

National Volunteer Fire Council

2021

ANNUAL REPORT

Celebrating 45 years of supporting the volunteer fire, EMS, and rescue services.



NVFC
NATIONAL VOLUNTEER FIRE COUNCIL
FIRE • EMS • RESCUE

45TH ANNIVERSARY 1976-2021



NVFC MISSION

To provide a unified voice for volunteer Fire/EMS organizations.

This Mission will be accomplished by:

- Representing the interests of the volunteer fire, emergency medical, or rescue organizations at the U.S. Congress and federal agencies
- Promoting the interests of the state and local organizations at the national level
- Promoting and providing education and training for the volunteer fire, emergency medical, or rescue organizations
- Providing representation on national standards setting committees and projects
- Gathering information from and disseminating information to the volunteer fire, emergency medical, or rescue organizations

Celebrating 45 years of supporting the volunteer fire, EMS, and rescue services.



LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) celebrated its 45th anniversary in 2021, and what a year it was. Certainly not the year anyone expected, but as life tends to have, it had its highs and lows and was filled with both happy and sad moments.

Our longtime CEO, Heather Schafer, passed away in March, which was a significant loss for our organization and the volunteer fire and emergency services. She is greatly missed, but we are thankful for the 27 years she devoted to the NVFC and our mission. We continue to carry on her legacy and vision in support of our nation's volunteer responders.

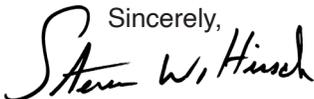
The pandemic raged on, claiming the lives of hundreds of firefighters and EMS providers and significantly impacting how we operate in our communities. Yet the fire and emergency services has pressed on, as has the NVFC. We've learned, adapted, and persevered so that we can be there for each other and the communities we serve.

Even in the face of tragedies, the NVFC had many things to celebrate in 2021. The year marked our 45th anniversary, and we are proud of all that we have been able to accomplish for the volunteer first responder community. As we look to the future, we will continue to be the voice of the volunteer and provide the needed resources, training, advocacy, and support to help our volunteers thrive.

We saw several legislative victories, including the passage of the Protecting America's First Responders Act and items in the American Rescue Plan Act that supported emergency responders. We released new training courses and resources, such as the Lavender Ribbon Report Update and the Firefighter Strong publication. We partnered with our corporate supporters to give away grants, gear and equipment, scholarships, and other necessities that benefited thousands of emergency responders.

And we were able to gather both virtually and in person for a host of NVFC events. These included our spring and fall board meetings, the Health and Safety Training Summit, a series of webinars, and our inaugural Recruitment and Retention Experience.

Reflecting on our 45 years as an organization, one thing remains constant – the NVFC was founded to support our nation's volunteer fire, EMS, and rescue personnel, that is what we have done, and that is what we will keep doing. The NVFC has been and always will be here for you.

Sincerely,


Steve Hirsch,
Chair

GOVERNANCE

The NVFC Board of Directors is made up of up to two directors each from 47 state fire associations. Officers are elected by the board for two-year terms. The Executive Committee is comprised of four officers, the chair of the Legislative Committee, the chair of the EMS/Rescue Section, and five NVFC directors elected by the board who serve two-year terms.

The board meets as a whole twice a year – once in the spring and once in the fall. The 2021 spring meeting was held virtually on April 19-23 while the fall meeting was held in Jackson, WY, on October 13-15.

Officers:



Chair
Steve Hirsch



1st Vice Chair
Kevin D. Quinn



2nd Vice Chair
Dallas Renfrew



Secretary/Treasurer
Jeff Cash

Executive Committee:

Paul Acosta
Jeff Cash
Robert Guthrie

Steve Hirsch
Brian McQueen
Bill Offerman

Eric Quinney
Dallas Renfrew
Robert Timko

Reid Vaughan

Committees:

- > Audit
- > Bylaws
- > Communication & Technology
- > Conference
- > Diversity & Inclusion
- > Executive
- > Finance
- > Hazmat Response
- > Health, Safety, and Training
- > Homeland Security
- > Legislative
- > Membership/Awards
- > Nominating
- > Recruitment and Retention
- > Standards & Codes

- > Volunteer Advocacy
- > Wildland

Sections

- > EMS/Rescue Section
- > Pandemic Response Task Force

Affiliated Organization

- > NVFC 21st Century Fund

The NVFC Board of Directors, taken at the fall meeting in Jackson, WY.



