



PORT CHESTER-RYE-RYE BROOK EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES Annual Fund Appeal

11/25/2020

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Each November we mail a letter seeking donations. This year our letter is a bit more profound. Please take a moment to read it through.

2020 began like any other year. Then in March our world changed. EMS began encountering scores of critically ill COVID patients. Many of our Paramedics and EMTs who worked EMS for decades related that for the first time in their careers they were afraid for themselves and their families. They feared bringing COVID home to elderly family members, spouses and children. Our crews went to calls wrapped in protective gear and after completing a call, they spent hours decontaminating themselves as well as the ambulances and equipment.

Hospitals set policies that prohibited family members from accompanying patients to the Emergency Rooms. There were occasions when we would encourage family members to take a moment to climb in the ambulance so they could speak with their loved one before we departed for the hospital. We did this knowing that the patient might be hospitalized for some time or possibly not survive their illness.

The impacts of COVID on our service didn't end when the "curve was flattened". Expenses for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), decontamination supplies, and payroll for staff overtime have depleted our budgets. An unanticipated impact of COVID has been a decrease in ambulance requests for "regular calls" such as heart attacks, asthma and strokes. This decreased call volume has caused our revenues to plummet. Insurance billing for ambulance calls makes up most of our revenue. Our other income sources are municipal allocations, the donations resulting from this letter and occasional grants. The municipalities cannot increase their support as they are facing a COVID financial crisis of their own.

This has been the toughest year in our history. For the first time in 25 years we are operating at a tremendous loss. **We ask that you respond to this letter by sending a donation to help us survive COVID.** We remain committed to providing high quality prehospital care and transportation to the residents of Port Chester, Rye, and Rye Brook.

Please know that your contribution of any amount has never meant more. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Scott Moore
EMS Administrator

Harriet K. Balter
Fund Drive Chairperson