

# Westchester B.L.U.E. Foundation



**Chairman**

**Retired Mt. Vernon Police Detective Matthew Frank**

Westchester B.L.U.E. Foundation; a non-profit, charitable organization, formed for the purpose of assisting police officers and their families in coping with the many stresses experienced during a career in law enforcement, specifically those who are dealing with PTSD and Cumulative Stress Disorder. The Westchester B.L.U.E. Foundation has also been a wonderful tool for departments as a whole, as they regularly conduct Crisis Intervention Stress Management and Group Crisis Intervention when an agency has experienced a traumatic loss or situation.

Detective Frank joined the City of Mt. Vernon Police Force in January, 1996. After serving three years in the Patrol Division, he was assigned to the Special Operations Division, where he served as a Police Officer-Investigator in the Department's Street Crime Unit. Subsequently, he was assigned to the Detective Division's Narcotics Unit, and promoted to Detective. After serving in that unit for a number of years, he was then assigned to the General Investigations Unit, and subsequently promoted to the Major Case Squad, where he investigated primarily Homicides and Kidnappings.

On April 19, 2006, Detective Frank was shot in the line of duty while attempting to question a suspect in relation to a recent homicide of a New York City landlord and businessman. Due to his injuries, Detective Frank was forced to retire from the job he loved.

After experiencing the overwhelming support of his fellow officers and their willingness to provide such support in his time of need, Detective Frank and WCPD Officer Joseph Kraus, started the Westchester B.L.U.E Foundation in the hopes of paying it forward and providing support to other officers in need with the help of co-workers, friends, family members of other members of service and those they have helped.

The Foundation has provided training in awareness of stress management, substance abuse, suicide prevention and counseling to various departments throughout Westchester as well as, recruits in the academy, and supervisors during their training. To date, the B.L.U.E Foundation has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for officers in need of financial support, as well as helped countless officers dealing with emotional, martial, and substance abuse among many other stresses they experience on a daily basis. The number one goal of the B.L.U.E Foundation is to provide an outlet for the men and women that answer the calls of their communities on a daily basis and make sure they know someone is always here to lean a hand and shoulder for them no matter the circumstance.