

UNITING A WORLD
WITH OUR LIVING TRIBUTE
TO THOSE WHO DIED ON
9/11



GEAR UP
FOUNDATION
NEW YORK - LONDON



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A Federally Certified 501(c)3 Foundation

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**"A LIVING
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Gear Up Foundation is a Federally Certified 501(c) 3 non-profit organization founded by Vincent Forras in 2002 a first responder who served at Ground Zero after the 9/11 attacks dedicated to assisting and providing firefighters, first responders and children in developing countries with the tools, knowledge and support they need to save lives, as a tribute to those who died on 9-11.

Gear Up Foundation is comprised of supporters, firefighters, mentors, families and friends, who share and live its mission and vision each and every day. Together we project the most compassionate image of Solidarity, honor and generosity by training firefighters, in developing countries, to answer the call.

Moreover, we provide the tools needed to do the most noble and yet dangerous tasks of all, to save the lives of others By joining Gear Up Foundation, you will become a part of "A Living Tribute", animated by the spirit of the firefighter, but with a mission that is grander in

scope, a brotherhood that encourages understanding and harmony through the efforts of our participants and those who support us.

By supporting our dreams, you will be helping others in need and saving lives.

By becoming a mentor or a teacher of children and firefighters in developing countries, you will help to transcend the pain caused by the events of 9-11 and actually help to use those events to bring our world together rather than allowing ourselves to be torn apart.

By funding our programs, you will contribute to a noble cause and become part of the Gear Up Foundation family which has proven successful for our corporate sponsors time and time again across the globe in numerous locations. We truly believe that through helping others you can help yourself your community and as a corporation your bottom line, by giving your time, talent and treasure.



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MISSION STATEMENT

Gear Up is "A Living Tribute" dedicated to doing great deeds around the world in the name of those who perished on 9-11.

To help Ground Zero first responders cope and heal by involving them in our programs and by being a conduit for information and treatments that are available to them in the USA and elsewhere.

Acting as Ambassadors of goodwill spreading hope, harmony and encouraging brotherhood by bringing fire safety education to children along with fire fighting equipment and training to developing countries. Rescue the rescuers both here and around the world by incorporating them into our programs. Uniting the world with our living tribute to those who died on 9/11.

“ACTING AS AMBASSADORS OF GOODWILL AS WE BRING THE WORLD TOGETHER BECAUSE OF THE ATTACKS ON 9-11 THROUGH OUR NOBLE ACTIONS AROUND THE GLOBE”.

VISION STATEMENT

To perpetuate “A Living Tribute” by doing great deeds worldwide as a tribute to our loved ones who perished on 9-11. Providing fire education, training and equipment to children and firefighters in developing countries.

To encourage brotherhood and harmony amongst all peoples and nations through our efforts and those who support us.

Continue saving and inspiring lives as we act as a catalyst that will illuminate a path to true peace and understanding for others to follow exemplified by the bravery, initiative and passion that is represented by firefighters.



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GOALS PRESENT:

- Helping to heal those wounded first responders who faced 911 by utilizing their talents within the Gear Up mission.
- To bring information of the ongoing struggles faced by so many first responders into public view.
- Generating hope for the future in developing countries and fire departments by our actions and support.
- Expanding our Kids Programs Across the Globe
- Opening Our Programs to Troubled Youth/Gang Related El Salvador Project Jr. Firefighter
- Corporate & Government Partnerships to improve logistics Domestic, International presence and support at our events including

our Pearl Harbor Memorial.

- UK Office to handle European Operations & Latin American British Interest.

LONG TERM:

- Expand our mission to developing countries around the globe to include Nepal and yet to be determined regions outside Latin and South America.
- British Corporate and Government relations direction development through UK Branch
- Build Fire Academies, in developing countries, around the world.
- Help children in developing countries become better members of their community.
- Enlist corporations worldwide to support our mission.

“EVERY CALL IS A 9-11 TO A FIREFIGHTER WHEN YOU RESPOND WITH A WET T-SHIRT WRAPPED AROUND YOUR FACE AND SANDLES ON YOUR FEET, WE HAD TO HELP THESE BRAVE SOULS GEAR UP!”.



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Vincent Forras and Mayor Rudolph Giuliani at Ground Zero.



Vincent Forras' appearance on the Today Show. Ground Zero 9/11/06.



