

Monthly Message from the Chief

September 2013

In July, I had an opportunity to visit Grizzly Ranch Camp in Portola, one of five Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) camps in California, where 53 children spent a week participating in a variety of activities, from dancing and water games to role playing and other programs. It was obvious in the children's faces and demeanor that camp gave them hope and re-energized their batteries after a long year of coping with the fatigue brought on by this disease. The children love to attend the camp because they have the opportunity to be among other campers like themselves and, more importantly, just be kids.



This year's campers were supported by 60 volunteer counselors who were committed to the children 24/7 for the entire week of camp. The funding to make this camp happen, as well as all of the vital research and medical care, happens entirely through donations. Fundraisers such as "Fill the Boot", rummage sales, motorcycle charity rides and MDA Lock-ups are critical sources of funding for MDA since it does not receive money from State, federal or local governments, nor does it seek fees for its services. I have walked in parades and participated in "Fill the Boot" events alongside these children and their families. I know firsthand how much they appreciate what we are doing for them. Our efforts to support MDA truly make a difference for these families.

The fire service tradition of supporting the MDA began in 1952, when a father in desperate need ran into a South Boston fire house. Twenty firefighters sprang into action and went door to door, raising \$5,000 to assist his family. The selfless commitment by these twenty firefighters has grown into a fire service wide tradition to assist all families afflicted by this terrible disease.

Many fundraising events were cancelled or postponed this year due to fire activity and other emergencies. I continue to be committed to this worthy cause and support any efforts you make to reschedule these fundraising events through the fall months as emergency activity allows. Please find time to support MDA in any way you can.

Ken Pimlott
Director