



2025



FILL THE BOOT IMPACT REPORT



75 Years of Impact. 71 Years of Partnership.

In 2025, the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) marked its 75th anniversary, celebrating decades of progress for families living with neuromuscular disease. For 71 of those years, fire fighters have stood alongside MDA through the Fill the Boot program, helping to raise more than \$721 million in support of our shared mission. What began in 1954 as a local act of service has grown into one of the longest-standing partnerships in the nonprofit sector, carried forward by generations of fire fighters committed to offering hope and a brighter future for families.

2025 also marked a new chapter for MDA with the appointment of Dr. Sharon Hesterlee as President and CEO. A seasoned leader in neuromuscular research and drug development, Dr. Hesterlee brings deep scientific expertise and a strong commitment to translating discovery into meaningful, everyday impact for families. As MDA looks to the future, guided by community voices and strengthened by long-standing partners like the fire service, we remain focused on accelerating progress, expanding care, and ensuring no family faces neuromuscular disease alone.





Dr. Sharon Hesterlee

**President and CEO,
Muscular Dystrophy Association**

“It’s an honor to lead MDA at this pivotal moment. We have an extraordinary history of driving neuromuscular discovery and care. As we continue to turn those advances into meaningful everyday impact for families, we will also look to the future to develop and apply new technologies to the treatment of neuromuscular disease.”

Science & Advocacy

For 75 years, MDA has been the nation's leading nonprofit driving research and innovation in neuromuscular diseases (NMDs), investing more than \$1.1 billion to date. This enduring commitment has fueled discoveries that led to more than 30 FDA-approved treatments in the past decade alone, transforming care and improving quality of life for individuals and families living with neuromuscular disease.

MDA's investment has also built the future of science by supporting over 7,000 investigators and training more than 2,000 early-career researchers, whose work continues to advance breakthroughs and bring strength and hope to the neuromuscular community.

Here are just a few highlights from 2025:

6 new FDA-approved treatments were approved in 2025, bringing new hope to families living with neuromuscular disease

Duchenne muscular dystrophy added to the national newborn screening panel, working towards earlier diagnosis in all 50 states

6,021 individuals now contributing real-world data through MOVR, accelerating care improvements and treatment development

1,690 clinicians and scientists from 32 countries united to fast-track breakthroughs at the MDA Clinical & Scientific Conference

125 MDA advocates took to Capitol Hill to protect access to care, support medical research funding, and ease the burden on caregivers

Over \$2 million invested in collaborative research, advancing neuromuscular disease treatments

Treatments Approved for Neuromuscular Disease

1995

RILUTEK®*

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)

2006/2010

MYOZYME/LUMIZYME®*

Pompe disease

2015

KEVEYIS®*

Periodic paralysis

2016

EXONDYS 51®*

Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD)

SPINRAZA®*

Spinal muscular atrophy (SMA)

2017

EMFLAZA®

Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD)

RADICAVA®

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)

SOLIRIS®

Myasthenia gravis (MG)

2018

FIRDAPSE®

Lambert-Eaton myasthenic syndrome (LEMS)

2019

ZOLGENSMA®

Spinal muscular atrophy (SMA)

VYONDYS 53®

Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD)

2020

EVRYSDI®

Spinal muscular atrophy (SMA)

VILTEPSO®

Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD)

2021

AMONDYS 45®*

Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD)

OCTAGAM® 10%

Adult dermatomyositis

NEXVIAZYME®

Late onset Pompe disease (LOPD)

2022

ULTOMIRIS®

Generalized myasthenia gravis (gMG)

RADICAVA ORS®

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)

2023

SKYCLARYS®

Friedreich's ataxia

QALSODY®

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)

VYVGART HYTRULO®

Generalized myasthenia gravis (gMG)

ELEVIDYS®

Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD)

RYSTIGGO®

Generalized myasthenia gravis (gMG)

2023 cont.

