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## **MORE THAN \$15,000 WORTH OF LIFE-SAVING EQUIPMENT AWARDED TO NORTHWEST INDIANA FIRST RESPONDERS**

VALPARAISO, Ind.— Continuing its mission of supporting hometown heroes, Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation will celebrate \$15,630 worth of life-saving equipment grants awarded to Valparaiso Police Department and Portage Fire Department during a press event at **2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 9** at the Firehouse Subs restaurant located at **71 Silhavy Road, Valparaiso, Ind. 46383**.

“Giving back to our first responders is the primary goal of the Foundation,” said Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Executive Director Robin Peters. “We’re in a very fortunate position that allows us to work together with Firehouse Subs restaurants to raise funds that help provide life-saving equipment locally and throughout the country. Thanks to the generosity of so many people, we’re truly making a difference.”

**The below encapsulates each grant award being celebrated at the Aug. 9 event, including a brief description of equipment use and value:**

- **Valparaiso Police Department** received four automated external defibrillators (AEDs) worth \$6,280. The awarded AEDs will be placed in police cruisers, helping ensure officers are prepared to provide medical assistance if an individual goes into cardiac arrest.
- **Portage Fire Department** received extrication equipment from AMKUS Rescue Systems valued at \$9,350. The awarded equipment will improve the department’s rescue capabilities for victims in motor vehicle accidents.

“We are very grateful to be receiving this grant,” said Portage Fire Department Assistant Chief Tim Sosby. “This AMKUS battery operated hydraulic tool will provide our firefighters with updated, more capable equipment that will increase their flexibility when performing vehicle extrications. Our current extrication tools are not completely capable

of cutting through the extra strength steel being used to manufacture today's vehicles. These tools will save precious time that ultimately will save human lives".

Event attendees include local first responders and representatives from AMKUS Rescue Systems, as well as Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Executive Director Robin Peters, Firehouse Subs Area Representative Sam Stanovich and Firehouse Subs Franchisees Robyn Walsworth and Jeff Walsworth.

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 \$611,000 in Indiana.

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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