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Crime Stoppers Experiences Monumental Year

Feb. 8, 2017 (SPRINGFIELD, Mo.) – Community Partnership’s Greater Springfield Area Crime Stoppers had a monumental year. It was the first full year for the new board of directors to work together. Their hard work and dedication has ensured the program continues to take great strides toward its mission to make Greene County and Springfield safer. Crime Stoppers relies on citizens to provide anonymous information about crime. This information can then be given to local law enforcement for investigation. Tipsters are rewarded with up to \$1,000 when tips lead directly to a felony arrest, a felony drug seizure, a suspect identification in a felony crime, or felony charges being filed.

A major focus in 2017 was an educational campaign to inform the community about the program. “We found many citizens wanted to get involved, but were unsure of how to get started,” said Officer Rachel Kleeman, program coordinator. “An introductory video was created to assist citizens with the tip submission process, as well as provide an overview of how the program works.” The video was posted on social media and at springfieldcrimestoppers.com.

Another focus for the board last year was fundraising. Crime Stoppers is a program of Community Partnership of the Ozarks. “Being part of a non-profit means money for operational expenses, including cash reward payouts for Tipsters, is only obtained from donations. The board had a successful first year of fundraising and learned a lot. Thank you to the individuals and businesses who donated, became sponsors, and helped support Crime Stoppers during the year. Board members look forward to new partnerships and fundraising opportunities in the future to better serve the community,” Kleeman said.

The Greater Springfield Area Crime Stoppers program received 1,186 tips for review in 2017. Follow-up from Tipsters increased 135 percent since last year via hotline and online tips. In 2016, there were approximately 800 tip follow-ups compared to 2,437 follow-ups in 2017. \$98,439 worth of narcotics were seized, up from \$8,077 in 2016. Seven firearms were seized compared to four in 2016, and one stolen vehicle was recovered. Tracking stolen vehicle recoveries is a new option available with the new tip management software and this data was not previously recorded. \$2,550 was paid out in cash rewards.

“Crime Stoppers is looking forward to the new year and new ways to continue serving the great citizens of Springfield and Greene County,” Kleemann said. If you would like to get involved with the board, please contact Officer Kleemann at 417-864-1835. To submit an anonymous Crime Stoppers tip, visit p3tips.com, or call the hotline at 417-869-TIPS (8477).

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ABOUT COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP OF THE OZARKS

The mission of Community Partnership of the Ozarks is to facilitate and promote the building of resilient children, healthy families, and strong neighborhoods and communities through collaboration, programming and resource development. For more information on the Partnership’s collaborative efforts and programs, visit www.cpozarks.org.