

Lancaster Fire Department raises money for Muscular Dystrophy Association

BY ABIGAIL S. FISHER • E-G Staff Photographer • March 18, 2009

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LANCASTER - Diners visiting Roosters Tuesday were greeted with more than just green beer and festive beads.

ADVERTISEMENT Taking drink orders Tuesday were members of the Lancaster Fire Department, who volunteered to wait tables at the restaurant to raise money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

About 20 volunteers from the Lancaster Fire Department were on-hand Tuesday to take drink orders and deliver food. Each firefighter was paired with one of the restaurant's servers to learn the ropes of the restaurant world.

"We can't say enough good things about them for giving us today to raise money," said Dave Fouch, one of the firefighters.

Local firefighter and organizer Cole Tomlin said the department always does Fill-the-Boot campaign to raise money for the association.

The annual Fill-the-Boot campaign, headed by the International Association of Fire Fighters, gives departments an opportunity to contribute local dollars to a national charity.

Fire departments across the country donated more than \$27 million to the Muscular Dystrophy Association in 2008.

"For the past couple years, we've talked about raising some extra money for it," Tomlin said. "Every year, it seems to be about the same amount of money we bring in - this year we wanted to up the amount."



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Servers show local firefighters the ropes of the restaurant Tuesday at Rooster's in Lancaster. The firefighters volunteered at the restaurant in order to raise money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. **(Abigail S. Fisher / Eagle-Gazette)**

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Tomlin said they jumped at the invitation to spend St. Patrick's Day serving drinks and waiting tables at Rooster's.

The department aimed to surpass its \$13,000 goal set in 2008.

"We didn't think we'd have any trouble getting guys to come out here and do this because it's St. Patrick's Day and they can have a good time and raise money."

Roosters manager Dusti Thompson-Wears said the restaurant pledged to give 10 percent of Tuesday's food sales to the department for the charity.

"We have a lot of firemen that come in here," Thompson-Wears said. "This is the first time we've done something like this in the restaurant."

The lunch crowd inside Rooster's was eager to see how the firefighters would fare in a new atmosphere.

Tomlin hopes the success of Tuesday's fundraising will allow the department to continue its partnership with Rooster's in the future.

"We're really hoping to come back and do it next year," he said. "Hopefully, we can make it even bigger."

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