Vincent Forras speaking at the New York Mercantile Exchange



Gear Up Foundation's Ronald Naab and Alberto De La Rosa, graduating class, El Salvador



Vincent Forras shaking hands with President George W. Bush.



Commander J. Hofwolt & Daniel Rodriguez with V. Forras at Days Of Infamy Ceremony, Pearl Harbor, HI.



Vincent Forras standing in front of the twisted ruins left after the 9/11 attacks.



Vincent Forras with Mark Millington receiving symbolic set of gear for South America



American Tribute Flag honoring all those who died on September 11th & those who continue to die



Vincent Forras and Monica Carrera, Co-Founders Gear Up Foundation at Ground Zero 2010.



President Salvador Sanchez El Salvador, Ambassador Linda Cross and Fire Department Director Mayor Abner Hurtado.



Kids Fire Prevention Academy Ecuador 6500+ Graduates and counting.



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DAYS OF INFAMY, PEARL HARBOR ANNUAL CEREMONY.

Gear Up Foundation, created this event to honor those who answered the call on the "Two Dates That Live In Infamy", December 7th, 1941 & September 11th, 2001. These two days highlighted the best of what we are as a people as both military and first responders offered their lives to protect others. Our foundation has dedicated itself to honoring the memory of all those who answered and continue to answer the call and we look forward to growing this tradition at Pearl Harbor each and every year on September 11th.

In an exhibit to spotlight the linkage of these two seminal events The Museum at Pearl Harbor located at the site of the USS Bowfin honored our foundation and our mission with a display that included our American Tribute Flag, along side a custom designed hand painted firefighter's helmet that depicts the attacks of Pearl Harbor and September 11th beautifully displayed with tokens from Gear Up Foundation under a glass cover display. This is

the last display one sees as they exit the museum and leaves the guest with a better appreciation of how these two events are so closely linked and why we as a foundation have chosen to pay tribute to our warriors in the manner that we have done, at Pearl Harbor and on September 11th.

This display in support of our mission shows how each and every one of us can and should make a difference. Our mission continues to encourage togetherness inspired by the brotherhood of firefighters and our military brothers as we bring our world together because of these tragic events rather than allowing them to tear us apart. Our mission involves supporting projects in the United States as well as across the world all as a living tribute to loved ones lost as we turn tragedy into triumph. "UNITING A WORLD WITH OUR LIVING TRIBUTE TO THOSE WHO DIED ON 9-11.





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AMERICAN TRIBUTE FLAG

Our flag was personally created and designed by Artaid and our own team and carries the names of each and every individual that lost their life on that fateful day. Next to their name, is a symbol of their position, firefighter, police, civilian or aboard one of the planes. Additionally, we continue to honor those who bravely answered the call to service that day and continue to perish due to their illnesses caused by exposures to the many toxins at Ground Zero by adding their name to the “blue field” so that they are never forgotten.

We believe that this American Tribute Flag is a special honor and tribute that every American can proudly display at their home and any corporation can proudly attach their name to at many levels of sponsorship.



Our US Marines Proudly holding our American Tribute Flag while on Deployment in US Embassy Moscow, Russia.



Our American Tribute Flag being held and displayed by Brad Barker of Halocorp at Top of the World Nepal.



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AMERICAN TRIBUTE RIDE A Gear Up Foundation Event

Our motorcycle ride held the last Sunday of July in Wisconsin honors Firefighters, Law Enforcement, EMS & Military.

“The American Tribute Ride” allows Gear Up Foundation to disperse appropriate proceeds generated by this fund raising event to, but not limited to the following entities:

Concerns Of Police Survivors Camp [C.O.P.S. camp in East Troy]

Wisconsin’s Fischer House (Wounded Warriors)

Wisconsin State Firefighters Memorial

Airline Ambassador

The ride as is open to all participants that would like to help us support the first responders and military that protect us every day at home and abroad. Whether you ride 1,2,3,4 or more wheels, we encourage you to join us. Our ride pays tribute to all those who answer the call including our military and first responders. Hundreds of motorcycles thunder down the road all for a common cause.

More information is available: www.gearupfoundation.org or on Facebook. Follow our page, American Tribute Ride for more information.





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Co-Founder



Monica Carrera
Co-Founder & Director
Of International Relations



Paul Nelson
Chairman



Ronald J Naab
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Linda Cross
Director UK and Global
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Mark Millington
UK Operations Director



Peter Gold
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