NVFC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Alabama Firefighter's Association

Larry Jarvis
C. Reid Vaughan

Alaska State Firefighters Association

Sara Garcia
Dorianne Sprehe

Arizona Fire Chiefs Association

Bobby Apodaca
Joseph DeWolf

Arkansas State Firefighters Association

Larry Brewer
Jim Gates

California State Firefighters' Association

Richard Brown
Eddie Sell

Colorado State Fire Fighters Association

Paul Acosta
Ken Wettstein

Connecticut State Firefighters Association

Lew Clark
Robert Guthrie

Delaware Volunteer Firefighter's Association

Willard "Bill" Betts

Florida Fire Chiefs' Association

Darian Brown
Tim Diamond

Georgia State Firefighters Association

David Bullard

Illinois Firefighters Association

Bill Offerman
Robert Reason

Indiana Volunteer Firefighters Association

Jack Kerney
Jean W. Smith

Iowa Firefighters Association

Roger Bissen
Marvin Trimble

Kansas State Firefighters Association

Steve Hirsch
Dan Romine

Kentucky Firefighter's Association

Greg Schultz
Pat Thompson

Louisiana State Firemen's Association

Guy Bonin
Kenn Fontenot

Maine State Federation of Firefighters

Ken Desmond
Joseph Guyotte

Maryland State Firemen's Association

Eric Bernard
David Lewis

Massachusetts Call/Volunteer Firefighters Association

Joseph Maruca

Michigan State Firemen's Association

Cliff Messing
Paul Wayco

Minnesota State Fire Department Association

Judy Thill
Dave Yurczyk

Mississippi Firefighter's Association

George Stevens
Jennifer Williams

Fire Fighters Association of Missouri

Rob Erdel
Keith Smith

Montana State Volunteer Firefighters Association

Jerry Brothers
Travis Walker

Nebraska State Volunteer Firefighters Association

Joel Cerny
Justin Scamehorn

Nevada State Firefighter's Association

Mike Heidemann
Steve McClintock

New Hampshire Association of Fire Chiefs

Charles Corey
Frank Fraitz!

New Jersey State Firemen's Association

Brian Foley
George Helfich, Sr.

Firemen's Association of the State of New York

Brian McQueen
Ken Pienkowski

North Carolina State Firefighters' Association

Tim Bradley
Jeff Cash

North Dakota Firefighter's Association

Allan Klein
Jim Moe

Ohio State Firefighters' Association

Timothy Adams
Rodger Sansom

Oklahoma State Firefighters Association

Cliff Davidson
Sheri Nickel

Oregon Volunteer Firefighters Association

Jason Servatius

Firefighters' Association of the State of Pennsylvania

Paul Lukus
Robert Timko

Rhode Island State Firefighters' League

John Lyman
Kevin Quinn

South Carolina State Firefighters' Association

Jack Kirlin
Brian Moon

South Dakota Firefighters Association

Charlie Kludt
Jeremy Walla

Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association

Barron Kennedy
Melvin Martin

State Firefighters' and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas

Dallas Renfrew
Tim Rutland

Utah State Firefighters' Association

Brent Marshall
Lance Nay

Vermont State Firefighters' Association

Robert Kilpeck
Bob Patterson

Virginia State Firefighters Association

Ken Brown
Steve Ennis

Washington State Fire Fighters' Association

T.J. Nedrow
Ron Roy

West Virginia State Firemen's Association

Thomas Miller

Wisconsin State Firefighters Association

Chris Klahn
Philip C. Stittleburg

Wyoming State Firemen's Association

Eric Quinney

FINANCES

Statement of Financial Position

As of December 31, 2021

Assets

Cash	\$ 572,593
Accounts Receivable	464,923
Other Current Assets	73,611
Investments	1,102,263
Fixed Assets, net	14,213
Other Long-Term Assets	12,442
Total Assets	\$ 2,240,045

Liabilities and Net Assets

Liabilities

Payables	\$ 94,209
Accrued Liabilities	54,691
Deferred Revenue	108,688
Total Liabilities	257,588

