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Wausau Fire, L415 Fire Fighters and MDA Kick Off Annual Fill the Boot Campaign

Fill the Boot drive benefits kids and adults with muscular dystrophy

WAUSAU, WI JUNE 22, 2016 — Members of the **Wausau Fire Department, Local 415**, along with the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA), are set to host a special event to kick off the fire fighters' annual Fill the Boot fundraising campaign to help kids and adults with muscular dystrophy, ALS and related muscle-debilitating diseases live longer and grow stronger.

The kick-off event at 9am on June 27th at Wausau Fire, Central Station, continues more than 60 years of IAFF tradition, providing steadfast drive and uncommon caring to help free individuals from the harm of muscle diseases that take away everyday freedoms like walking, hugging, playing and even breathing.

In attendance will be Wausau's Mayor Mr. Robert B. Mielke, Wausau Fire Department's Chief Tracy Kujawa, Firefighters from Wausau Fire Department, Local 415, Local MDA families and an MDA representative. **MEDIA IS INVITED!**

"We couldn't be more proud to kick off this year's Fill the Boot campaign alongside the inspiring, selfless individuals of the Wausau L415 who make a profound impact on our families' health, wellbeing and quality of life," said Fundraising Coordinator for the MDA, Heather Buchberger. "Together with their unwavering Fill the Boot support, we will raise critical funds

and awareness to empower kids and adults in Wausau with life-enhancing resources and support that will open new possibilities so they can live a life without limits.”

This year’s Fill the Boot campaign officially begins **July 8th at 5pm, at the 15th annual Balloon Rally and Rib Fest**. Members of the Wausau Fire Department, Local 415 will fan out with boots in hand as they greet visitors and citizens alike of the great city of Wausau, asking them to make a donation in support of MDA’s mission to find treatments and cures for muscle-debilitating diseases that severely weaken muscle strength and mobility.

Additionally, the Wausau Fire Department will be present at the following event, later this summer:

- **400 Block Concert “Brass Differential” (August 3rd, 2016, 6pm – 8pm)**
- **Big Bull Falls Blues Fest (August 19th, 2016, 5pm till ???)**

****Donations can also be given on-line at any time via the *Wausau Fire/MDA team website*:****

<http://filltheboot.donordrive.com/team/L415>

(Follow the above link, then click on “Support Us” to donate.)

Funds raised through 2016 Wausau Fill the Boot events help MDA’s efforts to fund groundbreaking research and life-enhancing programs, such as state-of-the-art support groups and Care Centers, including the MDA Care Center at Marshfield Clinic in Marshfield, WI. They also help send more than 46 local kids to “the best week of the year” at MDA summer camp at no cost to their families at Pilgrim Center in Ripon, WI.

MDA and IAFF Partnership

As MDA’s largest national partner, the IAFF fuels MDA's mission to find research breakthroughs across diseases; care for kids and adults from day one; and provide families with services and support.

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 2015, more than 100,000 fire fighters participated in Fill the Boot events across the country and raised \$25.5 million. To date the IAFF has raised \$583 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

MDA is leading the fight to free individuals — and the families who love them — from the harm of muscular dystrophy, ALS and related muscle-debilitating diseases that take away physical strength, independence and life. We use our collective strength to help kids and adults live longer and grow stronger by finding research breakthroughs across diseases; caring for individuals from day one; and empowering families with services and support in hometowns across America.

Learn how you can fund cures, find care and champion the cause at mda.org.

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