



## ***MEDIA RELEASE***

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**Contact:** Melody Pettit, Communications Manager  
Office (417) 337-8589 Cell (417) 213-0041  
[mpettit@bransonmo.gov](mailto:mpettit@bransonmo.gov)

### **Donations to Branson Fire Rescue Enable New Water Rescue Initiative**

BRANSON, Mo – Recent donations from local business owners will allow Branson Fire Rescue to create an official water rescue initiative that Fire officials are aiming to have operational by mid-2020.

Healing Tree Health Club owners, Dr. Joy and Tom Watson, donated \$1,500 to Branson Fire Rescue in January, 2020, which will be used to purchase a reserve motor for the Department's new water rescue boat. This donation brings the total amount the Watson's have donated in the past five years to \$7,500, money that has been used to enhance the Department's technical rescue capabilities. Besides the reserve motor for the rescue boat, their donations have been used to purchase a tripod for confined space rescues, dry suits for water rescues, and three complete sets of water rescue gear including personal flotation devices, helmets and gloves.

With the combined donations from the Watsons and another anonymous donor, Branson Fire Rescue now has enough gear and resources to implement a water rescue initiative. This initiative will help enable the Department to have water rescue technicians on duty, around the clock, with the equipment and training needed to respond to water emergencies.

"The Watson's are another example of what makes the Branson community great. Year after year the Watson's have stepped-up to be a community partner with Branson Fire Rescue and provided much needed equipment that would not normally be possible through our operating budget. Every dollar the Watson's have donated has gone directly back to the community by helping us be better prepared to save lives," said Branson Fire Rescue Chief Ted Martin.

Dr. Joy and Tom Watson operate two health clubs, one in Branson and one in Berryville, Arkansas, that uses advanced technologies to focus on holistic nutrition and relieving chronic pain.

Pictured, left to right: Branson Firefighter Josh Burton; Branson Fire Captain Jason Bruck; Healing Tree Health Club Office Manager and Certified Holistic Health Practitioner Jennifer Lynch; Healing Tree Health Club Biomagnetic Practitioner Heather Matthews; Division Chief Mike Novak; Firefighter Bryan Hutchins

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