Net Assets

Without Donor Restrictions	1,754,030
With Donor Restrictions	228,427

Net Assets, Ending **1,982,457**

Total Liabilities and Net Assets
\$ 2,240,045

MEMBERSHIP

Membership

The NVFC ended 2021 with 26,516 members, including individuals, states, and corporations. Individual membership is just \$21 per year and comes with a variety of benefits, including:

- > All courses free in the NVFC Virtual Classroom
- > \$10,000 AD&D insurance policy
- > Access to the Volunteer Voices online member community
- > Educational discounts to online universities and fire service training
- > Eligibility to apply for members-only giveaways and scholarships
- > Discounts on various products and services from NVFC partners

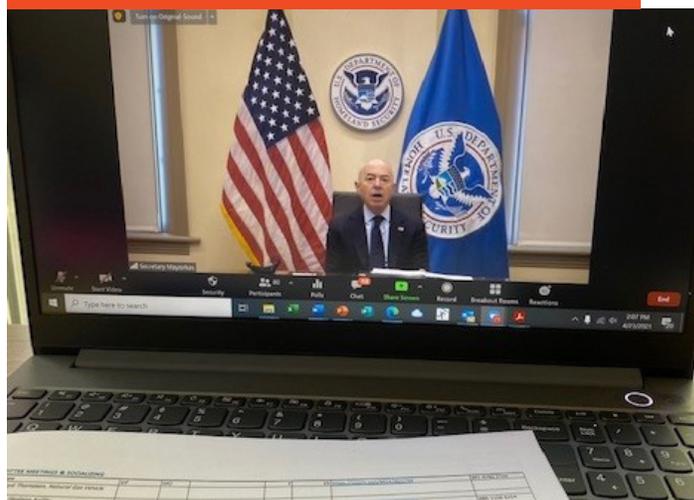
Learn more and join at www.nvfc.org/join.

The NVFC's online member community, Volunteer Voices, allows NVFC members to reach out directly to their peers from across the U.S. for input and friendly discussion. Members can ask questions as well as share ideas, best practices, and resources relevant to the volunteer fire and emergency services. An average of 110 posts are made in Volunteer Voices each month.

The NVFC celebrated its 45th anniversary in 2021.



Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas provided the keynote at the NVFC spring board meeting, which was held virtually in April.



ADVOCACY

The NVFC has representatives on 20 National Fire Protection Association standards-setting committees and represents the volunteer fire and emergency services on numerous national workgroups and task forces.

The NVFC advocates on Capitol Hill for legislation that will benefit the fire and emergency services. Members can also take action through the NVFC Legislative Action Center, an online tool that makes it easy to send letters to Congress in support of the NVFC's legislative priorities. In 2021, NVFC members sent 4,297 letters to Congress through the Legislative Action Center.

There were several legislative victories for the NVFC and the fire and emergency services in 2021.

> In January, President Biden issued two Executive Orders that directly addressed policy recommendations made by the NVFC. These were to waive the local cost share requirement on FEMA assistance through the end of the fiscal year and to invoke the Defense Production Act to fill PPE shortfalls.

- > The American Rescue Plan Act, signed into law in March, included \$200 million in FY 2021 funding for the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grants and \$100 million for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program. It also included language enabling ambulance services to be reimbursed by Medicare for treatment in place.
- > The Protecting America's First Responders Act was signed into law in November. The bill clarifies that fire police are public safety officers and eligible to receive Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB), makes it easier to qualify for PSOB Disability, and extends for two years a presumption that public safety officers who die from COVID-19 contracted the virus in the line of duty.

NVFC CEO Sarah Lee attended the signing of the Protecting America's First Responders Act in November.



NVFC director from Colorado Paul Acosta was featured in a story about the volunteer fire service on The Today Show in April 2021.



PROGRAMS

The NVFC administers groundbreaking programs and campaigns for the fire and emergency services.



