



*2024 Impact Report:
Black Hills Badges for Hope*





Empowering Youth. Strengthening Communities. Supporting First Responders.

A Message from the President:

As we reflect on the incredible accomplishments of 2024, we are humbled by the overwhelming support we've received from our community, partners, and donors. This year has been one of growth, connection, and unwavering commitment to our mission of empowering youth and supporting the heroes who protect us every day. From our fundraising efforts to the programs we've been able to fund, 2024 has been a year of making meaningful impacts in the lives of both our youth and first responders.

Black Hills Badges for Hope exists to nurture and support the young people of our community, helping them build resilience, strengthen their character, and develop into the leaders of tomorrow. We are equally committed to honoring and supporting our local first responders, ensuring they know how much they mean to our community. Together, we are forging lasting bonds between youth and law enforcement, creating a future where respect, trust, and collaboration thrive.

This year's successes were only made possible because of your incredible generosity and commitment. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for your support.



2024 Fundraising Overview:

In 2024, thanks to your generosity, we successfully raised \$67,477.74 to further our mission. This incredible achievement was made possible through the support of donors, partners, and community members like you. While we fell short of our initial goal, we are deeply grateful for the funds raised, as they will significantly impact the lives of those we serve.

Your contribution is helping to empower local youth through scholarships, support first responders in their critical work, and create opportunities for meaningful community-building events. These efforts are transforming lives and strengthening our community, and none of this would be possible without your continued dedication.

We are committed to maximizing the potential of every dollar donated and ensuring that the impact of your gift is felt for years to come. Your support plays a crucial role in enabling us to continue our work and make a lasting difference.



Major Fundraising Events:

1. 2024 Fallen Officer Memorial Golf Tournament:

This year's **Fallen Officer Memorial Golf Tournament** was one of our most successful events to date. Hosted on a beautiful day in the Black Hills, the tournament brought together **38 teams** for a day of golf, remembrance, and support. The tournament raised over **\$30,000**, with the funds benefiting both **First Responder Support** and **Local Youth Scholarships**.



A special tribute was paid to **Deputy Paul Martin** of the Mercer County Sheriff's Office, who was the honored fallen officer. Deputy Martin's co-workers were in attendance to share in the day of remembrance and participate in the tournament. The outpouring of support for Deputy Martin and his family was a testament to the strength of our community and the respect we have for our first responders.



2. 2nd Annual Night at the Races Horse Racing and other Fundraising events:

Our **Night at the Races** event, hosted by **Preston Arity** with **Nothwestern Mutual** and **Katelynn Rothschadl** with **Comma Insurance**, was yet another significant fundraiser that raised over \$13,000 to support the Annual Badges N Kids Christmas Event. This fun-filled evening of horse racing, silent auctions, and raffles brought the community together for a great cause. A huge thank you to **Aspen FCU** for thier help in making the event a huge success as well. We are also thankful to have partnered with the **Abbott House**, **Brandon Jones Band**, and **Flannel**, who all contributed to making the **Brandon Jones Bash** event a memorable success. All funds raised continue to help us bring joy to local youth during the holiday seasons and strengthen the bond between area youth and first responders.



Supporting Local Youth:

In 2024, we continued our mission of empowering youth and providing them with opportunities for personal growth and development. Here are a few key ways we made an impact:

1. Youth Scholarships:

We provided **\$12,470.12** in **youth scholarships**, helping local children and teens access educational and extracurricular opportunities that contribute to their personal development and growth.



2. Club for Boys Donation:

In a continued effort to empower youth in our community, we donated **\$8,000** to the **Club for Boys**. These funds supported various programs including **Hooked on Hardwater**, **Family Nights**, and the **Honor Boy Banquet**—all initiatives aimed at building character, promoting mentorship, and creating positive life experiences for young boys in our community.



