



LAKELAND
FIRE DEPARTMENT

Media Release

Local 4173

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lakeland's Firefighters Will Be Filling the Boot for MDA, March 20, 2016 at Tigertown

Lakeland, FL- Join the Lakeland Professional Firefighters on March 20, 2016 at Joker Marchant Stadium, the Spring Training home of the Detroit Tigers. Firefighters on behalf of International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) Local Chapter 4173 will be out in full force to collect money to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA). The IAFF's and MDA's relationship spans back to 1954 when the organization committed to help fight MDA and has been its largest national sponsor since.

The game starts at 1:05PM and Lakeland's Professional Firefighters will be holding their boots outside of Joker Marchant Stadium after the game with empty boots that need filling, as part of the IAFF's signature "Fill the Boot" campaign to benefit MDA.

Local 4173 has been filling the boot through their partnership with the Detroit Tigers since 2011. MDA Coordinator for the union group, Firefighter Margaret Orozco shares "We really value our relationship with the Detroit Tigers and their support of our work in the Lakeland community. We especially appreciate the opportunity to fundraise at the baseball games because every dollar raised by our group goes directly back to families in Lakeland affected by MDA." Orozco also adds "MDA does this through research for cures and provides lifesaving help for families impacted by Muscular Disease (MD). MDA also provides summer camps for children with MD, which we also support through volunteer efforts." Local 4173 will be also be hosting a local family affected by muscular dystrophy at the game.

The efforts of the Local 4173 are supported by the Lakeland Fire Department (LFD). LFD Public Information Officer, Janel Vasallo says "These fundraisers and the thousands of dollars raised by Lakeland's firefighters are just another great example of how much the men and women of LFD do for their communities and how much they do, at and away from work, to help others."

The Professional Firefighters of Local 4173 will also be "Filling the Boot" at this year's upcoming Sun N' Fun Fly-In. They will be partnering with Sun N' Fun to sponsor several local families affected by muscular dystrophy. A media release in regards to the Sun N' Fun Local4173/MDA campaign will be sent before the event with more details.

More about MDA:

MDA is leading the fight to against muscular dystrophy, ALS and related muscle-debilitating diseases that take away physical strength, independence and life. MDA's uses its 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 with services and support in hometowns across America.

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