

URGENT FUNDING REQUEST: FIREFIGHTERS FOR PATIENTS RESCUE VEHICLE: \$145,000



Contact:
Katie Murphy
Katie.Murphy@Rescue7.org

Contact:
Luke Rosen
Luke.Rosen@Rescue7.org

Table of Contents

1. Executive Snapshot: Why Act Now
2. A Story of a Rescue: When Every Second Counts for a Family in Need of physical support
3. The Problem: A Critical Gap in Emergency Response for Special Needs Populations
4. Our Solution: Specialized, Empathetic First Responders
 - 4.1 Who We Are: A Unique Blend of Professional Skill and Personal Experience
 - 4.2 What We Do: Targeted Support for Patients Requiring Heavy Medical Equipment, Movement Disorders, Dementia, Autism, and Rare Diseases
5. The Ask: Funding Our Lifeline—A Specialized Response Vehicle
 - 5.1 Detailed Budget: Where Your Contribution Goes
6. An Invitation to Impact Patients: Tangible Opportunities for Sponsorship
7. Join the Mission: Take Action Today

1. Executive Snapshot: Why Act Now

This is an urgent appeal to fund a specialized response vehicle that will serve as a lifeline for families with special needs members during crises. We are Rescue 7 Firefighters for Patients, and we go where standard emergency services cannot.

- **The Problem:** When disaster strikes, standard first responders are not equipped for the complex needs of our most vulnerable. They lack the specialized training to manage hidden medical crises or evacuate individuals with severe mobility challenges, often leaving families with special needs members stranded and without hope.
- **Our Unique Solution:** We are the **only task force of its kind**, a team of certified first responders who are also caregivers for special needs family members. This dual expertise, combining 60+ years of professional skill with lived experience, allows us to safely manage complex medical and behavioral needs that others can't.
- **The Funding Need:** We are seeking **\$145,000** to purchase and modify a single, mission-critical 4x4 response vehicle. This includes a heavy-duty truck chassis (\$95,000) and essential life-saving modifications like a powerchair lift system (\$50,000).
- **Your Immediate Impact:** Your contribution directly ensures that when a terrified family calls for help, we have the right equipment to say, **"Yes, we are coming to help."** It allows us to reach them, evacuate them safely, and prevent a crisis from becoming a tragedy.

We have the expertise and the team ready to deploy. All we need is the vehicle.

Contact us today to answer the call. Make an immediate impact on patients by visiting us online or emailing Katie.Murphy@Rescue7.org

Fund Our Lifeline and Take Action Today

2. A Story of a Rescue: When Every Second Counts for a Family in Need of physical support

The phone rang with the desperation I've come to know all too well. It was a family trapped by rising floodwaters in Tennessee. The power was out, their home was an island, and their loved one, entirely dependent on a 300-pound powerchair, was stranded on the second floor. The chair's battery was critically low; soon, he would be completely immobile in an active disaster zone. They had called for help, but no one was coming. They had lost all hope.

This is the call we exist to answer.

My name is Luke Rosen, and I am a Founding Partner of Rescue 7 Firefighters for Patients. When my team and I arrived, the reality of the situation was even worse than described. The yard was a muddy, knee-deep swamp. Our vehicle—a borrowed family SUV—was utterly useless. We had to leave it behind.

The most challenging moment came when my fellow first responder and I faced the powerchair itself. Getting it to safety was non-negotiable. We hoisted its immense weight, the metal frame digging into our shoulders, and began the grueling trek through the cold, murky water. Every step was a struggle against the mud that threatened to pull us down. With each foot forward, one thought dominated my mind: "If we had the right truck with a lift, we could have secured this person in minutes. Instead, we're risking everything just to move a piece of essential equipment. Thankfully because our own daughter uses a power chair, I was able to remove non essential pieces and adjust the harness to make the individual as comfortable as possible, while staying secure and safe ."

