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ALYSSA AUGER • TORI ANDREWS

THE ZIMMERMAN AGENCY

(850) 668-2222 • FIREHOUSESUBS@ZIMMERMAN.COM

MORE THAN \$99,000 WORTH OF LIFE-SAVING EQUIPMENT AWARDED TO FIVE GREATER COLUMBUS FIRE DEPARTMENTS

GAHANNA, Ohio – Continuing its mission of supporting hometown heroes, Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation will celebrate \$99,608 worth of life-saving equipment grants awarded to five fire departments during a press event at **10 a.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 1** at the Hamilton Morse Firehouse Subs restaurant located at **4994 North Hamilton Road, Gahanna, Ohio 43230**.

“Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation aims to recognize and respond to needs in the community,” said Firehouse Subs Senior Manager of Foundation Programs Jackie Gubbins. “Through the Foundation, we’re able to provide public safety organizations with needed equipment that they might not be able to obtain if it weren’t for this program. It’s an honor to know we’re helping save lives.”

The below encapsulates each grant award being celebrated at the Aug. 1 event, including a brief description of equipment use and value:

- **Plain Township Fire Department** received an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) and trailer valued at \$18,009. The awarded multi-functional ATV and trailer will improve the department’s rescue capabilities, assisting firefighters with the following: conducting wide area search and rescue missions, providing fire suppression in remote areas impassable by traditional fire vehicles, transporting victims during natural and man-made disasters, improving response time for disaster assessment and launching boats in rugged terrain.
- **Fredericktown Community Fire District** received a forcible entry door simulator valued at \$15,380. The awarded simulator will be used during training exercises, helping ensure firefighters are prepared to enter burning buildings and rescue victims quickly and safely.

- **Westerville Fire Department** received structural shoring equipment valued at \$22,590. The awarded equipment will allow the department to quickly and efficiently set up for structural emergencies, allowing firefighters to provide medical assistance to trapped or injured victims.
- **City of Columbus Division of Fire** received a variety of training equipment valued at \$25,968, including a fire safety smoke house, fire extinguisher training system and RACE Station trainer's package. The awarded equipment, which incorporates all of the elements of response to an actual fire, will allow firefighters to train the community on the safe and proper way to respond to fire emergencies through hands-on instruction and demonstrations.
- **Deerfield Township Volunteer Fire Department** received seven sets of turnout gear valued at \$17,661. The awarded gear, which includes helmets, hoods, coats, pants, boots and gloves, will replace old, damaged gear, allowing firefighters to provide safe and efficient services to their community.

"We are honored to have been selected for grant funding for our project," said Fredericktown Community Fire District Firefighter Jason Bostic. "The forcible entry simulator system that was acquired with the grant has already provided significant training within our fire department, a neighboring department who has borrowed it, and the local adult education program that is instructing a Firefighter I and II class. We are training future firefighters and current firefighters in skills that will make a difference in saving lives and doing our jobs more efficiently."

Event attendees include local firefighters, as well as Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Senior Manager of Programs Jackie Gubbins, Firehouse Subs Franchise Business Manager Rick Highers, Firehouse Subs Regional Marketing Manager Ervin Hernandez, Firehouse Subs Area Representatives Sheryl and Paul Belle and the following Firehouse Subs franchisees: Dustin Koch, Joe Dumbaugh, John Dumbaugh, Hinal Patel, Ozzie Osman and David Kourie.

Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation was founded in 2005 in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, when Firehouse Subs co-founders, Chris Sorensen and Robin Sorensen, traveled to Mississippi where they provided food to first responders and survivors. As they traveled back to Florida, they knew they could do more and Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation was born with the mission of providing funding, life-saving equipment and educational opportunities to first responders and public safety organizations. Since its inception, the non-profit organization has granted more than \$28 million to hometown heroes in 46 states, Puerto Rico and Canada, including more than \$1.3 million in Ohio.

Each restaurant recycles leftover, five-gallon buckets, available to guests for a \$2 donation to the Foundation. Donation canisters on register counters collect spare change, while the Round Up Program allows guests to “round up” their bill to the nearest dollar. Grant allocations are made possible thanks to the overwhelming support of Firehouse Subs restaurants and generous donors.

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