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MORE THAN \$162,000 WORTH OF LIFESAVING EQUIPMENT GRANTS AWARDED TO OMAHA FIRST RESPONDERS

OMAHA, NE – Thanks to Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation, Treynor Fire and Rescue, Omaha Fire Department, City of Carter Lake Fire Department, Pilger Volunteer Fire and Rescue, Winslow Fire Department, Child Saving Institute, Montgomery County Emergency Management Agency, Ralston Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad Inc. and the Tekamah Rural Fire District will be celebrating lifesaving equipment grants valued at \$162,892 during a **10:30 a.m. press conference on Tuesday, Sept. 10** at the Firehouse Subs restaurant, located at 14919 W. Maple Rd, Ste. 103 Omaha, Nebraska 68116.

“We never want to hear that a piece of equipment was missing, or not accessible in an emergency. Our Foundation is committed to equipping the men and women who serve and protect our communities every day,” said Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Senior Manger of Development, Meghan Vargas

The event will incorporate a donation ceremony, as well as live demonstrations from receiving organizations, 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 the much-needed equipment in their community.

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

- **Treynor Fire and Rescue, Pilger Volunteer Fire and Rescue and Tekamah Rural Fire Department each** received a manual monitor/defibrillator and accessories valued at a combined \$78,350. The awarded equipment will allow for better patient care when out in the field as well as help with the identification of critical heart rhythms and allow for consistent patient monitoring.

- **Omaha Fire Department and City of Carter Lake Fire Department** received chest compression devices valued at a total of \$33,204. The awarded equipment 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.
- **Winslow Fire Department** received hoses, a battery blower, and accessories valued at \$13,223. The awarded equipment will replace outdated tools, improving the department's lifesaving capabilities and improving efficiency at fire scenes.
- **Child Saving Institute** received an automated external defibrillator (AED) with accessories and training for 20 valued at \$3,516. The awarded AED will help ensure the organization is prepared to provide medical assistance if an individual goes into cardiac arrest, as well as increase the knowledge of safety equipment and first aid procedures.
- **Montgomery County Emergency Management Agency** received a utility terrain vehicle (UTV) with rock/brush guards, off-road LED lighting, a mirror, and a storage rack. This vehicle, valued at \$23,546, will allow firefighters to provide medical support in areas impassable by traditional emergency vehicles.
- **Ralston Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad Inc.** was awarded carbon monoxide monitoring capabilities for two existing cardiac monitors, valued at \$11,053. The awarded devices will ensure first responders can quickly determine whether CO is present when responding to calls.

Event attendees include representatives from each receiving department, as well as Firehouse Subs area representative Tom Davis, Firehouse Subs franchisee Steven Meier and Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation senior manager of Foundation development Meghan Vargas.

Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation was founded in 2005 in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Firehouse Subs co-founders, Chris Sorensen and Robin Sorensen, traveled to Mississippi where they fed 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 inception, the non-profit organization has

granted more than \$44 million to hometown heroes in 49 states, Puerto Rico and Canada, including more than \$364,000 in Nebraska.

To raise money for the Foundation, Firehouse Subs restaurants participate in a number of fundraising efforts. Each restaurant recycles leftover, five-gallon pickle buckets and sells them to guests for \$2. 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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