Firemen Got Cooking for Charity at Department Cook-off Event June 5

LAFD firefighters showed off a bit of their prized cooking skills June 5 and raised approximately $90,000 at a charity cook-off event in downtown Los Angeles.

The LAFD held its sixth annual Block Party, "Hope for Firefighters Day," where LAFD firefighters teamed up with corporate sponsors to win the "best food booth" – and help raise money for the Disabled Firefighters, Widows and Orphans Fund.

The $90,000 was by far the most the annual event has raised.

The block party was at 333 S. Hope St. in downtown Los Angeles, in front of the British Petroleum building.

Cooks, crews and volunteers partnered with corporate sponsors to host a variety of food booths in the Corporate Firefighter Challenge. A panel of food tasters judged the local fire station cuisine, awarding top honors to the best food booth.

Firefighter pride was on the line!

Firefighters and corporate sponsors staffed 28 food booths, and 12 corporate teams competed in the Fireman's Muster Games, a event combining a hose pull, a suit-up contest, and a bucket brigade.

The winner of the Best Food Booth was LAFD Fire Station 27 working with the Universal Protection Service. LA, Inc. (the Visitors and Convention Bureau) came away with top honors in the Firefighters Muster contest.

Food judges included Brian Phelps of radio's Mark and Brian; actress Jill Whelan; and Eric Robles, an event coordinator with the General Services Department.

Mayor Jim Hahn and Councilman Tom LaBonge stopped by to participate in the fun.

For more information and more photos, go to: www.hopeforfirefighters.org

Firefighters from Station #11.

Below are photos of the fun-filled — and darned tasty — event.

Dance team march at the benefit.

Events at the Hope for Firefighters fundraiser.

Inspector Vaughn of Valley Industrial and Inspector Martinez of High Rise.

Firefighters from Station #9.

Events at the Hope for Firefighters fundraiser.

From left: Derrick Goldstein, Al Hugo, Michael James, Justin Bactat and Jason Getchus

From left: Jamie Bergantz of the Club; Joe Vigil, Station #15; and Beverly Haro of the Club.

From left: Russell Bell; Beverly Haro and Jamie Bergantz of the Club; and Joe Fig.

From left: Joey Esparza, Mark McCracken, Gary Matsubara and Gabe Granados.