

https://www.bristolpress.com/news/hamzy-memorial-fund-donates-to-youth-programs-that-were-important-to-officer/article_83368306-b336-11ef-a650-eb335a3aa839.html

FEATURED

Hamzy memorial fund donates to youth programs that were important to officer

BRIAN M. JOHNSON @brianjohnsonBP
Dec 5, 2024



Bristol Police Chief Mark Morello, Gabi Hamzy, Rania Hamzy, Donna Hamzy, Katie Scott-Hamzy, Deputy Chief Robert Osborne, Deputy Chief Matt Moskowitz, Lieutenant Eric Hanson -Photo submitted by Samantha Rajotte, scholarship and program officer with the Main Street Community Foundation



BRISTOL – The Sergeant Alex Hamzy Memorial Fund at the Main Street Community Foundation has awarded its first two grants, which will support the Bristol Police Department’s youth cadet program and the Northeast Regional Law Enforcement Educational Association’s cadet training program.

The Bristol Police Department’s youth cadet program and NERLEEA’s cadet training program were each presented \$2,500 checks from the Sergeant Alex Hamzy Memorial Fund.

Several members of Hamzy’s family were present for the check presentations, which took place at the Bristol Police Department and the New Britain Police Department, for the NERLEEA grant. Samantha Rajotte, scholarship and program officer with the Main Street Community Foundation said that presentation was attended by a couple members of their police force as well as New Britain Alderman Robert Smedley.

“Last week we had the pleasure of presenting two grants from the Sergeant Alex Hamzy Memorial Fund at MSCF,” Samantha Rajotte, scholarship and program officer with the Main Street Community Foundation, said. “They were awarded to organizations and programs that were close to Alex’s heart.”

Rajotte explained that, as a donor-advised fund, grants from this fund are awarded to organizations at the recommendation of Hamzy’s family to causes that meant a lot to him.

Lt. Eric Hanson, of the Bristol Police Department, said Hamzy was passionate about teaching young adults the values they needed to succeed in serving their community. He was also passionate about mentoring those who wished to pursue a career in law enforcement.

“Anything involving kids was so important to Alex,” Hanson said. “He was at the forefront of all programs involving youth.”

Deputy Chief Robert Osborne said Hamzy was a longtime advisor of the City of Bristol Police Department’s youth cadet program. The program is for young men and women, ages 14 to 21, who are looking to experience policing through instruction, demonstration, and hands-on training.

“This grant will allow the cadets to attend a weeklong residential academy at Westfield State University, many of whom would not be able to attend otherwise due to financial reasons,” Osborne said. “Alex always participated in this academy and loved taking the cadets.”

The Northeast Regional Law Enforcement Educational Association provides education and opportunities to youth who are interested in pursuing a career in law enforcement, mostly through a series of training events.

“This grant will directly subsidize the cost of the Tactical Challenge, a competition that features various scenarios to test cadets’ skills and solve situations under stress,” NERLEEA Director Robert Smedley said. “Alex loved participating in this challenge.”

Smedley said the challenge has been renamed to honor the memory of Hamzy and Lt. Dustin Demonte, who were both killed in the line of duty during the ambush shooting on Oct. 12, 2022. Hamzy, who was 34, was an eight year veteran of the Bristol Police Department.

Susan Sadecki, president and CEO of the Main Street Community Foundation, said the two recipient organizations were “incredibly important” to Hamzy.

“These grants are so much more than just checks,” she said.

Rajotte said Hamzy “lived a life of accomplishments that reads more like a person who was decades older.”

“He always wanted to be a police officer and served his hometown of Bristol with dedication, conviction, and integrity,” she said. “To continue his legacy and honor his selfless service to his community, Alex’s family established the Sergeant Alex Hamzy Memorial Fund at Main Street Community Foundation in October 2022.”

Anyone interested in donating to the Sergeant Alex Hamzy Memorial Fund can donate online at mainstreetfoundation.org/sgt-alex-hamzy-memorial-fund, or they can send check donations to Main Street Community Foundation, P.O. Box 2702, Bristol, CT 06010.

Brian M. Johnson can be reached at 860-269-0822 or bjohnson@bristolpress.com.