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**City of Duluth - Fire Department**

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**DATE:** 12/10/2021

**SUBJECT:** Duluth Skyline Rotary donates to DFD Foundation for new water rescue equipment

**BY:** Kate Van Daele, Public Information Officer

**NATURE OF INCIDENT:**

**CASE NO.:**

**INCIDENT DATE:** 12/10/2021

**INCIDENT TIME:**

**INCIDENT LOCATION:**

**Duluth Skyline Rotary donates to DFD Foundation for new water rescue equipment**

[Duluth, MN] The Duluth Fire Department will soon have a new piece of water rescue equipment thanks to a \$2,000 donation from the Duluth Skyline Rotary. The donation comes from the Rock the Skyline concert that was held in late October at Clyde Iron Works.

"Duluth is known for our connection to Lake Superior and other bodies of water. We want everyone to enjoy our rivers and lakes safely," Lisa Neitzel, Skyline Rotary Event Chair and President of Surge Communications said. "If something does happen, we want to support the Duluth Fire Department's Water Rescue Program in their endeavor to save lives." Providing clean water, sanitation and hygiene is one of many of the causes that Rotary International bases their mission on. "Focusing on water echoes Rotary International's connection to water as one of its goals is supplying communities with safe drinking water, building wells in areas of the world that need them and other work to help ensure those communities have access to water. Therefore, Skyline Rotary decided on water as the focus of our club and chose to support the Duluth Fire Department Water Rescue Program with this fundraiser," Neitzel said.

The Duluth Fire Department with the assistance of the Duluth Fire Foundation, will be using the funds to purchase an AquaEye handheld sonar device that is used to assist first responders in finding missing individuals. The device will be purchased in the new year and be located at the Gary-New Duluth Station 10. While Marine 19, the Department's all-hazard response vessel has sonar capability, Marine 10, a 16-foot inflatable rescue boat does not.

"Without the support of Duluth Skyline Rotary this purchase would not be possible," Chief Shawn Krizaj said. "We have been proud to partner with Skyline Rotary since 2019 in meeting the needs of the Department, and the Water Rescue Program. Duluth is unique with the amount of water, and types of water within our response area. This unique piece of equipment will only help our emergency response efforts."

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