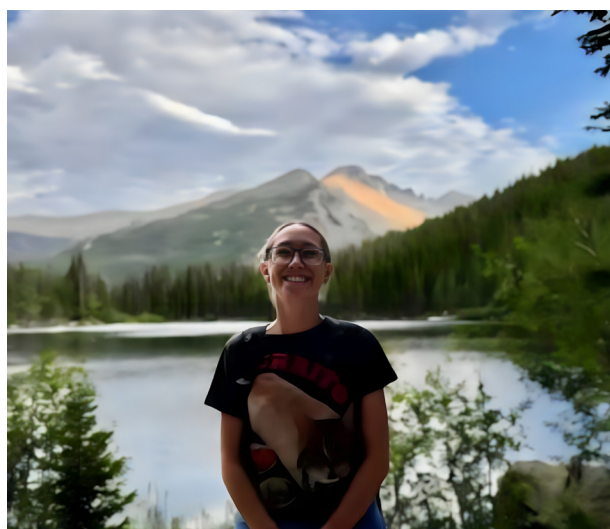
Tyger River Correctional Institution South Carolina

On April 5, 2026, the corrections community lost Sergeant David Eugene Holcombe of Tyger River Correctional Institution in South Carolina, who passed away suddenly at the age of 50 following a heart attack. A dedicated professional, devoted husband, and proud father, Sergeant Holcombe served with unwavering commitment throughout his career. In the wake of this loss, the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation was honored to provide catastrophic assistance to help ease the burden on his family, with a check presented to his wife, Donna, by Senior Field Representative Gary Evans, reflecting the strength and unity of the correctional community in times of need.



Sierra Conservation Center California

In December 2025, Correctional Officer Daniel Castro of Sierra Conservation Center in California was diagnosed with a brain tumor and underwent surgery on December 15, beginning a long and challenging road to recovery. As he faces months of disability, ongoing treatment, and mounting travel and medical expenses for care located far from home, the CPOF stepped in following his self-referral to provide financial assistance for medical and travel-related needs, ensuring that Daniel, his wife Adrienne, and their daughters, Arie and Milana, are supported during this difficult time and reminded they are not alone.



Nebraska Department of Correctional Services Reception and Treatment Center

On the night of October 22, 2025, Chad’s wife, Rachel, was involved in a sudden and tragic medical emergency. She was found unresponsive at home by their 12-year-old daughter. Lincoln Police Department and EMS responded immediately, performing CPR and rushing Rachel to the emergency room in critical condition.

Rachel was placed on life support and remained in the ICU for five days, having suffered severe brain injury due to the length of time she was non-responsive. Despite an incredibly brave and determined fight, Rachel was unable to overcome the extent of her injuries. On Sunday, October 26, 2025, surrounded by Chad, their children, and loved ones, the medical team pronounced Rachel brain dead, a moment that brought immeasurable heart-break to her family and all who knew her. Rachel was just 33 years old.

Through CPOF’s Catastrophic Assistance Program, support was provided to help Chad and his children during this incredibly difficult time. This request was referred by Autumn Hester and Jill Edelman, and we are grateful for those who help ensure families in crisis are connected with care. At CPOF, we know that when tragedy strikes, it truly takes a village. We are honored to stand with Lt. Backemeyer and his children, surrounding them with compassion, support, and the reminder that they are not alone.

The National Honor Guard Team

Honoring Service, Preserving Tradition

The Correctional Peace Officers Foundation National Honor Guard Team, led by Commander Raymond Gonsalves Jr., stands as a symbol of respect, precision, and unwavering dedication to the correctional profession. Made up of volunteers from across the country, the team is entrusted with one of the most sacred responsibilities, honoring those who have served and ensuring that no fallen officer or their family is ever forgotten.

Through countless hours of training and travel, Honor Guard members maintain the highest standards of ceremonial excellence. From presenting colors and performing 21-gun salutes to executing the solemn tradition of flag folding, each movement reflects discipline, pride, and deep respect for the profession. Their presence brings dignity and structure to moments of remembrance, offering comfort to families and fellow officers alike.

Beyond ceremonies, the Honor Guard Team plays a vital role in preserving the traditions and history of corrections. Through ongoing training and mentorship, they ensure that the customs and protocols of honor are carried forward to future generations. Whether at memorial services, PROJECT 2000, or community events, the team represents the very best of what it means to serve.