POMBILITIM™ + OPFOLDA™

Generalized myasthenia gravis (gMG)

ZILBRYSQ®

Generalized myasthenia gravis (gMG)

AGAMREE®

Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD)

2024

DUVYZAT®

Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD)

EMFLAZA®*

Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD)

2025

EVRYSDI®

Spinal muscular atrophy (SMA)

SOLIRIS®

Pediatric Myasthenia gravis (MG)

IMAAVY™

Generalized myasthenia gravis (gMG)

KYGEVVI®

Thymidine Kinase 2 deficiency (TK2d)

ITVISMA®

Spinal muscular atrophy (SMA)

UPLIZNA®

Generalized myasthenia gravis (gMG)



“Fill the Boot is deeply personal to me. I live with Thymidine Kinase 2 deficiency (TK2d), and because of MDA and dedicated fire fighters, a new treatment was approved by the FDA in 2025. This gives real hope to me and everyone living with this rare disease.”

Branden Leimbach, MDA Ambassador

Care & Community

When MDA was founded in 1950, families living with neuromuscular diseases often faced their challenges in isolation, with few opportunities to connect or find meaningful support.

Today, MDA resources provide access to a continuum of care from the moment of diagnosis, ensuring that they have access to the highest standard of medical expertise and compassionate care.

MDA's programs bring people together, promoting a sense of connection and belonging. From programs like MDA Summer Camp, to initiatives that create shared experiences for families, to opportunities for learning, growth, and mutual support, these programs provide tools and resources that help families navigate the complexities of life with neuromuscular diseases while building strong, supportive networks.

MDA provides support through a national network of programs that provide care, connection, and hope:

MDA Care Center Network

MDA Resource Center and MDA Connect

Quest Media Platform

MDA Scholarship Program and MDA Youth Mentorship Program

MDA Access Workshops, Next Steps Seminars, Engage Symposiums

MDA Peer Connections and MDA Community Groups





MDA Recreation Programs

MDA Summer Camp and MDA Family Getaways offer magical, barrier-free experiences that foster inclusion, independence, and lifelong friendships for kids, young adults, and families living with neuromuscular disease. Campers try new activities, develop confidence, and discover more of themselves, while Family Getaways provide accessible recreation and opportunities for connection within families and the neuromuscular disease community.

Fire fighters play a key role in bringing this magic to life. In 2025, 21 fire fighters served as counselors, guiding campers through activities and creating unforgettable experiences. Many more joined for Fire Fighter Day to see firsthand the impact they help make possible through Fill the Boot.

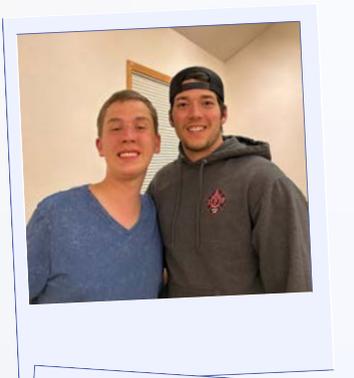
To learn more about MDA Summer Camp, visit www.mda.org/summer-camp.

Camp Counselor Spotlight

Growing up, Thomas Beers watched fire fighters show up for his family during medical emergencies and at MDA Summer Camp, where his sister who lives with a rare form of Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease found friendship, freedom, and confidence. Seeing fire fighters serve both his family and the MDA community left a lasting impression that ultimately inspired Thomas to become a fire fighter with Missoula Rural Fire Department in Montana.

Today, Thomas is carrying that legacy forward by leading his department in volunteering at MDA Summer Camp. He and a Battalion Chief with Missoula Rural traveled more than 13 hours to serve as camp counselors, proving that when it comes to supporting MDA families, fire fighters will always go the distance.

"My favorite thing about camp was connecting with the campers, learning their life stories, and giving them one week to take a break from reality and have fun. They can just go fishing, have water balloon fights, play, and be able to do things with no barriers. It's a life-changing opportunity."



2025 Fill the Boot Highlights

Thank you to every member of the fire service who took part in Fill the Boot in 2025. This partnership, now more than 70 years strong, has raised over \$721 million for families living with neuromuscular disease. Every coin and bill in the boot continues to drive progress and change lives.

Thank you, fire fighters, for your unwavering dedication to MDA's mission.



