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MORE THAN \$57,000 WORTH OF LIFE-SAVING EQUIPMENT AWARDED TO SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN FIRST RESPONDERS

KALAMAZOO, Mich. – Continuing its mission of impacting the life-saving capabilities and the lives of local heroes and their communities, Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation will celebrate \$57,973 worth of life-saving grants awarded to two local first responder departments during a press event at **10:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 12, 2018** at the Firehouse Subs restaurant located at 1750 S. Drake Road, Kalamazoo, Mich. 49006.

“Keeping our communities safe is a 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 able to make a difference and help save lives.”

The event will feature live demonstrations from local first responders, explaining the importance of the equipment and how it will be used to save lives. Residents and Firehouse Subs guests are invited to join the celebration and see firsthand how their generous contributions have come full circle to provide much needed equipment in their community.

The below encapsulates each grant award being celebrated at the July 12 event, including a brief description of equipment use and value:

- **Oshtemo Township Fire and Rescue Department** received nine sets of turnout gear, including coats and pants, three protective helmets and 22 pairs of boots worth a combined \$28,151. The awarded gear will replace old, damaged gear, allowing firefighters to provide safe and efficient services to their community.

- **Plainfield Charter Township Fire Department** received two automated chest compression systems valued at \$29,822. The awarded devices will assist firefighters by delivering uninterrupted chest compressions at a constant rate and depth to cardiac arrest patients, helping improve a patient's chance of survival.

“Oshtemo Township Fire and Rescue Department is honored to serve a highly supportive community,” said Chief Fire Officer Mark Barnes. “Our township of 22,000 is both strong and growing. With this growth, there is an increased need for public services, including firefighting. However, paying for the increased fire, EMS and rescue services is often challenging. This grant made Oshtemo firefighter safety a top priority, and I am happy to convey the outdated gear is now all retired.”

Event attendees include local first responders, Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Executive Director Robin Peters, Firehouse Subs Area Representative John Kupiec and Firehouse Subs Franchisees Susan Cornish and Michael Kusmack.

Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation was founded in 2005 in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, when Firehouse Subs 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 \$33 million to hometown heroes in 46 states, Puerto Rico and Canada, including more than \$717,000 in Michigan.

Grant allocations are made possible thanks to the overwhelming support of Firehouse Subs restaurants and generous donors. 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. The Foundation is also the beneficiary of a Charitable Sales Promotion where Firehouse of America (FOA) will donate to the Foundation a sum equivalent to 0.13% of all gross sales with a minimum donation of \$1MM through December 31, 2018. To donate online and support Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation, visit FirehouseSubsFoundation.org.

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