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## **MORE THAN \$23,000 WORTH OF LIFESAVING EQUIPMENT AWARDED TO ENHANCE GREATER SPARTANBURG AND POLK COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY**

BOILING SPRINGS, S.C. – Continuing its mission of impacting the lifesaving capabilities and the lives of local heroes and their communities, Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation will celebrate \$23,649 worth of lifesaving equipment grants awarded to three local first responder organizations and a church during a press event at **10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 26, 2018** at the Firehouse Subs restaurant located at 3605 Boiling Springs Rd. Boiling Springs, S.C. 29316.

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

The event will feature live demonstrations from grant recipients, 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 Sept. 26 event, including a brief description of equipment use and value:**

- **Cooley Springs Fingerville Volunteer Fire Department** received an automated external defibrillator (AED) and accessories valued at \$2,029. The awarded AED will help ensure the firefighters are prepared to provide medical assistance if an individual goes into cardiac arrest. The department currently has access to only one AED.
- **Polk County EMS** received an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) valued at \$8,992. The awarded ATV will help first responders navigate the outdoor terrain that falls within their jurisdiction, allowing them to meet their goal of arriving at the scene of an emergency within an hour to quickly and efficiently determine the best course of medical treatment.
- **Reidville Road United Methodist Church** received an AED, prep and response kit and accessories valued at \$2,341. The church has a growing congregation and preschool enrollment, and last year it began hosting children and families who attend the local YMCA several nights a week; the awarded equipment will ensure the church is response-ready in the event of an emergency.
- **Woodruff Fire Department** received extrication equipment valued at \$10,287. The awarded tools will improve the department's rescue capabilities for victims in motor vehicle accidents by allowing firefighters to cut through materials used in modern manufacturing and quickly reach victims in need of medical attention.

Event attendees include: local first responders, Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Senior Manager of Marketing & Communications Jackie Gubbins-Kotos, Firehouse Subs Area Representatives Shawn Hooks and Firehouse Subs Franchisee Omar Ghorbani.

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, lifesaving equipment and educational opportunities to

first responders and public safety organizations. Since its inception, the non-profit organization has granted more than \$35 million to hometown heroes in 47 states, Puerto Rico and Canada, including more than \$1.5 million in South Carolina.

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](http://FirehouseSubsFoundation.org).

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