At Safety 2013, former OSHA Administrator John Henshaw introduced the ASSE Foundation's newest scholarship, the Family Fund Scholarship. In this letter to ASSE members, John explains the fund's goals and encourages members to support the cause.

Be a Part of It: A Community That Cares

At Safety 2013, I introduced our community to three people with lives and loved ones just like you—Tina Hall, Terrance Hennessy and Chad McDonald. They went to work as safety professionals and expected to come home just like you. Tina, Terrance and Chad lost their lives in a workplace incident—in exactly the type of avoidable tragedy that each of us has dedicated our lives to preventing. I’m proud of the strides our profession has taken to protect workers and set the occupational safety and health standard for excellence.

But, I grieve for the more than 4,000 workers who die on the job each year. And, I grieve for their families. There are so many things a family needs after losing a loved one. But one of the most critical is access to a good education. That’s what the Family Scholarship Fund is for. The ASSE Foundation developed the Family Scholarship Fund to provide college funding to families who have lost a loved one in a workplace incident. Our hope is that these scholarships, which are open to the spouses and children of those who have died, will minimize the financial burden of the loss while encouraging continuing education.

I brought this idea to the Foundation because I know the ASSE community is vibrant, growing and committed to serving the common good. I ask you to consider serving out that commitment by visiting www.asse.org/foundation/fsf to learn more about the fund. Consider making a gift in memory of the workers we’ve lost who remain in our hearts.

Remember that the strength of our community is not measured by how many members we have, or by the initials we collect behind our names or by the number of zeros in our collective median salary. Rather, the strength of our community is measured by what we do to help those who are weak, those who need the strength of others the most.

-John Henshaw