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MORE THAN \$48,000 WORTH OF LIFE-SAVING EQUIPMENT AWARDED TO ENHANCE COOK COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY

STONE PARK, Ill. – Continuing its mission of supporting hometown heroes, Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation will celebrate \$48,364 worth of life-saving equipment grants awarded to three public safety organizations and one local school during a press event at **10:30 a.m. on Thursday, Aug. 10** at the Firehouse Subs restaurant located at **3124 W. North Ave. Stone Park, Ill. 60165**.

“We thank our donors for their contributions that help us provide these life-saving tools,” said Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Executive Director Robin Peters. “Our first responders are our heroes and we want to be sure they have what they need to protect their communities.”

The below encapsulates each grant award being celebrated at the Aug. 10 event, including a brief description of equipment use and value:

- **Melrose Park Fire Department** received a variety of firefighting equipment worth \$12,433. The awarded equipment will be installed on the department’s new fire engine, replacing outdated tools and allowing the department to deliver safe and efficient fire services to its community, as well as the 18 surrounding municipalities in its jurisdiction.
- **Franklin Park Fire Department** received five gas meters valued at \$4,178 to replace the department’s current meters that can no longer be calibrated or repaired, allowing firefighters to quickly identify gas leaks and remove victims from dangerous areas.
- **Walther Christian Academy** received fire detection and alarm equipment valued at \$9,718. The awarded equipment will be installed in the school’s gym and locker rooms where there is currently no alarm system, ensuring the safety of Walther students, staff and visitors.

- **Hillside Fire Department** received extrication equipment valued at \$22,035. The awarded equipment will improve the department's rescue capabilities for victims in motor vehicle accidents.

"The Hillside Fire Department is extremely grateful to Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation for their generous donation," said Hillside Fire Department Fire Chief Jeffrey Pilz. "The Genesis rescue equipment purchased will be our frontline extrication tools and will give us flexibility we've never had before. The ability to place two tools in service while not tethered to a power unit ensures a more rapid extrication and also enhances patient and crew safety. We will be better prepared to protect those who live, work and play in Hillside with the addition of these valuable tools."

Event attendees include local first responders and representatives from Walther Christian Academy, as well as Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Executive Director Robin Peters, Firehouse Subs Area Representative Sam Stanovich and Firehouse Subs Franchisees Jodie Tristano and Carmia Stanovich.

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 \$793,000 in Illinois.

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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