The CPOF National Honor Guard Team is more than a ceremonial unit, it is a living tribute to the strength, sacrifice, and unity of the correctional family.





Pipe and Drum Band

The Sound of Honor and Remembrance

The Correctional Peace Officers Foundation Pipe and Drum Band brings a powerful and timeless presence to moments of remembrance, honor, and unity within the correctional community. With the unmistakable sound of bagpipes and drums, the band helps create an atmosphere that is both solemn and deeply meaningful, honoring those who have served and those who have been lost.

Rooted in long-standing tradition, pipe and drum bands have been a part of ceremonial services across law enforcement, fire service, and the military for generations. Within CPOF, this tradition carries forward as a tribute to the strength and sacrifice of correctional professionals. Each performance reflects not only musical skill, but a deep respect for the profession and the families they serve.

Whether leading a procession, performing at memorial ceremonies, or standing alongside the Honor Guard during PROJECT 2000, the Pipe and Drum Band adds a layer of emotion that words alone cannot convey. Their music serves as both a tribute and a source of comfort, connecting past and present, and honoring the legacy of those who came before.

The CPOF Pipe and Drum Band is more than a musical unit—it is a voice of remembrance, tradition, and honor for the entire correctional family.



CPOF and Nebraska Standing Strong Together



On November 9, the corrections community in Nebraska demonstrated the true meaning of strength—both in spirit and in unity. The annual Nebraska Strongman Competition, held at Towers’ Frontier Harley-Davidson in Lincoln, selected the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation as the beneficiary of its 2025 event proceeds, raising \$700 in support of our mission.

The event was organized by Dillon Gartner, Recreation Specialist at the Reception and Treatment Center in Lincoln and a three-time “Nebraska’s Strongest Man” competitor. His leadership brought together athletes, supporters, and members of the corrections community for a day that went far beyond competition; creating an environment rooted in camaraderie, shared purpose, and support.

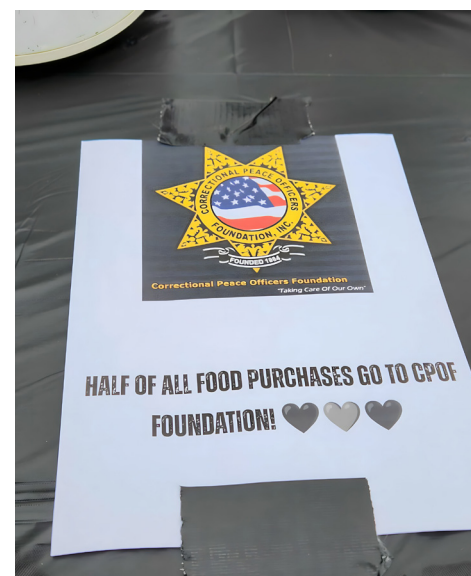
CPOF was proudly represented by volunteers Jill Edelman and National Honor Guard member David Edelman, whose presence helped connect attendees to the Foundation’s mission.

Throughout the day, they engaged with competitors and spectators alike—many of whom were corrections staff, family members, and supporters of the first responder community.

The competition featured dozens of athletes from across the state, showcasing impressive feats of strength, endurance, and determination. From heavy lifts to crowd-favorite events, the energy throughout the venue was electric. Attendees enjoyed great food, raffle prizes, and the opportunity to connect with others who understand the unique challenges and sacrifices of the profession.

Following the event, organizers shared their appreciation for the overwhelming support, noting the incredible turnout and the pride they felt in giving back to the correctional community. Their words echoed what was evident throughout the day—this was more than a competition; it was a powerful example of people coming together to support one another.

CPOF extends its sincere thanks to Dillon Gartner for selecting the Foundation as this year’s beneficiary, to the Nebraska Strongman community for their generosity, and to all who participated in making the event a success. Events like this not only raise funds, they build relationships, increase awareness, and highlight the strength found within our correctional family.





CORRECTIONAL PEACE OFFICERS FOUNDATION

★★★ *Honoring the Fallen. Supporting the Living.*

PROJECT 2000 **XXXVII**

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH
JUNE 11 - 14, 2026

Annual National Gathering for Correctional Professionals and Families

PROJECT 2000 is a four-day national event that brings together correctional professionals, families of the fallen, and survivors of serious assaults from across the country to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

The event also includes:

- National Memorial Ceremony honoring fallen correctional professionals
- Educational and leadership seminars
- Honor Guard presentations and ceremonial events
- 4 hosted meal functions

HOST HOTEL

HYATT REGENCY - SALT LAKE CITY

MEMORIAL CEREMONY

FRIDAY, JUNE 12 AT 10:00 A.M.

