

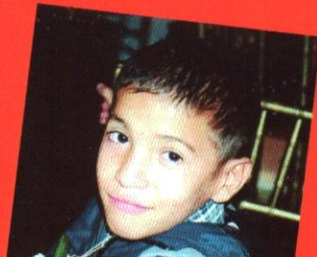
GIFT OF LIFE, INC. GALA

*Celebrating 41 Years
of Saving Childrens' Lives Worldwide*



GARDEN CITY HOTEL
Garden City, New York

SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 2016



International Humanitarian Honoree SSA Joseph Occhipinti (Ret) Founder & Executive Director, National Police Defense Foundation



Joseph Occhipinti is a native New Yorker where his desire to be involved in community service led him to a career in law enforcement. He graduated from Brooklyn College after attending night classes that earned him a Bachelor of Arts degree.

In January 1969, Joe joined the United States Army Reserves where he served as a Military Policeman in the 812TH M.P. Company at Fort Hamilton, New York and was honorably discharged six years later.

In March 1972, Joe joined the U.S. Department of the Treasury as a Customs Patrol Officer where he was assigned to investigate international drug trafficking and organized crime in the New York City area. In less than five years, Joe compiled one of the highest felony arrest and contraband seizure records in Customs service history.

In 1974, Joe became the elected President of the Federal Agents' Police Benevolent Association where, for eighteen years, he developed that fledgling association into one of the largest federal police organizations in the tri-state area. He was credited with the introduction and passage of a New York and New Jersey law that granted police and peace officer status to federal agents enabling them to arrest for state felony violations

In 1976, Joe transferred to the Immigration & Naturalization Service and became one of the country's foremost experts on ethnic organized crime and international smuggling. In 1979 he worked deep undercover, infiltrating a major drug cartel that led to one of the largest cocaine seizures in U.S. history. In 1983, Joe became the youngest agent to be promoted to Chief of the New York City Anti-Smuggling Unit. In 1990, Joe retired on disability that was attributed to his five-year undercover work infiltrating a major drug cartel.

In 1995, Joseph Occhipinti established with his wife, Angela the National Police Defense Foundation (NPDF) where he now serves as its Executive Director. The NPDF has grown to be one of the largest police foundations in the United States that has extended internationally to twelve foreign countries.

The NPDF membership exceeds over 200,000 members and supporters worldwide. The basic mission statement of the National Police Defense Foundation is to "Protect & Support" the efforts of law enforcement. This is being accomplished through the important medical and legal support services provided the national law enforcement community, as well as several NPDF law enforcement programs involving public safety and child safety programs.

It was Joe's foresight that he established the congressionally recognized "Safe Cop" program that posts rewards for public information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone who shoots a member law enforcement officer. This successful reward program is credited for bringing many cop killers nationwide to justice.

Joe also established the internationally renowned "Operation Kids", program which has (1) distributed over 250,000 free child fingerprint/DNA kits to parents (2) posted rewards for missing children (3) established "Project Pedophile" (4) funded many youth athletic events and other related charitable endeavors for children (5) granted over 75 scholarships to college bound students and (6) arranged life-saving operations and medical treatment to critically and severely handicapped children.

Over the past two decades, Joe Occhipinti has been the recipient of numerous legislative, executive and fraternal association awards for his lifelong accomplishments with the NPDF. Additionally, he was recognized for his humanitarian efforts on Operation Kids by Members of Congress; New Jersey and New York General Assemblies and Senate; Mayor of New York City; the Governments of Italy, Ecuador, Peru and Dominican Republic. The most noteworthy recognition included two private audiences with Pope Benedict and Pope Francis; an award at the United Nations; Ecuador's highest award, "Sol De Oro" and his appointment as an Honorary "Colonel Aide De Camp" by the Governor of Tennessee.

Today, Joe Occhipinti is considered one of the most decorated federal agents in United States history, credited with three U.S. Attorney General Awards and 78 official commendations for meritorious service and valor. He served on several executive boards and is a proud member of the New Jersey Policemen's Benevolent Association, Fraternal Order of Police, American Legion, Federal Law Enforcement Association, NYPD and New Jersey Honor Legions, among others.

Joe Occhipinti resides in New Jersey with his wife, Angela of 43 years, three daughters and six grandchildren where he continues to volunteer as the Executive Director for the National Police Defense Foundation.

Angel Award Honorees

Chinese Gift of Life, Corazón a Corazón, Friends of Montfort, Inc., Hispanic Gift of Life, Hungarian Gift of Life, Indian Gift of Life, Italian Gift of Life, Inc., Jamaica Gift of Life, Philippine Gift of Life, Polish Gift of Life, Inc., Russian Gift of Life, Inc., Ukrainian Gift of Life



*The Officers, Board of Directors
and Members of
Gift of Life, Inc.*



Cordially Invite You to Attend

*The Forty-First Anniversary
Crusade of the Heart Gala*

Saturday, March 19, 2016

*Garden City Hotel
45 Seventh Street
Garden City, NY 11530*

*Reception 7:00 P.M.
Dinner 8:00 P.M.*

Black tie preferred

*Two Hundred and Twenty-Five Dollars
Per Person*