Fire Corps™ helps fire and EMS departments enhance their services by engaging with community members to assist with non-emergency tasks, such as fire prevention education, administration, public relations, fundraising, incident pre-planning, and much more.

www.firecorps.org



The **Heart-Healthy Firefighter Program™** provides tools and resources to reduce heart attacks by helping responders focus on nutrition, fitness, and healthy lifestyle choices, as well as assists departments in starting and expanding a health and wellness program.

www.healthy-firefighter.org



The **Make Me A Firefighter™** campaign helps fire departments recruit and retain volunteers. It includes a department portal to advertise volunteer opportunities, customize recruitment materials, and access tools to assist in increasing department staffing. Potential volunteers can go to the public web site to find and apply for local volunteer opportunities.

www.MakeMeAFirefighter.org



The **National Junior Firefighter Program™** helps departments develop, grow, enhance, and promote a local junior firefighter program to foster the next generation of firefighters, garner new recruits, and provide youth with valuable life skills such as teamwork, leadership, responsibility, and commitment.

www.nvfc.org/juniors



The **Share the Load™** Program provides tools, resources, and training to help individuals and departments proactively address behavioral health and support our nation's emergency responders.

www.nvfc.org/help



The **Wildland Fire Assessment Program** is a joint effort by the U.S. Forest Service and the NVFC to provide fire service volunteers with training and resources to conduct safety assessments for homes located in the wildland-urban interface.

www.nvfc.org/wfap

RESOURCES

Recruitment and Retention

The Make Me A Firefighter campaign has 8,002 departments registered in the department portal at <https://portal.nvfc.org>, or 32% of volunteer and combination departments in the U.S. There are 4,549 volunteer opportunities posted through the campaign. Since the program launched, there have been 2.5 million clicks on opportunity listings and 25,517 volunteer applications completed through www.MakeMeAFirefighter.org.

The fifth issue of the *Firefighter Strong* newsletter was mailed to all U.S. volunteer and combination fire departments in August and is also available online. This edition focused on volunteer recruitment and retention, with articles providing tips, tools, resources, and best practices to increase fire department staffing.

Health and Safety

To better support mental health and wellbeing among firefighters and EMS providers, the NVFC released the *Psychologically Healthy Fire Departments: Implementation Toolkit* in January. This guide is designed to help fire service leaders better support their members and create a healthy, successful department. The toolkit is part of the Psychologically Healthy Fire Departments initiatives, which is a partnership between the NVFC, Firefighter Behavioral Health Alliance, and American Psychological Association.

In addition, the Directory of Behavioral Health Professionals continued to expand in 2021. By the end

of the year, there were 225 providers in 49 states and one Canadian province. These providers understand the unique concerns of emergency responders and are ready and equipped to help firefighters, EMS personnel, rescue workers, dispatchers, and their families with behavioral health issues.

The NVFC and International Association of Fire Chief's (IAFC) Volunteer and Combination Officers Section released the *Lavender Ribbon Report Update* in October. This supplement to the original Lavender Ribbon Report provides additional information, motivation, and ideas for implementing the 11 best practices for reducing exposure risks and preventing firefighter cancer.

The NVFC was awarded its sixteenth FP&S grant in 2021, which will enable the organization to continue to focus on critical health and safety issues impacting the fire and emergency medical services.

Volunteer Firefighter Support Fund

The NVFC Volunteer Firefighter Support Fund provides a \$350 stipend to eligible volunteer first responders whose homes have been damaged or destroyed by a state or federally declared disaster or home fire to help them meet basic needs in the aftermath of the disaster. \$5,950 in stipends were provided to 17 volunteer responders in 2021. Since the fund began in 2005, over \$756,000 has been distributed to volunteers in need.

The NVFC is working with a team of documentary filmmakers on a film about the volunteer fire service. John Deere is supporting the production. Look for it in 2022!



For the third year, Marc Warren completed a one-day, 100 percent human powered bike ride through the 150-mile Great Allegheny Passage to bring awareness to firefighter and EMS mental health. He raised \$4,000 for the NVFC's Share the Load program.

TRAINING

The NVFC Virtual Classroom contains 29 courses, and in 2021, there were 2,623 course registrations. There are also more than 60 recorded webinars in the Virtual Classroom. All courses are free to NVFC members and webinars are free to all. Select courses are available for CEUs. New courses added in 2021 include a course designed for families of first responders entitled “For Those Who Love a First Responder,” as well as courses on “Creating a Psychologically Healthy Fire Department” and “Your Role in Community Safety Education.”

In addition, 24 Train Strong webinars were held in 2021, with 2,674 live attendees.

