Novi Director of Public Safety/Chief of Police David Molloy has seen far too many police officers, law enforcement officials and firefighters die or suffer an injury while on the job during his 28-year career than he cares to remember. Some, like former Novi police officer Tim Harper, hit closer to home than others.

It’s an unfortunate reality the men and women who work in public safety face and all the inspiration Molloy needed when he started the Novi Police & Fire Benevolent Association in 2010. Now, seven years later, the non-profit organization has eclipsed more than $480,000 in donations and used more than $125,000 of that to support families in need and families of those who lost their lives.

“It’s a true testament to the generosity and commitment from our community,” he said. “To see this type of support is humbling to not just myself, but to all of the men and women in our department who work tirelessly to build public trust and keep our community safe.”

The association holds two fundraisers each year, a golf outing in September and a Victory Benefit hockey game in January pitting Novi’s first responders against the Detroit Red Wings alumni. This year’s game takes place at 7:45 p.m. on Friday, January 19 at the Novi Ice Arena. Tickets are only $10 per person or a pack of 20 can be purchased for $150.

Money raised by the association is also used every year around the holidays to adopt families and support the Shop with a Hero program. This year they adopted four families in need, supplying them with not only gifts but necessities for everyday life.

Molloy said they also are working on creating a scholarship opportunity with local community colleges for youth interested in a career as a firefighter or in law enforcement. “It’s also a way for us to grow our recruitment and bring on some local young people and talent,” he said.

NPFBA hockey team captain Brandon McCullough, facilities manager for the City of Novi, will once again lead the team in red, white and blue against a stacked Detroit Red Wings team that has never been defeated.

The Red Wings are still in the process of finalizing their roster, but fans will see some familiar faces. Previous teams have included stars Darren McCarty, Sergei Samsonov, Manny Legace, Eddie Mio, John Ogrodnick and Mickey Redmond to name a few. Several players also stick around after the game to sign autographs.

Fans can enter 50-50 raffle drawings throughout the night and win a chance to go on the ice and try their hand at Score-O to win prizes. For more information about the event or to purchase tickets or donate, visit NoviPFBA.org.