We were physically exhausted, but we succeeded. When we finally got the chair to dry land, the family was in tears. They couldn't believe we had gone to such lengths for them.

This rescue was a success, but it exposed a critical failure. We reached one family, but our inadequate equipment meant we were slower, less effective, and put our own team at risk. With a proper vehicle, we could have helped twice as many families that day. This story is not just about one family; it's about the countless others we are not reaching fast enough.

3. The Problem: A Critical Gap in Emergency Response for Special Needs Populations

When disaster strikes, the systems designed to protect us—local fire, police, and even federal agencies like FEMA—often fail our most vulnerable citizens. The hard truth is that standard emergency response is built for a population that doesn't exist: one without cognitive challenges, mobility limitations, or complex medical dependencies. This creates a dangerous and often tragic gap for families with special needs members.

The failure isn't one of intent; it's a failure of connection and specialized training. First responders are taught to manage a disaster scene, but they are not equipped to see the **hidden medical crises** within it. They may not recognize the silent panic of a non-verbal child, the profound disorientation of a person with Alzheimer's "sundowning" in a chaotic shelter, or the subtle signs of distress in an individual with a rare disease. This lack of understanding leads to devastating outcomes:

- **Families are told "we can't help you."** The logistics of evacuating a 300-pound powerchair or navigating the behavioral needs of someone with autism are deemed too complex or time-consuming in a crisis. This leaves families with an impossible choice: abandon their loved one or attempt a dangerous self-evacuation.
- **Patients are left behind or separated from caregivers.** During the chaos, individuals with special needs are frequently separated from the very people who can communicate their needs, leading to extreme distress and potential medical emergencies. Without a familiar caregiver, a person with dementia may wander and become lost, or a person with epilepsy may miss a critical dose of medication.
- **The psychological trauma is immense.** For a caregiver, hearing that help is not coming from the very people sworn to protect them is a profound betrayal that leads to a deep sense of isolation and hopelessness.

This is not a new or isolated problem. The systemic nature of this failure is well-documented:

Crisis & Population	Impact
Hurricane Katrina	A disproportionate number of fatalities occurred among the elderly and disabled. In Louisiana, 71% of the deceased were over 60.
National Preparedness	A 2019 government report found that 75% of individuals with disabilities felt their local emergency plans did not fully account for them.
Ongoing Risk	Over 6 million Americans live with Alzheimer's, many concentrated in disaster-prone states like Florida and Texas.

The current system is designed to rescue people from a flood, a fire, or a storm. It is not designed to rescue a person whose medical and emotional needs make them uniquely vulnerable *within* that disaster. That is the critical gap where families are abandoned. And that is the gap we fill.

4. Our Solution: Specialized, Empathetic First Responders

4.1 Who We Are: A Unique Blend of Professional Skill and Personal Experience

We are not just first responders; we are parents and caregivers. We are **Rescue 7 Firefighters for Patients**, and our **Special Needs Task Force** is the only one of its kind in the world. Our team's strength comes from a rare fusion of over **60 years of combined professional experience** and the deeply personal, lived reality of caring for family members with special needs.

This dual expertise is our defining characteristic. We are certified first responders, but we are also the parents who know firsthand the silent panic of a child with sensory issues or the urgent need for a specific medication that cannot be missed. We see what standard emergency services don't because we live it every day. Our guiding value is simple and absolute: **"No Family Left Behind."** We refuse to accept that a person's medical needs make them "too complicated" to rescue.

Our unique capabilities include:

- **Specialized Training:** Our members hold certifications in **crisis intervention and specialized patient handling**. We are trained in communication techniques for non-verbal individuals, allowing us to build trust where others cannot.
- **Deep Empathy in Action:** We know how to apply calming pressure to soothe a terrified teen with Angelman syndrome because we have children with similar sensory needs. When we find a patient separated from their caregiver, our first instinct is to look for the hidden emergency protocol letter that could prevent a life-threatening seizure—a lesson learned from our own families' experiences.
- **Navigating the Unseen:** We understand the nuances of conditions like dementia and autism. We know what "sundowning" looks like in a chaotic environment and how to compassionately engage a person who is "wandering." We know that a tremor isn't just a symptom; it's a challenge to holding on, and we know how to secure that person safely because we do it for our own children.

