



Alachua County Department of Fire/Rescue Services

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A Monthly Newsletter

September/October 2005

A NEW RECORD!

**ACFR CONTRIBUTES MORE THAN
\$50K TO MDA**

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MSgt. Donovan Jones, ANG

SSgt. Ron Lewis, ANG

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Joey Knapp and Kevin Wesley counted the thousands of dollars in donations ACFR received.

Although lately our hearts and minds have been focused on those hardest hit by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, ACFR firefighters and paramedics nevertheless raised \$57,579 for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. As part of the annual MDA Boot Drive, ACFR personnel spent countless hours over the Labor Day weekend collecting donations at intersections throughout the local area. All of the monies collected will be retained

locally to fund research, clinical needs, and equipment for children and adults afflicted with one or more of more than 40 neuromuscular diseases.

This year International Association of Fire Fighters Local Union 3852/ACFR was the number one contributor to the MDA in our area. On the national level, the IAFF came through with an enormous contribution of more than 21 million dollars making the International Association of Fire Fighters the highest single MDA contributor.

According to ACFR's MDA Coordinator, Kevin Wesley, next year's fund raising efforts will include our annual Bass Tournament and the new Bass Boat Raffle. He said, "With effort and determination next



Sam Hersom (in green) and his brother Cole (in blue) also participated. Sam was recently diagnosed with Deschen's Muscular Dystrophy.

year, I am hoping to stand in front of everyone and present a check for over \$100,000!"

Extrication!



FIREFIGHTERS FROM STATION 16 WORKED TO SHARPEN THEIR EXTRICATION SKILLS DURING A RECENT TRAINING SESSION AT DAMRON'S IN GAINESVILLE.

Faces & Places



LEFT: Jonathan Richardson is reunited with his family after deploying to Mississippi in support of Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts.



RIGHT: Justin Lagotic extricates a passenger after another fatal accident on I-75.



ABOVE: Jackie Patton performs overhaul following a La Crosse mobile home fire on September 11th.

Bon Voyage, Rick!



ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23RD, RICK RIDENOUR LEFT THE ACFR FAMILY AFTER NEARLY FIVE YEARS. AT A SMALL GATHERING, MANY OF RICK'S COLLEAGUES GATHERED TO WISH HIM WELL IN HIS FUTURE ENDEAVORS.