



Michael H. Minger Memorial Foundation

Minger Foundation Newsletter

Dear Friends,

Another busy year and here we are in 2012. The Minger Foundation has had a wonderful opportunity this Year to have worked on several great projects funded by a grant from DHS and also by your donations to Support the work of the Minger Foundation. These projects have been very successful and will be instrumental in changing the face of fire safety for all students on our nation's campuses with a focus on students with disabilities.

National Community Service Project

Our National Community Service Project partnered local fire departments with college students to go out into at risk communities to share fire safety information, to talk about the importance of living with fire sprinklers, having working smoke alarms and knowing two ways out wherever you are. Our presence was in North Carolina, Florida, Oregon, and Kentucky.

The students participating in this project learned about the importance of fire safety while helping others. It was a "win win" combination! I had the opportunity to go on a number of these visits and it was certainly an eye-opening experience for all of us.

Some universities will continue to offer this project for community service hours for their students.

In addition to the DHS funding, we received support from First Alert and Domino's Pizza for this project.

Students with Disabilities Project

The Students with Disabilities Project prepared a series of videos highlighting issues that face students with disabilities. We filmed students with all types of disabilities to share fire safety information for each demographic that they represent. They are talking about the importance of fire sprinklers, working smoke alarms, and knowing two ways out of any structure, as well as other important fire safety points. I am very pleased with the quality of this project. We also completed a guide to teaching video for first responders to help them understand what the student's perspective is in needing help.

Foundation Mission Video

We filmed an introduction to the Minger Foundation and our mission. It is a poignant reminder as to why we do what we do and why I am so passionate about the work of the foundation. It is up on our web site at www.MingerFoundation.org.

Michael H. Minger Foundation | PO Box 701 | Niceville, FL 32578 | 850-621-516
gminger@mingerfoundation.org | www.MingerFoundation.org |
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Resident Advisors Project

The Minger Foundation had funds available to expand some of the work we did with college students this year. We worked with Residence Advisors from Eastern Kentucky University to explain, in their words, why fire safety is so important and how to best get the message to the students. We did a series of videos along with a guide to address fire safety issues for students. After meeting with the RA's and having several round-table discussions, we took their advice and developed several posters for them to use in their hall meetings and to place around campus to highlight the importance of fire safety on and off campus. These are completed and are being prepared for the web site.

Public Service Announcements

Besides the grant work, the Minger Foundation is working on some PSA scripts. They will be in production in February. They are powerful messages and will hopefully change the minds of millions about taking fire safety seriously.

Amadeus House

On the campus of the University of the Cumberlands, the Michael H. Minger Memorial Foundation is preparing to embark on a very special project — a dream that I have had since the death of my son, Michael.

The project is the construction of a model dorm that will feature newer technology and safety equipment that will enhance the living conditions for all students, especially students with disabilities. The new dormitory will be equipped to aid students with hearing and sight impairments, physical and mobility impairments, anxiety disorders, students with Aspergers Syndrome and others on the autism spectrum that need additional assistance in case of an emergency. You can stay up to date on our progress through our web site, or if you would like to be a part of this project, please let me know!

Capitol Hill Day

In March I will once again join a wonderful group of students, fire officials and fire safety advocates on Capitol Hill for the fifth-annual Capitol Hill Day. We met with 60 congressional offices and spoke about a number of the campus fire safety bills moving through Congress last year. Mr. Ed Comeau has done an outstanding job putting this great program together. It is

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always a wonderful experience and it is such a delight working alongside such motivated students. This year the Minger Foundation will award two scholarships for students who would like to take part in this event.

Scholarships

The Michael Minger Memorial Foundation has awarded 4 scholarships this past year to students who have either been impacted by fire personally or who have learning differences, and have excelled in school. One scholarship went to a college student who was affected by a house fire, a college student who was severely injured in a college dorm fire and is working on his Masters degree, a scholarship for a student on the autism spectrum, and a young man who is an Eagle Scout, a great contributor to his community and who has Aspergers. All fine young people who have exemplary character, shown excellence in their academic careers and have embraced their challenges and differences and show great promise for the future.

Michael Minger Memorial Golf Tournament

The Michael Minger Memorial Golf Tournament was a success again this year. Even in our down-turned economy we had loyal supporters and friends join us for a great day of golf and camaraderie. We are in the process of selecting a date for September 2012. Please check in on our web site to find out what that date will be. You can register online.

Upcoming Presentations

This month I will be talking with Board members from AFSA and USFA about new focus areas for fire safety. I will be attending the CSUN International Conference for Disability Technology in San Diego. I have been asked to be a keynote speaker at the International Town and Gown event at Eastern Kentucky University in June. There are other presentations I am planning to do and still working out details at this time.

Personal note

On my visit to Eastern Kentucky University, the students from the Association of Fire Science Technicians made me a lifetime member and surprised me with a wonderful gift of my very own official fire helmet. I was speechless! (Which if you know me is hard to pull off.) Working with the staff and students at ECU was one of the highlights of my year.

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Re-opening of Criminal Case

On another note of importance, I would like the Foundation's family and friends to know that in September the cold case involving Michael's death was reopened. The accused was indicted on 17 counts by a special grand jury, one count being arson in the First Degree and Manslaughter. This will be a long and difficult year dealing with re-opening this case and the trial that is set for July 6, 2012 at this time, but Michael was so deserving of justice being served in the heinous way his life was ended and stolen from his family and friends. I will keep you updated as things move along.

Online!

Please visit our website at www.MingerFoundation.org and Facebook at [www.Facebook.com/MingerFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/MingerFoundation) - become a fan! You will find more information about the projects I have mentioned, more information about the golf tournament, and be able to view the videos and other projects.

My passion for the Foundation's work has not waned. We all know it takes constant vigil and as you all know, I like a challenge. The Foundation is positioning itself to be a leader in fire safety information for people with disabilities. I have always believed if we help those most vulnerable in our society....we help everyone.

Sincerely,

Gail Minger, President
Michael H. Minger Memorial Foundation

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