



161 Ottawa Street, Suite 200-F
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
Phone: (616) 459-4410 Fax: (616) 459-5912

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Rob Merritt
Program Coordinator
Canton District
(734) 416-7076
rmerritt@mdaua.org

**Hamtramck Fire Department RAISE \$2,075 TO FIGHT MUSCULAR
DYSTROPHY**

Hamtramck, Michigan, August 2008 — The Hamtramck Fire Department battled more than fires as firemen collected \$2,075 in their “Fill the Boot” campaign to combat neuromuscular diseases.

Firefighters from Hamtramck volunteered their time August 31st to ask passing pedestrians and motorists in Downtown Hamtramck to make donations to support the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA). They also held their 1st annual charity golf outing at St. Johns Golf Club in Plymouth, MI on August 8th, 2008, with proceeds going to support MDA.

Members of the local station braved the sweltering heat and large crowds to ask citizens to place donations into empty fireman’s boots in the Local’s first “Fill the Boot” campaign. Firemen volunteering time to raise money for the fight against muscle-wasting diseases is not an uncommon occurrence, as IAFF and non-union stations have supported MDA for 54 years and continue to be the strongest support in the quest for a cure to muscular dystrophies. Last year, firefighters across the country raised over \$23 million to help Jerry’s kids.

“Time and time again, these lifesaving heroes give so much of themselves for ‘my kids,’” MDA National Chairman Jerry Lewis said. “They’ve made tremendous differences in the lives of so

many, and as they begin their 2008 campaigns, I hope people will see their tireless dedication and be moved and inspired to do their part.”

Fill-the-Boot funds support MDA’s services locally such as medical clinics staffed with specialist in muscle disease, including 9 hospital-affiliated clinics across the state of Michigan, including locations in Detroit, Ann Arbor, Lansing, Flint, Grand Rapids, and Kalamazoo. The funds also help finance MDA’s worldwide research programs seeking treatments for diseases such as Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS, or Lou Gehrig’s disease.

MDA is a voluntary health agency working to defeat more than 40 neuromuscular diseases through programs of worldwide research, comprehensive service, and far-reaching professional and public health education. The Association’s programs are funded almost entirely by individual private contributions, including funds raised through the Jerry Lewis MDA Labor Day Telethon, which can be seen locally on WMYD, My TV20. For more information concerning MDA, please see

www.mda.org.

###