Most rescue teams are trained to get people out of a disaster zone. We are trained to get a person with epilepsy, who has just missed a dose of medication and is separated from their caregiver, to safety **and** to the pharmacy. This is not just a job for us. It is our community, and we are uniquely equipped to protect it.

4.2 What We Do: Targeted Support for Patients Requiring Heavy Medical Equipment, Movement Disorders, Dementia, Autism, and Rare Diseases

Our mission is precise and urgent: we deploy to disaster zones to find and rescue the individuals who are invisible to traditional response efforts. Our work is not random; it is a targeted, three-phase operation designed to provide comprehensive support for families managing dementia, autism, and rare diseases.

1. Pre-Deployment Strategy: Proactive Intelligence

Before a storm makes landfall, our work has already begun. We proactively contact local officials and disability advocacy groups to obtain lists of known at-risk residential addresses and group homes. This intelligence allows us to map out priority zones and anticipate the specific needs of the community, turning a reactive crisis into a strategic, prepared response.

2. On-Site Intervention: Specialized Rescue Protocols

This is where our unique blend of skill and experience becomes a lifeline. We execute specialized evacuations tailored to the individual's needs, using protocols that standard teams are not equipped to perform.

Scenario	Our Specialized Action	Why It Matters
A non-verbal autistic teenager in sensory overload	We deploy weighted blankets and noise-canceling headphones from our go-kit to create a calm, secure environment.	This de-escalates a high-stress situation, preventing the need for physical restraint and allowing for safe, compassionate transport.
A child with a rare mitochondrial disease on a ventilator	We rig portable battery packs to their essential medical devices, like ventilators and feeding pumps.	This ensures uninterrupted power during a hours-long evacuation, preventing a life-threatening medical emergency.
An individual with severe tremors and spasticity	We use flexible stretchers and gentle strapping techniques learned from our personal caregiving experience.	This secures the person safely and comfortably, preventing injury and accommodating physical conditions that make standard evacuations dangerous.
A woman with Alzheimer's who has wandered from a shelter	We use a calm, non-threatening approach, avoiding sirens. We build rapport by talking about familiar things—like her cat—to gently guide her back.	This avoids escalating agitation and fear, establishing the trust needed to lead a disoriented person to safety.

In every rescue, our first step is to locate the patient's "go-bag"—the vital kit containing medications, documents, and comfort items—because we know from experience that it is a lifeline.

3. Post-Rescue Support: Ensuring Continuity of Care

Our mission does not end once an individual is evacuated. We provide continuous, compassionate support until they are stable and reunited with their support system.

- **Safe Transport & Logistics:** We transport families and their heavy medical equipment, like powerchairs, to designated safe locations, whether a shelter or a relative's home.
- **Medical Advocacy:** We ensure patients have an immediate supply of their essential medications, even if it means navigating flooded roads to reach a pharmacy.
- **Compassionate Liaison:** We stay by the side of a non-verbal patient, acting as their voice to communicate critical needs to shelter staff or other responders until their caregiver is located.

Our process is a continuous loop: we gather intel, perform a specialized rescue, provide follow-up care, and then use the lessons from that deployment to refine our intelligence for the next. This ensures we are not just responding to crises, but are constantly improving our ability to protect our most vulnerable community members.

5. The Ask: Funding Our Lifeline—A Specialized Response Vehicle

5.1 Detailed Budget: Where Your Contribution Goes

To fulfill our mission and bridge the critical gap in emergency services, we need the right tool for the job. Our immediate, urgent need is one specialized emergency response vehicle capable of navigating disaster zones and equipped to handle the unique challenges of our community. The total investment required to get this lifeline on the road is **\$145,000**.

