



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS

**NEWS RELEASE**

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## **IAFF Fire Fighters Launch Virtual Fundraiser for Muscular Dystrophy Association as COVID-19 Threatens Fill the Boot**

*In response to apprehensions about in-person fundraising, IAFF and MDA create touchless Fill the Boot to continue funding research for treatments and cures for muscular dystrophy, ALS and neuromuscular diseases.*

Washington, DC – As the COVID-19 pandemic affects communities across the United States, it has also wreaked havoc on fundraising for the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA). For 66 years, the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) has collected critical funds in the community – one dollar at a time – as part of the Fill the Boot program. But this year, due to social distancing, that’s not possible.

**This summer, Fill the Boot will be conducted virtually at <https://filltheboot.donordrive.com>.**

Donations help meet the urgent need for MDA’s Frontline COVID-19 Emergency Fund to continue services for more than 250,000 people living with neuromuscular diseases across the country.

“For six decades, IAFF members have been at intersections across America with their fire boots to collect donations for MDA,” says IAFF General President Harold Schaitberger. “But the COVID pandemic and social distancing make that an impossibility. Virtual Fill the Boot will let our members continue to collect to help MDA meet their vital mission of finding treatment and cures for muscular dystrophy, ALS and other neuromuscular diseases.”

“IAFF members display an unwavering support for MDA year after year, raising critical funds and awareness to help our families get the care they need,” says MDA CEO and President Lynn O’Connor Vos. “We are so thankful to the IAFF for continuing its commitment to cure neuromuscular disease and for the flexibility to go virtual through this pandemic to protect everyone on the frontlines in our communities.”

Donate at <https://filltheboot.donordrive.com>

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