

## **Crime Stoppers of Minnesota**

### **2017 Annual Report**



**TIP VOLUME:** Tips reported to Crime Stoppers of Minnesota by the public increased by 16% over 2016 which continued a 10 year trend of each year being an increase over the previous year.

**TIP REACH:** We continue to provide a useful tool for all types of agencies across the entire State of Minnesota. While the majority of individual tips were forwarded to agencies in the 7-county metropolitan area of the Twin Cities, more agencies (103) outside of the metro area received tips than did the number of agencies (61) in the metro area. Our distribution of tips was mostly to local Police Departments with a lesser number to County Sheriff's Offices and State and Federal agencies.

**FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES:** Unrestricted income for the year was \$11,515 with expenses of \$12,552 causing us to draw on our reserves. Restricted funds received for rewards and a special project totaled \$18,088.

**FUNDRAISER EVENT:** Crime Stoppers partnered with Mike Karch and his Chanhassen Automotorplex Car Club to host a Crime-Fighter Vehicle fundraiser. This event featured Mike's collection of crime-fighter vehicles such as the Batmobile, a James Bond Aston Martin, the Black Beauty from the Green Hornet TV series, and more. This event is planned to be repeated in 2018 as a Thank You event to members of law enforcement for their dedication and efforts.

**GRANT PROJECT:** Thanks to a grant from the Hubbard Broadcasting Foundation we were able to create a 'rack card' brochure for use by law enforcement agencies to attract information about crimes. The card is designed to be on display in Police Department and Sheriff Office lobbies, for distribution at the scene of a crime or distribution at community events and presentations. 67 agencies requested 25,160 of the 50,000 cards that were printed. We are thankful to Hubbard for their support and look forward to this tool reaching more members of the public who may have information to submit using our various modes of technology.

**NEW TECHNOLOGY:** The webmaster of our website made changes that give our website a new look that expands our ability to post case-specific images and is easier to page through. We also moved ahead with new tip management software that provides better responsiveness for tipsters in this era of mobile devices. This also lets us provide link identity to local law enforcement that helps them to show their direct interest in gaining information through the resource of Crime Stoppers of Minnesota.

**BOARD MEMBERS:** Three multi-year Board Members departed, Tom Dybsky, Mark Thorson and Doug Belton and we thank them for their time and contributions to working with us. We were fortunate to add new Board Members Jessica Kiedrowski, John Shuman and Cheryl DeGrott-Gunter. We continue to seek additions to our board as we all conduct some part of the tasks needed to conduct operations and to keep our presence viable with the public, media and law enforcement since we have no paid staff.

**2017:** We are pleased with the increased volume of tips we receive because we know that local law enforcement is expressing a greater desire in their communities to gather information using Crime

Stoppers of Minnesota to help make safer communities. Our challenges will be to energize new Officers and Sheriffs staff as retirements and rotations move those who know how Crime Stoppers can benefit them on to other opportunities and bring new staff into the role of working with us. We also hope to generate more funds to make possible that training, as well as to pay the increased rewards coming from the increased volume of tips. Individual donations and gifts from businesses will be our target as they know that in their communities law enforcement works hard to keep them safe and we can provide direct assistance to that effort.

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