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Kootenai County Fire & Rescue Fire Fighters and MDA Rally Behind 60-Year Tradition, Fill the Boot for Local MDA Families

#FilltheBoot | #60YearsStrong

SPOKANE, WA, September 28, 2015 — Members of the **Kootenai County Fire & Rescue L2856 Fire Department**, along with the Muscular Dystrophy Association, will kick off the fire fighters' annual Fill the Boot fundraising campaign to help save and improve the lives of people fighting muscle disease in the Kootenai County area. Muscular dystrophy, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) and other related life-threatening diseases take away people's ability to walk, move, smile, talk and even breathe.

Members of **Kootenai County Fire & Rescue**, will fan out across the city with boots in hand for this year's drive. They will be filling the boot on **October 3 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 pm at Cabella's & the intersection of Dalton & Government Way.**

"For more than six decades fire fighters have stood on the front lines for MDA, striving to make a difference in the lives of those affected by muscle disease," said Leah Nathan, Executive Director. "Fire fighters in the Kootenai County area do more for MDA and the families we serve than any other group, dedicating countless hours of their time every year participating in Fill the Boot drives and at MDA Summer Camp. We're grateful for the support of these inspiring, selfless individuals who have made a profound impact on our families' health, wellbeing and quality of life, and we're excited to make this year's Kootenai County Fire & Rescue Fill the Boot campaign the most successful yet."

Funds raised through 2015 Kootenai County Fill the Boot event builds on decades of research progress, helping push science to its limits in the search for treatments and cures.

Dollars raised also help support MDA's life-enhancing programs such as state-of-the-art support groups and clinics, including the MDA Clinic at **St. Luke's Rehabilitation and Shriners' Hospital for Children in Spokane**. They also make MDA summer camp possible so kids with muscle disease can enjoy "the best week of the year" at **Camp Twinlow in Rathdrum, ID** and nearly 80 other locations nationwide.

As the Muscular Dystrophy Association's largest national sponsor, the IAFF fuels MDA's mission to find treatments and cures for life-threatening muscle diseases. In addition to Fill the Boot events, contributions from charity baseball games and other local events hosted/sponsored by the IAFF help support MDA's efforts to raise awareness and provide professional and public education about neuromuscular diseases.

IAFF support for MDA began in 1954 when the organization committed by proclamation to support MDA until a cure is found, and the organization's unwavering commitment to MDA has remained strong to this day. The IAFF raised \$100,000 for MDA in 1955, and \$1 million in 1970, and fire fighters continue to raise the bar in their fundraising efforts. In 2013, more than 100,000 fire fighters participated in Fill the Boot events across the country and raised \$26.2 million. To date the IAFF has raised \$558 million for MDA.

About the IAFF

The [International Association of Fire Fighters](#) represents more than 300,000 professional fire fighters and paramedics who protect 85 percent of the nation's population. More than 3,200 affiliates and their members protect communities in every state in the United States and in Canada.

About MDA

The [Muscular Dystrophy Association](#) is the world's leading nonprofit health agency dedicated to saving and improving the lives of anyone with muscle disease, including muscular dystrophy, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) and other neuromuscular diseases. It does so by funding worldwide research to find treatments and cures; by providing comprehensive health care services and support to MDA families nationwide; and by rallying communities to fight back through advocacy, fundraising and local engagement. Visit mda.org and follow us at facebook.com/MDAnational and [@MDAnews](https://twitter.com/MDAnews). Learn more about MDA's mission by watching

this [video](#). - MDA - with MDA:      