Your contribution will directly fund the two core components of this vital asset: the vehicle itself and its essential, life-saving modifications. We have a plan to acquire and upfit this truck within two weeks of securing funding, enabling us to be ready for the next call without delay.

Here is a clear breakdown of how your donation will be allocated:

Component	Cost	Purpose & Impact
4x4 Heavy-Duty Pickup Truck	\$95,000	This foundational investment secures a powerful and reliable Ford F-250 with a heavy-duty, off-road package . Its robust 4x4 chassis is non-negotiable for navigating flooded roads, muddy terrain, and debris-filled disaster areas where standard vehicles fail. This truck is the platform upon which our entire mobile rescue capability is built.

Component	Cost	Purpose & Impact
Specialized Emergency Modifications	\$50,000	<p>This transforms the truck from a civilian vehicle into a specialized rescue unit. This budget covers a complete outfitting package from a professional emergency vehicle converter. Key modifications include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An 800-lb capacity lift system to safely hoist heavy powerchairs. • Emergency lighting, sirens, and communication radios to operate securely within active disaster zones. • Custom-built, water-tight storage compartments to protect sensitive medical electronics and rescue gear. • Upgraded suspension and specialized off-road tires for maximum stability and access.

Component	Cost	Purpose & Impact
Total Investment	\$145,000	A fully equipped, mission-ready Special Needs Task Force vehicle.

Every dollar you contribute goes directly toward purchasing and equipping this vehicle. This is not just a truck; it is a mobile command center, a heavy-equipment transport, and a beacon of hope for families who have been told that no one is coming to help. Your support puts our unique expertise on the road, where it can save lives.

6. An Invitation to Impact Patients: Tangible Opportunities for Sponsorship

This is more than a request for a donation; it is an invitation to become a direct partner in our life-saving mission. Your contribution, regardless of its size, provides a tangible piece of the solution that allows us to reach families who have nowhere else to turn. We have designed a series of partnership opportunities that show you exactly how your support will be put to work, turning your generosity into immediate, on-the-ground capability.

Whether you are an individual committed to our community or a corporation seeking meaningful philanthropic impact, there is a role for you in this mission. Each tier of support builds upon the others to create a fully equipped, mission-ready lifeline for families in crisis.

Partnership Tiers: Build Our Vehicle, Save a Life

Choose the component of our specialized response vehicle that you or your organization will fund. In recognition, your name or logo will be displayed on the vehicle itself, a lasting testament to your commitment.

Partnership Level	Investment	Impact & Recognition
The "Mobile Lifeline" Partner	\$25,000	This funds the critical 800-lb capacity vehicle lift system , enabling our team to safely and efficiently hoist heavy powerchairs. In recognition, your name or logo will be prominently displayed on the vehicle's side compartment door for the life of the vehicle, a highly visible symbol of your leadership.

Partnership Level	Investment	Impact & Recognition
The "Command Center" Partner	\$10,000	Your contribution secures the vehicle's nerve center: the emergency communications radio and GPS system . This technology allows us to coordinate with other agencies and navigate safely in disaster zones where cell service is down.
The "Go-Kit" Guardian	\$1,000	This funds a complete set of our specialized field rescue gear . Your support provides the weighted blankets, portable battery packs, and specialized medical supply kits we deploy to de-escalate crises and provide immediate, life-sustaining care.
The "All-Weather" Contributor	\$250	Your gift purchases one specialized, heavy-duty off-road tire capable of withstanding the punishing terrain of a disaster zone. This is a foundational element that ensures we can reach families no matter the conditions.