The 2021 Health & Safety Training Summit was held virtually on May 21, with 211 attendees participating. Attendees chose from eight sessions that focused on

topics relating to responder health, safety, leadership, and volunteer staffing. The NVFC anticipates going back to an in-person format for the Summit in 2022.

The NVFC held the inaugural Recruitment & Retention Experience in Cleveland, OH, on September 17-18. This event brought together 100 members of the fire and emergency services from across the country to focus on critical staffing issues to help recruit and retain volunteer firefighters and EMS providers. Thanks to a SAFER grant, the NVFC was able to offer stipends to help many of the attendees with travel costs.

Motorola Solutions Foundation awarded a grant to the NVFC in 2021 to develop and provide health and safety training to the volunteer firefighter and EMS community.

The NVFC hosted its inaugural Recruitment and Retention Experience in September in Cleveland, OH, to address critical issues in volunteer fire and EMS department staffing.



PARTNERSHIPS

The NVFC routinely develops and implements partner programs with other organizations, agencies, and corporations to support local fire and EMS departments. Following are highlights from the 2021 partnership programs and initiatives.

ADT Partners in Protection

ADT worked with the NVFC to donate \$50,000 to volunteer fire departments in December. Five departments each received \$10,000 to make needed improvements and updates to benefit their members, increase their readiness to respond, and better serve the community. This is the fifth year ADT partnered with the NVFC for this holiday season giving program.

Anheuser-Busch Emergency Drinking Water Program

Anheuser-Busch partnered with the NVFC for the third year to provide emergency drinking water to keep firefighters hydrated during wildfires and other long incidents or disasters. In 2021, Anheuser-Busch donated 1,587,600 cans of water to 439 volunteer fire departments in 48 states. Since the program began in 2019, 4,873,344 cans of water have been delivered to 967 departments.

Brooks x Academy First Responder Collection

Academy Sports + Outdoors and Brooks teamed up to support people who keep the world running with the launch of a limited-edition Brooks x Academy First Responder shoe collection. For every purchase of the firefighter-themed shoes, a donation was made to the NVFC to support the frontline responders who serve our communities.

Cabot Creamery Co-operative

Cabot Creamery Co-operative partnered with the NVFC to recognize 250 volunteer responders for their service with a gift box from the farmers who own Cabot. In addition, Cabot donated cheese to fire departments to nourish their responders who are at the station for duty or training.

California Casualty Partnership

California Casualty partnered with the NVFC to promote their Safe & Secure Giveaway. Eligible responders could enter to win one of three Liberty Safes loaded with 5.11 gear.

CHEMTREC® HELP Awards

In honor of CHEMTREC's 50th anniversary, they increased the amount of CHEMTREC® HELP (Hazmat Emergencies Local Preparedness) Awards in 2021 to \$50,000. Five NVFC members were awarded \$10,000 each to bolster their departments' hazardous materials incident response capabilities and increase local readiness for hazmat events. Since the awards launched in 2019, \$85,000 have been donated to nine departments.

Columbia Southern University (CSU) Scholarships

Two NVFC members were awarded a scholarship to attend CSU. Each scholarship covers up to 60 hours towards one online degree program. Since the partnership began in 2009, 26 NVFC members have been awarded scholarships to achieve their educational goals.

DripDrop ORS Giveaway

DripDrop Hydration, in partnership with the NVFC, donated 200,000 sticks of its oral rehydration solution (ORS) to volunteer firefighters to help provide dehydration relief for wildfire and long incident response as well as extreme summer heat. This was the second year of the partnership, with 400,000 sticks donated since 2020.

FirstNet®, Built with AT&T Pandemic Supply Giveaway

To help volunteer fire and EMS departments obtain needed pandemic-related resources, FirstNet®, Built with AT&T partnered with the NVFC to provide \$900,000 worth of vinyl gloves, hand sanitizer, sanitizing wipes, and reusable face coverings to 107 departments.

General Motors Roadway Safety Grant

The NVFC received a grant from General Motors to focus on first responder roadway safety. The grant will allow the NVFC to conduct a public outreach campaign promoting slow down, move over messaging as well as promote traffic incident management and electric vehicle safety training to responders.

Intelgard Macaw® CAFS Backpack Giveaway

Intelgard awarded nine NVFC members with a Macaw® Backpack compressed air foam system (CAFS) and nozzle kit, five gallons of Knockdown® firefighting foam, and four gallons of EasyDECON® DF200. Each package is worth \$6,500.

