



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

‘Fill the Boot’ Campaign Nets Record \$28K in Donations

SPRINGFIELD (September 20, 2019) — The 2019 Fill the Boot campaign to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) collected a record \$28,445.53, the Springfield Fire Rescue Division (SFRD) announced.

Dozens of SFRD firefighters volunteered to take part in the annual charity drive from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept 4 through Friday, Sept. 6.

The campaign was extended to three days from two for the first time, said SFRD Chief Brian Miller. The expanded campaign came on the heels of a very successful fundraising effort for MDA last year.

In 2018, Springfield Professional Firefighters, IAFF Local 333 was one of the top fundraising locals in the State, and was the top fundraiser in southern Ohio, collecting \$16,747.00 for MDA.

Through the MDA Fill the Boot program, more than 100,000 fire fighters hit the streets asking citizens in their community to make a donations, helping them fill their boot with contributions, according to the MDA.

The first Fill the Boot was held in Boston in 1953 where fire fighters raised \$5,000 for MDA. Last year, firefighters raised more than \$24 million at more than 1,600 Fill the Boot events to save and improve the lives of MDA families, according to the MDA.

IAFF is MDA’s largest national partner, raising more than \$607 million during the past six decades to support families with muscledebilitating diseases and accelerate treatments and cures, according to the MDA. In addition to organizing thousands of Fill the Boot drives in hometowns across America, fire fighters also dedicate countless hours every year to volunteer at MDA Summer Camp, where children with muscular dystrophy and related diseases experience a week of barrier-free fun while gaining confidence and independence at no cost to their families, according to the MDA.