



Marion County Board of County Commissioners Marion County Fire Rescue

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MARION COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS' RECORD BOOT DRIVE RANKS NATIONALLY

Immediate Release

MARION COUNTY, Fla. (Nov. 20, 2009) – Marion County Fire Rescue firefighters are rising to the top – and in a way that will potentially help more than a million Americans. County firefighters, in cooperation with the International Association of Firefighters Local 3169, recently raised \$50,000 for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Their efforts landed them a top 100 ranking (No. 73) in MDA Boot Drive fundraising efforts. The boot drive is an annual fundraising event held by fire rescue stations across the nation.

Chair of the Marion County Board of County Commissioners Barbara Fitos serves a supportive role for the MDA Boot Drive.

“The fund raising efforts by Marion County Fire Rescue on behalf of MDA are to be applauded – their signature “Fill the Boot” drive is a visible reminder of their life-saving efforts on behalf of all citizens,” Fitos said. The “Fill the Boot” campaign kicked off with MCFR firefighters asking generous drivers to fill *their* boots with donations from late August through early September.

Only 13 other Florida fire departments raised more than \$37,000 for the cause. All proceeds benefit the MDA, a non-profit organization dedicated to conquering neuromuscular diseases that affect more than a million Americans. The MDA combats these diseases through research, comprehensive medical and community services as well as far reaching professional and public health education.

Fire rescue agencies across the country have participated in “Fill the Boot” campaigns for 50 years to support the MDA.

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