PARTNERSHIPS

MSA and DuPont's Globe Gear Giveaway

MSA and DuPont's Globe Gear Giveaway marked its 10th year in 2021. Once again, 52 sets of turnout gear and 52 helmets were awarded to 13 volunteer or mostly volunteer departments in need. MSA also sponsored NVFC memberships for the first 500 applicants. Since the program began in 2012, 611 sets of gear and 156 helmets have been provided to 134 volunteer departments in need – totaling over \$1 million worth of gear.

MSA Cairns® XF1 Fire Helmet Giveaway

MSA also partnered with the NVFC in 2021 to give away three Cairns® XF1 Fire Helmets to NVFC members to help improve their safety.

Josh Cellars NVFC-Branded Bottle

Josh Cellars released a limited-edition, NVFC-branded bottle of Reserve Lodi Cabernet Sauvignon in 2021. A dollar from each bottle sold was donated to the NVFC for initiatives that support volunteer firefighters.

PHMSA Pipeline Response Toolkit

The Pipeline & Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) continued its partnership with the NVFC to promote the Fire Department Pipeline Response Emergency Planning & Preparedness (FD PREPP) Toolkit.

PHMSA awarded the NVFC a new grant in 2021 to support readiness for pipeline incident response and develop a corresponding training course.

Safety Stand Down

The NVFC annually partners with the IAFC Safety, Health, and Survival Section, National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), and Fire Department Safety Officers Association for Safety Stand Down. The 2021 event took place June 20-26 and focused on firefighter rehab. 30,124 visits were made to the Safety Stand Down web site and 3,707 people took the Safety Stand Down quiz. 200 quiz-takers were rewarded with a Safety Stand Down challenge coin, courtesy of the NFPA.

Small Town America Civic Volunteer Awards

The NVFC partnered with CivicPlus and other organizations to promote the Small Town America Civic Volunteer Awards. 100 local government volunteers, including firefighters and emergency responders, were recognized for their service and given a free CivicCMS web site to help with volunteer and recruitment efforts. In addition, a volunteer firefighter received the first-place award of \$20,000 for his community.

Taliaferro County (GA) Fire Department was one of the recipients of DripDrop ORS to keep their responders hydrated.



NVFC staff show off one of the firefighter themed shoes from the Brooks X Academy First Responder collection.



AWARDS

The NVFC annually recognizes excellence in the fire service through its achievement awards. The following awards were presented in 2021.

Lifetime Achievement Award

Sponsored by ADT

Ret. Asst. Chief Theodore “Ted” Schroll Jr. (CT)

Chief James P. Seavey Sr. Health and Wellness Leadership Award

Award co-sponsored by VFIS and Ward Diesel Filter Systems

Captain Robert “RJ” James (MD)

Junior Firefighter of the Year

Sponsored by California Casualty

Paige Davis (KS)

Junior Firefighter Program of the Year

Sponsored by California Casualty

Colonia Fire Department Explorer Program (NJ)

E. James Monihan Director Award

Sponsored by Provident

Thomas Miller (WV)



The NVFC presented the Lifetime Achievement, James P. Seavey Sr. Health & Wellness Leadership Award, Junior Firefighter of the Year Award, and E. James Monihan Director Award during a luncheon at the fall meeting in Jackson, WY. The Junior Firefighter Program of the Year award was presented locally so all members could attend.

CORPORATE MEMBERS

The NVFC is grateful for the support and partnership of our Corporate Members. Below are our Chairman's Club, Supporter, and Champion members. View the full list of corporate members at www.nvfc.org/corporatemembers.



CONTACT THE NVFC

The NVFC is here for you. Contact the office with any questions or to request information.

National Volunteer Fire Council

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Membership Manager

Alyssa Dara

Membership Coordinator

Laura Towers

Program Manager

Lori Shirley

Program Manager

Caroline Stachowiak

Program Coordinator

Maggie Mojab

JOIN THE NVFC

We've got your back. Join the NVFC and help support our initiatives while taking advantage of great benefits.
www.nvfc.org/join

This annual report is dedicated to the memory of
Heather Schafer, NVFC CEO.

