



PRATT ONE MILLION DOLLAR CHALLENGE GIFT MET BY BACKSTOPPERS SUPPORTERS

For Immediate Release

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Thanks to the great generosity of St. Louis region individuals, families and businesses, The BackStoppers have met their goal of raising \$1 million during the last 18 months to match a challenge gift from philanthropists David C and Flora Pratt.

Chief Ron Battelle, Executive Director for the 50-year old organization, said the organization was thrilled to be able to announce the goal had been met at the Annual Member dinner on April 20, 2009.

“Our support comes from the entire St. Louis area community,” Chief Battelle said. “We knew that the community would give to the David C. Pratt Challenge Campaign, but we were very surprised at the great generosity that allowed us to meet the challenge so quickly.” The Pratt Challenge gift was the largest single gift to The BackStoppers ever.

David and Flora Pratt were honored at the April 20th celebration. Anne Gagen, BackStoppers Board President, presented the Pratts with an award recognizing their contribution to the organization. “We are so fortunate to have supporters like the Pratts and all of the individuals and businesses in the greater St. Louis region that made this possible. “The funds raised through the David C. Pratt Challenge Campaign will help us to continue our mission of providing assistance to the families of our fallen heroes well into the future,” she said. “In 2008 we added 8 additional families to those we serve. We are extremely grateful to the Pratts and to the community for the significant support that enables us to care for these families.”

Since 1959 The BackStoppers has assisted over 100 families of fallen police officers, firefighters and publicly-funded EMTs and paramedics. The organization currently assists 42 families with 41 minor children.