



PRESS RELEASE

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ARCATA FIREFIGHTERS AND MDA RALLY BEHIND A 61-YEAR TRADITION FILL THE BOOT FOR LOCAL MDA FAMILIES

ARCATA, CA – (May 11, 2015) – Members of the Arcata Professional Firefighters Local 4981 and the Arcata Fire District, along with the Muscular Dystrophy Association, will kick off the firefighters' annual Fill the Boot fundraising campaign to help save and improve the lives of people fighting muscle disease in the Arcata Fire District's 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.

Firefighters will fan out across the Arcata Plaza with boots in hand for this year's drive on May 16th and again on June 20th at 9:00am.

"For more than six decades firefighters have stood on the front lines for MDA, striving to make a difference in the lives of those affected by muscle disease," said Elizabeth Griffin, Fundraising Coordinator. Firefighters in the Arcata 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. We're grateful for the support of these inspiring, selfless individuals who have made a profound impact on our families' health, well-being and quality of life, and we're excited to make this year's Fill the Boot campaign with the Arcata Firefighters the most successful yet."

Funds raised through Fill the Boot event build 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. They also make MDA summer camp possible so kids with muscle disease can enjoy "the best week of the year" at Grizzly Creek Ranch in Portola and nearly 80 other locations nationwide.

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.

Thank you for your support.

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