

# *Laci and Conner Search and Rescue Fund*

*A Program of The Carole Sund/Carrington Foundation*

2009

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Grandmother of Conner  
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### **Sharon Sanders**

Program Director

Dear Applicant:

Thank you for your inquiry into the Laci and Conner Search and Rescue Fund!

Sharon Rocha founded the Laci and Conner Search and Rescue Fund in December 2005 in memory of her daughter, Laci Rocha Peterson, and her grandson, Conner Peterson. The purpose of the fund is to provide financial assistance to law enforcement agencies and non-profit organizations involved in search and rescue operations. These agencies are encouraged to apply for financial assistance for training, equipment or any item that can help improve their search and rescue efforts. Our hope is that through providing this additional assistance, these agencies will be better prepared and equipped for search and rescue, and therefore be more successful in their efforts to safely return missing persons to their loved ones.

The Laci and Conner Search and Rescue Fund may provide up to \$10,000.00 per calendar year to verified government agency "wilderness type" search and rescue organizations and/or to qualified and verified "wilderness type" search and rescue non-profit organizations that actively assist government organizations in performing search and rescue ("Wilderness Type" includes operational urban/suburban/rural missing person search and rescue but not structure collapse, trench collapse, etc. heavy search and rescue type of operations). Upon verification, a panel of search and rescue experts will evaluate fund requests to determine search and rescue operational need, with priorities given to the following items from the **Authorized Funding List**:

## **Authorized Funding List (AFL)**

The Authorized Funding List includes items in the categories of Equipment and Training. The focus of the fund is the preparation, training, and equipping of volunteer non-profit search and rescue teams that are associated with or sponsored by local law enforcement agencies. Priority funding is considered for equipment and training not generally available to sponsoring law enforcement agencies through governmental grant programs.

## **EQUIPMENT**

Funding priorities focus on personal protective equipment for volunteers, field equipment for volunteers, medical care equipment, rescue equipment, and dive equipment.

### **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

Funding for volunteer PPE includes environmental protection and body substance protection.

Examples of PPE include:

- Foul weather gear (rain jackets & pants)
- Goggles & safety glasses
- Helmets
- Hearing protection
- Gloves
- CPR masks
- Avalanche beacons
- Avalanche shovels
- Personal flotation devices

### **Field Equipment**

Funding for field equipment includes personal or agency equipment used primarily for search and rescue.

Examples of field equipment include:

- GPS's
- Handheld radios (compatible with local agency communication system)
- Over snow equipment (snowshoes, skis)
- Avalanche probes
- Packs
- Flashlights

### **Medical Care Equipment**

Funding for medical care equipment includes basic and advanced patient care equipment, as well as specialized equipment for the SAR environment.

Examples of medical care equipment include:

- Trauma kits
- Personal first aid kits for searchers
- Emergency blankets
- Oxygen delivery equipment & tanks
- Backboards & spiderstraps
- Specialized backpacks for backcountry/austere medical care
- Defibrillators

## **Rescue Equipment**

Funding for rescue equipment includes technical (rope) rescue, swift water rescue, and snow rescue.

Examples of rescue equipment include:

- Stokes litters & SKED style stretchers
- Stokes wheels
- Rescue rope, webbing and cordage
- Carabiners
- Descent devices
- Braking devices
- Ascent devices
- Body harnesses
- Rope throw bags
- Rescue flotation boards (e.g. Carlson Boards)
- Equipment bags

## **Dive Equipment**

Funding for dive equipment includes diver safety and protection equipment.

Examples of dive equipment include:

- Buoyancy compensators
- Wetsuits & drysuits
- Masks
- Fins
- SCUBA tanks
- Air regulators and delivery systems

*Items not eligible for funding include construction projects, purchase of rolling stock (i.e. vehicles, motorcycles, quads), purchase of vessels (i.e. rigid hull boats, zodiac style boats, personal watercraft), purchase of aircraft or hovercraft, vehicle/vessel rehabilitation, vehicle/vessel repair.*

*In order to provide the most benefit to as many teams as possible, you may be asked to substitute items based on luxury level, limited life span, or other reasons.*

## **TRAINING**

The funding priorities focus on train-the-trainer and team/class level training. Individual training is not a current funding priority.

### **Train the Trainer (TTT)**

Funding for TTT training is the first training priority. This funding considers paying the tuition for a member of a search and rescue team to attend a TTT course in an appropriate subject. The ability for a search and rescue team to be self-sufficient (i.e. possess in-house qualified instructors) in appropriate training areas (e.g. first aid, tracking, dive rescue, high angle rope rescue, search management, etc) is a more valuable investment than training a single individual in a skill.

Examples of TTT include:

- First aid, CPR, emergency responder, wilderness medicine instructor
- Rope rescue instructor
- Swift water rescue instructor
- Search management instructor

### **Team/Class Level**

Team level training is the second training priority. This funding considers paying for an instructor to teach a large class of search and rescue members in a skill. This investment provides more value than training a single individual in a skill.

Examples of team level training include:

- Tuition for first aid, CPR, wilderness medicine
- Tuition for high angle rescue, swift water rescue
- Tuition for search management instruction

### **Individual**

Individual level training (i.e. sending a single person to a class to learn a skill set) is currently not considered for funding.

*Items not eligible for funding include travel and expenses for students or instructors.*

### **Other**

Evaluated on a case-by-case basis as to the applicability to the search and rescue operational need.

Enclosed is an application for requesting financial assistance. When submitting your completed application, please include a letter summarizing your needs and itemizing your request.

Requests from government agencies or government agency affiliated organizations **must be submitted on department letterhead and signed by the Department Head, or other authorized agency official and it must include your ORI number.**

Requests from non-profit organizations with no direct affiliation with a government agency must be submitted on organization letterhead and be signed by the Executive Director or the Chair of the Board of Directors. Please include a copy of your IRS verification letter and identify the last 5 search and rescue missions in which your organization participated. Include the dates, the type of search and rescue missions, and the jurisdictional government agency's incident commander for each mission. These agencies/incident commanders will be contacted to confirm approved participation in actual SAR operations.

For all requests, please include the following information: **needs assessment, cost estimate, time frame (date funds needed), whether or not other funding sources are being sought, and whether or not you will purchase the product or pursue training if 100% of the requested amount is not received from the *Laci and Conner Search and Rescue Fund*.**

If your application is approved to receive funds from the *Laci and Conner Search and Rescue Fund*, the check will be written directly to the vendor rather than to your agency. If there is a problem with this process, please include an explanation in your summary. The funds must be used within six months of the date the funds are required.

Please limit your request information to *one* page in addition to the request form.

Applications will be accepted January 1, 2009 through March 31, 2009. Those applications postmarked after that date will *not* be considered.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (209) 527-LACI (5224).

Sincerely,

Scott Webb  
Executive Director  
Carole Sund/Carrington Foundation

Sharon Sanders  
Program Director  
Laci and Conner Search and Rescue Fund