



Washington Ambulance Association Annual Report

2017

109 Bee Brook Road - P.O. Box 294 - Washington Depot, CT 06794 - (860)868-7913 - www.washingtonambulance.org

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Deborah Griesbach
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Dear Friends and Neighbors,

2017 has been a busy and exciting year for Washington Ambulance Association! On February 15th we celebrated our 75th anniversary of volunteer service to the community. Although our mission remains the same as the day we were incorporated in 1942, the manner in which we operate and the care we render today is so very different.

3 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT WASHINGTON AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION TODAY

1

Our volunteer EMS are highly trained and adhere to the same quality standards as professional, paid responders. We follow protocols established by the state's Office of Emergency Medical Services and work under the direction of Medical Control. We are required to review mandated training annually and renew our certification every three years.

2

We DON'T send our patients a bill. Our service is completely free of charge. We are one of the last non-billing emergency ambulance services in Connecticut.

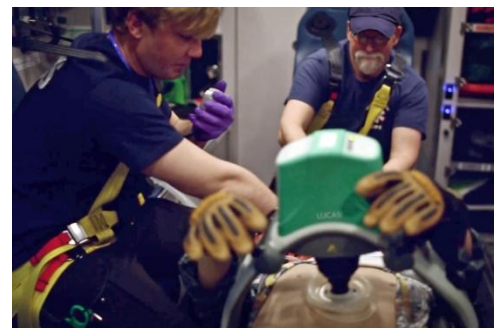
3

Approximately 98% of our budget and capital expenditures are funded by donations. We are grateful for the financial support from the community. We volunteer our time so the town of Washington will not have to bear the burden of meeting payroll for staffing a paid EMS crew. That would cost hundreds of thousands of dollars annually.



The BIG change in 2017 is our upgrade to a two ambulance service. In our 2016 Annual Report we wrote of our plan to maintain the two response vehicles for a one year trial. During the year we collected call data, tracked crew participation, studied the costs of upkeep, and reviewed replacement schedules. We found undeniable benefits to our corps and the community. With two ambulances we now are better equipped to handle simultaneous calls, incidents with multiple patients, standby events, and uninterrupted response should an ambulance be out for service/maintenance. The second ambulance has given everyone greater peace of mind. Our trial period has ended, and with the endorsement of our Board of Directors, we will proudly carry on as a two ambulance service. Our 2006 ambulance is identified as "A1" and our newer 4WD ambulance is "A2".

Our challenges now include securing sufficient funding for immediate investments in A1. We must standardize both ambulances to ensure the highest quality patient care and experience. It is also important to protect the health and safety of our volunteer crew members. Some manual equipment on A1 needs to be upgraded and new technology needs to be incorporated.



Recruitment and retention of volunteers is another challenge for Washington, as well as rural America. We are introducing a Juniors program to nurture our next generation of EMS. We have added new Instructors to our corps and we are very focused on providing a robust training program to keep all of our skills sharp, improve communication, and build teamwork. **"We strive to be at our best when you need us the most."**

75 YEARS

**HUNDREDS OF
VOLUNTEERS**

11 AMBULANCES

**664,225 HOURS /
27,676 DAYS ON-CALL**

**MORE THAN 11,200
DISPATCHES**

still going strong!

2016 ANNUAL APPEAL

Recognizing contributions made between April 1, 2016 and March 31,

HONORARY CREW (\$5,000 to \$9,999)

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2016 ANNUAL APPEAL

Recognizing contributions made between April 1, 2016 and March 31,

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IN HONOR OF

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Deborah Griesbach

Heidi Johnson

Hallie and Gretchen Meyer
Susan Kenny Nicholas

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IN MEMORY OF

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John Dwyer
Harry Kranner Fiss
George D. Fowler
Wallace Gray
John Hubbard

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Ronald A. Waldron
Bill Williams' Family

WE SALUTE OUR GENEROUS DONORS. THANK YOU!

*We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of this donor list for contributions made between April 1, 2016 and March 31, 2017.
We apologize for any errors. Please let us know about them by emailing info@washingtonambulance.org.*

Our impact in the community is of great importance to us. The majority of our crewmembers have lived in Washington for decades. It is our sincere desire to serve our neighbors in times of urgent need. When you ask any of us why we got involved in EMS you will likely hear, *"I want to make a difference in people's lives"*. We are here to help you. EMS is not a hobby or passing interest, it is a serious commitment we gladly make. We are humbled and touched by the kind words expressed by our patients and families we have responded to. Your gratitude gives us the strength to endure the stresses that all emergency responders face.



We help make Washington a HEART-Safe Community. We provide CPR/AED & First Aid Training to everyone interested. Our A.H.A. Instructors volunteer their time in teaching these life-saving skills. We set a goal to certify 75 neighbors in CPR to commemorate our 75th anniversary year. We are pleased to report we exceeded that goal and still have more classes planned in 2017! Are you ready to save a life?



Another of the many advantages to having two ambulances is the ability to designate one for standby events while still having an ambulance to respond to 911 calls. 2017 was a record year of standby events. We began in February with the Polar Bear Run on Lake Waramaug. We have had first responders and/or ambulances at 15 athletic competitions (games, regattas, races) and many community gatherings. Please stop by and say hello if you see us standing by at an event.

We love meet & greets! We had several visits over the past year and some jump out as our crew favorites: Brownie Troop 40226 came to headquarters in December of 2016 for a visit. Crew members reviewed safety tips and how to call 911. The debut of our Junior Fly Car "A3" was a huge hit! We concluded with a "pretend call" with girls rushing to a scene with EMS to see how we handle emergencies. In April we attended Shepaug's Career Fair. We were pleased to answer so many great questions and meet students with a genuine interest in EMS and volunteerism. In July we were featured at the Gunn Memorial Junior Library's "Build a Better World" program. We gave tours of the ambulance, held wacky races in EMS gear, and had driver training in A3. We love meeting with kids and inspiring the next generation of responders! Please contact us if you would like to arrange a visit.



Our plans for 2018 are continuing efforts to improve and grow. We are working hard to improve our response times for optimum outcomes. We want our patients to experience cutting edge care while feeling a small town touch. We hope to attract new members when we host an EMT Course in Washington next year. Do you have an interest in EMS? Please contact us, we will gladly meet with you, tour our ambulances, and provide insight on classes and certification. We will also add to our fleet in the spring of 2018 when we launch our EMS Bike Team.

How you can help us... Washington Ambulance Association is a non-profit 501(c)(3). Your donation is tax deductible to the extent allowable by law. We have a variety of recognition levels and greatly appreciate any financial support you can provide during this annual fund drive. You may choose to make a donation in memory of a loved one or in honor of a community member. There are other ways you can help us throughout the year. Washington Ambulance is looking forward again to Give Local. This high energy, 36 hour marathon of giving has had a huge impact on non-profits across the U.S. Please look for the Greater Waterbury & Litchfield Hills Give Local 2018 starting April 24th. We also participate in the Amazon.com program "Amazon Smile". Please select Washington Ambulance as the charitable organization you wish to support every time you make qualified purchases. Your contributions will make a difference.



Want to live a greener life? Please join our email list. We can send our annual appeal and newsletters to your inbox.
Contact us
info@washingtonambulance.org

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Thank you for taking the time to read our report and learn more about us!