THIS IS THE PLACE HERITAGE PARK

**EVENTS WILL BE
LIVESTREAMED AT
CPOF.ORG**

www.cpof.org or 800-800-CPOF

Message from the Chair

“Whatever you are, be a good one”-Abraham Lincoln. This serves as a timeless, motivational reminder to strive for excellence, integrity, and quality in whatever role or job you hold.

As the CPOF Board Chair and a National Director, I understand those marching orders. The beliefs captured herein from Abe, coupled with CPOF’s mission of “Taking Care of Our Own, has served the foundation and corrections well. In my personal roles from a new correctional officer, and as I worked through the ranks to a retired correctional administrator with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, I fully adopt and hold these truths and the life’s work of our Five Founding Leaders as my creed, my purpose, and my mission.

I share these truths with correctional professionals across the United States and abroad, including the CPOF National Board of Directors who are currently represented by the great states of California, Kentucky, New York, Nevada, South Carolina, and Georgia; The CPOF National Honor Guard whose home states are situated from coast to coast and in between, and our Field Representatives, and volunteers from all over the nation. It is because of the hearts and souls of these heroes that the foundation has achieved sustainability, prosperity, and the ability to be present and serve, whenever and wherever duty calls.

The CPOF remains relevant and committed since 1984 because of the tireless, hard work, selfless dedication, and loyalty of the CPOF founding members, employees, volunteers, and membership. Belonging in corrections means being a part of something much greater than oneself. We are part of a law enforcement brotherhood and sisterhood

that is charged with having each other’s back, the fundamental duty to serve your community, and of course, showing up for each other during difficult times.

The idea of CPOF was boiling in the brilliant minds of a group of five young California Correctional Officers in the late 1970’s and early 1980’s. The purpose was driven by the realities of prison violence and line-of-duty deaths with limited resources for the widows, children, and extended correctional families left behind. CPOF achieved charitable 501c3 status in 1984.

If I may impart some wisdom, because that is what good partners do, get to know and understand the history of corrections in every state. In the early 70s & 80s, in just California, 20 correctional brothers and sisters lost their lives in the line of duty. That statistic is brutal and compounded by the fact that there were only 12 prisons in California during the time period.

Although CPOF was founded in California, the foundation and its mission serve and belong to every correctional professional in every state.

The purpose of CPOF remains today, to perpetuate the memory of correctional staff killed in the line of duty, provide assistance for their spouses and children, and to always promote and project a positive image of the correctional profession.

We invite you to be a part of the CPOF’s future by extending membership invitations which enables you to become a part of our national representation as we continue to preserve and support the surviving families of correctional staff who lost their lives in pursuit of their chosen profession, protecting the public from those remanded to correctional custody and supervision.



Chevi Amrein Chair

Chevi began her California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) career in 2003 as a Correctional Officer at High Desert State Prison (HDSP). Over the next two decades, she rose through the ranks, serving as a Correctional Sergeant, Correctional Counselor I and II, Correctional Captain, and Associate Warden.

A proud and active CPOF member since attending the California Basic Correctional Peace Officer Academy in 2003, Chevi’s membership was initiated by Char Corby (wife of founder Larry Corby), Carol Novey (wife of founder Don Novey), and Rachel Lee, longtime Administrator.

In addition to her career accomplishments, Chevi has dedicated more than 15 years to the joint Honor Guard Commander position for California Correctional Center and HDSP, leading with professionalism and compassion. In 2019, she received the Unit Citation at the CDCR Medal of Valor Ceremony for her extraordinary efforts assisting fellow officers and community members during the devastating Camp Fire. She has also been recognized by the Office of Victims and Survivor Rights for exemplary advocacy of victims’ rights.

As Chairman, Chevi brings the same empathy, strength, and purpose that have defined her career, continuing CPOF’s proud tradition of leadership rooted in service and humanity.



Correctional Peace Officers Foundation

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Taking Care of Our Own



Join our email list and stay up to date with CPOF year round!