

Basket fund kicks off at Zehrs



Basket fund kicks off at Zehrs. City firefighter volunteers and staff at the South Cambridge Zehrs are teaming up this weekend for the kickoff of the Cambridge Firefighters' Basket Fund. *Ray Martin, Times Staff*
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Volunteers from Cambridge Fire Department had so much fun last year that they'll be back at Zehrs this weekend to do it all again.

The volunteers will be working with staff at South Cambridge Zehrs to kick off the 88th annual Cambridge Firefighters Basket Fund. Last year, 79 volunteers from the fire department, along with seven family members, friends and two students, stuffed groceries and passed the hat to raise \$11,708.90.

"Everyone had so much fun with it, that we've made it an annual event," said organizer Capt. Dave Mawdsley.

Firefighters worked to make Christmas a little brighter for 425 needy families last year. The need is even greater this year.

"We know there are a lot more families hurting out there this Christmas. We are just asking people to give what they can," he said.

Mawdsley said he hopes to have an even larger number of volunteers participating this year to assist Zehrs staff pack groceries and receive donations. The team hopes to raise \$35,000 to put together baskets for 540 families this year.

The Firefighters' Basket Fund assists families of three or more. Firefighters work together with the Salvation Army and Cambridge Self-Help Food Bank to avoid any duplication.

Volunteers will be working Friday, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Donations for the Cambridge Firefighters Basket Fund can be dropped off at any city fire hall.

Cash donations are being accepted at The Credit Union, located at the rear door of Cambridge Place, 73 Water St. N. and at Cambridge Fire Department headquarters, 1625 Bishop St. N1R 7J7.

Distribution of food hampers and toys will take place Dec. 19 and 20. For further information, call 740-7575.

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