Corporate Partnership & Community Engagement

For corporations committing to our **"Mobile Lifeline" Partnership** (\$25,000 and above), we offer an enhanced collaboration designed to maximize community impact and employee engagement:

- **Prominent Public Recognition:** We will issue a joint press release announcing your partnership and launch a dedicated social media campaign highlighting your critical contribution to community safety.
- **"Presented By" Branding:** Your brand will receive **"Presented by [Company Name]"** recognition on all public-facing materials related to the vehicle for one full year.
- **Employee Engagement Opportunities:** We invite your team to participate in a **"vehicle commissioning" event**, offering a firsthand look at the impact of your investment. We can also provide your employees with specialized first aid training, empowering them with new skills.

Fuel the Mission Fund

Every dollar matters. Contributions of any size will be allocated to our **"Fuel the Mission" fund**. These donations will be pooled to help purchase the truck's chassis and cover essential operational costs, such as fuel and maintenance, that keep our vehicle ready to deploy at a moment's notice. Your support, combined with that of others, will put this vehicle on the road and sustain its life-saving work.

7. Join the Mission: Take Action Today

The stories you have read are not just isolated incidents; they represent a constant, urgent reality for families across the country. The next call from a family trapped by crisis—a flood, a storm, a power outage—will come at any moment. Your support today determines how we answer it. We are ready to deploy, but we cannot do it without you.

This is your opportunity to put a lifeline on the road. By contributing now, you directly equip our specialized task force with the vehicle needed to reach those who are overlooked and bring them to safety. Your generosity translates into immediate, tangible action.

To become a partner in this critical mission, please take one of the following steps:

Donate Online

The fastest and safest way to contribute is through our secure online portal. Earmark your donation to the “vehicle fund.” Your donation will be immediately allocated to the vehicle fund.

DONATE NOW

Corporate Sponsorship & Inquiries

If you are interested in sponsorship opportunities or wish to discuss a major gift, please contact our team directly. We would be honored to explore how your organization can become a cornerstone of this initiative.

Contact: Katie Murphy

Email: Katie.Murphy@rescue7.org

We are ready to deploy, but we cannot do it without you. Your support today puts us on the road tomorrow. Thank you for joining us in this critical mission to ensure no family is ever left behind.



Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service
Tax Exempt and Government Entities
P.O. Box 2508
Cincinnati, OH 45201

RESCUE 7 FIREFIGHTERS FOR PATIENTS
228 PARK AVE SOUTH 244770
NEW YORK, NY 10003

Date:
09/20/2024
Employer ID number:
99-3476881
Person to contact:
Name: Customer Service
ID number: 31954
Telephone: 877-829-5500
Accounting period ending:
December 31
Public charity status:
509(a)(2)
Form 990 / 990-EZ / 990-N required:
Yes
Effective date of exemption:
June 11, 2024
Contribution deductibility:
Yes
Addendum applies:
No
DLN:
26053662003454

Dear Applicant:

We're pleased to tell you we determined you're exempt from federal income tax under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(c)(3). Donors can deduct contributions they make to you under IRC Section 170. You're also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under Section 2055, 2106, or 2522. This letter could help resolve questions on your exempt status. Please keep it for your records.

Organizations exempt under IRC Section 501(c)(3) are further classified as either public charities or private foundations. We determined you're a public charity under the IRC Section listed at the top of this letter.

If we indicated at the top of this letter that you're required to file Form 990/990-EZ/990-N, our records show you're required to file an annual information return (Form 990 or Form 990-EZ) or electronic notice (Form 990-N, the e-Postcard). If you don't file a required return or notice for three consecutive years, your exempt status will be automatically revoked.

If we indicated at the top of this letter that an addendum applies, the enclosed addendum is an integral part of this letter.

For important information about your responsibilities as a tax-exempt organization, go to www.irs.gov/charities. Enter "4221-PC" in the search bar to view Publication 4221-PC, Compliance Guide for 501(c)(3) Public Charities, which describes your recordkeeping, reporting, and disclosure requirements.

Sincerely,

Stephen A. Martin
Director, Exempt Organizations
Rulings and Agreements

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