Top 20 Departments

1. Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department VA	\$206,476	11. South Metro Fire Rescue CO	\$84,403
2. Suncoast Firefighters and Paramedics FL	\$159,498	12. Chicago Fire Department IL	\$84,325
3. Nashville Fire Department TN	\$152,828	13. Las Vegas Fire & Rescue NV	\$80,321
4. Professional Firefighters of Eastern MO	\$137,071	14. Warner Robbins Fire Department GA	\$79,047
5. United Phoenix Firefighters AZ	\$134,288	15. Minneapolis Fire Department MN	\$75,284
6. Dallas Fire-Rescue TX	\$118,820	16. Los Angeles Fire Department CA	\$74,257
7. Firefighters/Paramedics of Palm Beach County FL	\$105,720	17. Cleveland Division of Fire OH	\$72,930
8. Anchorage Fire Department AK	\$102,917	18. Midland Fire Department TX	\$71,230
9. Corpus Christi Fire Department TX	\$101,836	19. West Metro Fire Rescue Co	\$67,138
10. Oklahoma City Fire Department OK	\$101,408	20. Tulsa Fire Department OK	\$66,721

Top 20 States



Event Spotlight

Organized by a dedicated committee, the annual Trans-New Hampshire Bike Ride brings together fire fighters, cyclists, and community members to ride across the state in support of MDA.

In 2025, the event celebrated 38 years of making an impact. The ride has contributed more than \$3 million to MDA's mission since it started.



Why Fill the Boot?

For more than 70 years, fire fighters have answered the call for MDA families through Fill the Boot. It is more than a fundraiser. It is a tradition that strengthens your local, connects you with your community, and fuels life-changing progress.

Fill the Boot brings:

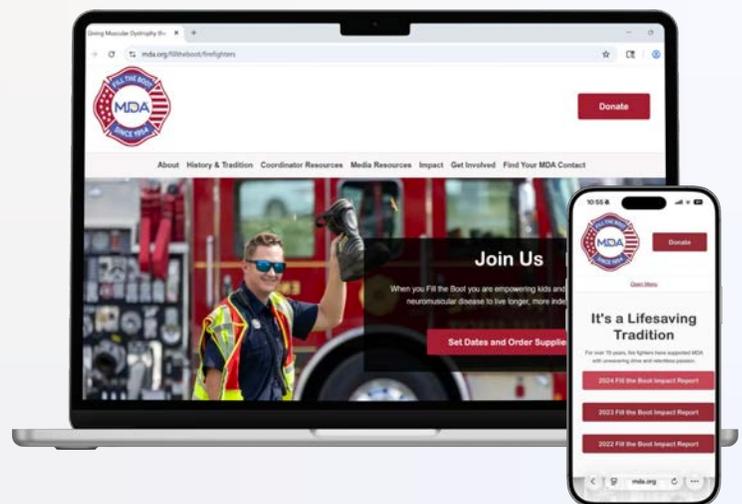
- Tradition** – 70+ years standing with MDA
- Ease** – Turnkey program, no-cost supplies
- Visibility** – Positive, public-facing engagement
- Competition** – Out-raise neighboring locals
- Altruism** – Make a real difference
- Comradery** – Unite your crews
- Personal Connection** – Support someone you know

Fill the Boot Toolkit Spotlight

Planning a boot drive has never been easier. The Fill the Boot Toolkit puts everything your department needs in one place, with ready-to-use resources available via computer or mobile.

Inside the toolkit you'll find:

- Planning checklists and safety resources
- Customizable posters, flyers, and social media guides
- Sample emails and talking points
- Tips to boost visibility and increase dollars in the boot



Start planning today: www.mda.org/filltheboot/firefighters





Muscular
Dystrophy
Association

Join the Community

 Instagram: @mdaorg

 Facebook: MDAorg

 X: @MDAorg

 LinkedIn: Muscular Dystrophy Association

 YouTube: YouTube.com/MDA

 Advocacy X: @MDA_Advocacy

 TikTok: @mdaorg

 Twitch: MDA_LetsPlay

 Discord: MDA Let's Play

Get Involved



From Fill the Boot to MDA Summer Camp and everything in between, your MDA Contact is your go-to resource for tools, support, and ideas to make the biggest impact in your community.

Scan the QR code to reach out, get your questions answered, and join the MDA Community today.