3. Rapid City Fire Department Cadet Program:

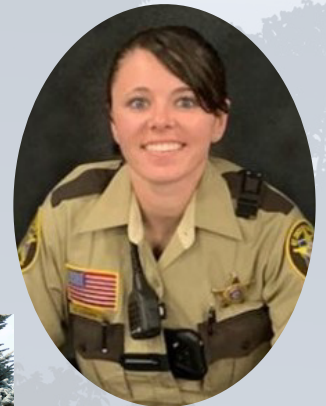
We also provided a total of **\$4,100** to the **Rapid City Fire Department's Cadet Program**. This helped outfit each of the new cadets with the uniforms they need for the year, ensuring they have the proper resources to succeed in their training and future careers in public safety.



Honoring Our First Responders:

Throughout the year, Black Hills Badges for Hope continued to show our deep appreciation for the men and women who protect our communities every day. Some highlights include:

- During **National Police Week**, we provided **lunch and evening meals** to **first responders** from local law enforcement agencies as a token of appreciation for their hard work and dedication.
- Our **2024 Fallen Officer Memorial Golf Tournament** raised significant funds to support first responders and their families in times of need. The event also serves as an opportunity to honor those who have given their lives in the line of duty.



Badges N Kids Christmas

The 2024 Badges N Kids Christmas event, hosted by Black Hills Badges for Hope, marked another impactful year of giving and community support. This annual event, which has become a cherished tradition, took place over the course of a week throughout the Black Hills Region, with the goal of bringing joy and holiday cheer to local youth in need while pairing them with local first responders to help them do their Christmas shopping. This year, the event served 224 children, ensuring that these young people had the opportunity to shop for holiday gifts in a supportive, safe environment, while building trust and bonds with first responders.

The event's success was made possible by the combined efforts of over 200 volunteers and 10 local first responder agencies, who came together to offer their time, and effort to create a special shopping experience. These volunteers, many of whom were first responders themselves, assisted the youth in choosing their gifts, providing a safe and positive experience that also fostered a sense of community and support. The collaboration between our organization and agencies played a key role in the event's success and its ability to touch the lives of so many children.

Badges N Kids Christmas has grown significantly since its inception seven years ago. Over that time, the event has provided a unique shopping experience for over 1,200 children from approximately 150 local families, many of whom face financial hardship. This has not only helped fulfill material needs but also offered a sense of normalcy and joy during the holiday season.

As a community-driven initiative, the event highlights the spirit of giving and generosity that defines the Black Hills region. For the families involved, it's a chance to celebrate the holidays with less stress, knowing their children will have gifts to open on Christmas Day. For the volunteers and first responders, it's a heartwarming way to give back to the community they serve, creating lasting memories and meaningful connections.

Badges N Kids Christmas has become the grand finale of the year for Black Hills Badges for Hope, a highlight for many who look forward to the event as a symbol of hope, love, and unity. It's not just about the gifts; it's about creating a lasting impact, strengthening community ties, and showing the youth of the region that they are cared for and supported, especially from those in the first responder community.



Expanding Our Mission:

As we look to the future, Black Hills Badges for Hope is preparing for the next phase of our growth. We will be launching a **Capital Campaign** to expand our services and mission, ensuring that we can reach even more youth and first responders in need. This campaign will help fund the growth of our organization into a **full-time, full-service non-profit**. By doing so, we will be able to better serve the young people of our community, helping them build their resilience, improve their character, and develop the skills necessary to become the leaders of tomorrow.

At the heart of our expansion is the continued commitment to fostering lasting partnerships between first responders and the youth in our community. These partnerships are integral to creating a **respectful, safe, and thriving** community where all individuals, regardless of their background or circumstances, can thrive.



Looking Ahead:

The work we do is only possible because of the incredible people who support us. From our event sponsors to the individuals who donate their time, resources, and talents, we are constantly reminded of the strength of our community and the power of collective action.

As we move forward, we remain committed to our vision: to create a community where youth are empowered to succeed, first responders are supported, and all individuals are given the tools they need to become the leaders of tomorrow.

We can't wait to continue this journey with you, and we look forward to all that we will accomplish together in the coming years.

Thank You for Your Support!

With deepest gratitude,

The Black Hills Badges for Hope Team

Thank you to our Sponsors



Black Hills Badges for Hope

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