

Vernon Fire Department's Tremendous Efforts Recognized by Muscular Distrophy Association

"Fill the Boot" Drive Raises Over \$17,000 to Support Families in Southern California



Mayor Hilario Gonzales, Erin Kelly, Interim City Administrator Mark Whitworth

Over the course of three days this Spring, Vernon Firefighters volunteered their time in an effort that raised over \$17,000 to fight Muscular Distrophy. This accomplishment was recognized with a plaque presented by a representative of the Association at the Vernon City Council meeting on August 16, 2010.

Approximately ten to 15 firefighters hit the streets each day of the campaign, fire boots in hand, to collect donations from passing motorists. This money will provide health care and support services for over 6,000 individuals and families in Southern California who are living with one of 43 neuromuscular diseases. The "Fill the Boot" dollars provide clinics, support groups, summer camp for kids, durable medical equipment loan programs and research towards treatments and cures of these terrible afflictions.

This is the second year that Vernon firefighters have participated in the "Fill the Boot" campaign. Last year, over three days, Vernon firefighters collected over \$21,000, bringing the Fire Department's two-year contribution to nearly \$40,000.

In presenting the plaque, Erin Kelly, MDA Director of Business Development for the Los Angeles Metro Chapter thanked the Vernon firefighters, the City of Vernon and its citizens for their generous support and partnership over the past two years stating, "It's people like you that give hope and help to people with Muscular Distrophy."

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