

Major Donors and Grants

Although gifts given annually through the annual appeal and the pancake breakfast receipts pay for most of the operational cost, we must depend on major donors and grants to fund special projects and pay a significant portion of the cost to replace capital items. Here is a list of the projects individuals, FEMA, Fresno County and foundations have helped us to do over the past few years:

Engine 62:

The purchase of a model year 2008 Type I Pierce fire engine was accomplished from funds from an anonymous foundation that contributed \$80,000 as a challenge grant towards the purchase of a new fire engine. The balance was raised from generous gifts from twelve Huntington Lake Families.



Rescue 62:



The purchase of a model year 2009, four wheel drive rescue (similar to a heavy duty ambulance!) was completely funded by a foundation which prefers to remain anonymous. This unit has greatly reduced pain and suffering for many since it has been placed in service, and in a few cases people are alive today that may not have been had we not been able to provide this service.

Station 262:

The second station, located on Line Creek at Camp La Salle, is the home of engine 262 during the summer and the water tender WT62 in the winter. This building was built as a joint use facility by the Camp La Salle staff. Funding was provided by gifts to the Camp from three Huntington Lake families, and additional funding was provided by the Christian Brothers. Rancheria Enterprises and Lakeshore donated equipment and services to make the project possible. A developer from Fresno, who wishes to remain anonymous contributed the services of three carpenters for several days to deck the roof, install fascias, and roof the building, high work that the Camp La Salle crew preferred not to do!

Water Tender 62:



The 2010 Water Tender, which replaced our old 1959 Tender, was purchased with funds from a grant from Southern California Edison (SCE) and the balance from the HLVFD apparatus fund. SCE agreed to donate \$100,000 towards the purchase of a new tender when they are issued an operating license extension. Chris O'berti, Maureen Barile of the Huntington Lake Association and Bob Leach of the fire department worked diligently over several years to secure the SCE grant.

Fire Boat 62:

The 24 foot fire boat was acquired through the generosity of the U.S. Navy and the Blue and Gold Fleet of San Francisco. This completely refurbished former Mare Island fire/police boat serves as a rescue craft for medical aids to the scout camps across the lake, and for boaters in trouble on the lake. Additionally, the boat has greatly assisted cabin owners in obtaining insurance, by providing an additional "unlimited" source of water in the event of a major fire. A separate grant from Fresno County paid for the deck gun, shown flowing in the photo to the right, and a fire pump capable of pumping water to fight fires on shore.



SCBA's and SCBA/SCUBA fill station:



A major grant of over \$50,000 from FEMA provided funding for the purchase on seven new self contained breathing apparatus' (SCBA's) for the department along with a high pressure compressor to re-fill them. Firefighters use SCBA's to enter smoke or dangerous chemical filled areas where breathing is impossible. Our former units were over 25 years old and no longer serviceable. Additionally, we had no way to re-fill our old unit locally, so we had to travel to Clovis in order to re-fill air bottles. This new system also allows us to re-fill high altitude under water air tanks (SCUBA) need for our high altitude dive team.

New Generation Fire Shelters:

The Nuveen Corporation granted the department \$5,000 for the purchase of new generation fire shelters. These metal coated insulated "pup tents" can make the difference between life and death for firefighters trapped near the flames. Referred to as "shake-n-bakes " by some, they are a requirement of all firefighting agencies. The slide show on the [Fire Emergencies page](#) shows Captain Ken Thompson of the USFS training with HLVFD deploying a practice shelter (For training we use a re-usable practice shelter rather than the one-time use foil covered fiberglass ones we would use in an actual emergency.)

Snowmobile and Rescue Boggin

The Christian Brothers, Lisa Coleman, and HLVFD's apparatus all contributed \$2,000 each to purchase this life saving apparatus. The large Artic Cat snowmobile is capable of towing very heavy loads and can work in difficult snow conditions. Towing the "rescue boggin" which carries a patient, EMT, and medical supplies our Snowmobile 62 (SN62) can make all the difference when someone is hurt and roads are inaccessible in

winter.



Generators and Sazalls:

Fresno County granted the department funds to buy two honda generators with 500 watt lamps and two "Sazalls" to facilitate night time rescues. Extended rescues and extrications at night call for good lighting. Huntington can be a very dark place at night and these generators, one each for engine 62 and 262, have greatly assisted us in helping people in trouble. Sazalls are a reciprocating saw, a kind of electric "hand saw" that can cut wood or metal quickly and can significantly reduce the time it takes to remove a patient from an automobile or quickly expose fires within walls.

Wild land Protective clothing (PPE):

New wildland protective clothing; helmets with shrouds, goggles, coats, pants, radio harnesses, and gloves were purchased with a grant from the Nuveen Corporation in 2009. Every member now has a full set of fire resistant clothing for fighting "vegetation fires". Our previous wildland PPE was a mix of obsolete, damaged used clothing donated by CAL FIRE. While most of the PPE we did have was sub-standard several members had no PPE at all! The grant from Nuveen has brought up to current State and Federal (NFPA) standards.

Lift Bags:

The Christian Brothers purchased a set of lift bags for the department. These two rubber mat-like devices which are 1" thick, can be filled with air and rise to a height of 12" and 17" respectively. Combined, these two bags can lift up to 50 tons! The bags can lift trees off injured people, lift cars and trucks to extricate people, and in one case we actually lifted a collapsed building enough to remove a patient.