



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **HELP THE LEON VALLEY FIRE FIGHTERS FILL THE BOOT AND CONQUER MUSCLE DISEASE FOR MDA**

**San Antonio, Texas** — Fire fighters will be out on the streets of **Leon Valley** asking motorists to help “Fill the Boot” for the Muscular Dystrophy Association on the next three consecutive Fridays: **November 15<sup>th</sup>**, **November 22<sup>nd</sup>**, and **“Black Friday”, November 29<sup>th</sup>**. Every dollar that passing motorists can pitch into the fire fighters’ boots helps Local 4764 fire fighters provide medical treatment and support services to individuals and their families living with neuromuscular diseases in the Leon Valley area.

The International Association of Fire Fighters has been a national MDA partner for more than 50 years and remains committed to the fight to end neuromuscular diseases.

“Fire fighters are American heroes who make such a difference for the people and families we serve,” said MDA Executive Director JoNeen G. Serna. “The funds they raise are used for health care services and equipment support, and to help send kids to free MDA summer camps. We are grateful for everything they do.”

Fill the Boot funds also are used to support some of the 300 worldwide research projects seeking better treatments and cures for the more than 40 neuromuscular diseases covered by MDA, including [Duchenne muscular dystrophy](#), [spinal muscular atrophy](#) and [ALS](#).

“We know the money we raise definitely makes a difference in the lives of people affected by neuromuscular diseases, and that it helps them get the care they need,” said Fire Chief Luis Valdez. “Fill the Boot is a proud tradition for us, and it’s a great way for fire fighters to be out in the community reminding residents that we are here, always ready to help.”

IAFF became the first national sponsor for MDA in 1954, and over the years, fire fighters have raised millions of dollars to help improve and enhance the lives of those living with neuromuscular disease. Fire fighters have raised money for MDA through their participation in the annual Fill the Boot campaign, as well as by sponsoring golf and softball tournaments. Many also contribute some of their vacation time each year to volunteer at MDA summer camps across the country.

#### **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 the nonprofit health agency dedicated to finding treatments and cures for muscular dystrophy, ALS and related diseases by funding worldwide research. The Association also provides comprehensive health care and support services, advocacy and education.

In addition to funding some 300 research teams worldwide, MDA maintains a national network of 200 medical clinics; facilitates support groups for families affected by neuromuscular disease; and provides free local summer camp opportunities for thousands of youngsters fighting progressive muscle disease. For more information, visit [mda.org](http://mda.org).

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