

MEDIA RELEASE

**Saint Paul Police Department
367 Grove Street
Saint Paul, MN 55101**



**John M. Harrington
CHIEF OF POLICE**

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April 21, 2009

Saint Paul Police Department Police Officer, Detective, and Civilian of 2008

Today, The Saint Paul Police Department honored its Police Officer, Detective, and Civilian Employee of 2008.

The civilian employee is Catherine J. Carbone who is an Emergency Communication Center Shift Supervisor. She is recognized of her outstanding ability to bring people together by refocusing attention and energy from their own problems to others that are less fortunate. She devoted much of her own time to advertise for families in need for the holidays, to take pictures of the thirteen families that were chosen, and to make posters of them so that the ECC staff could see who they were helping. It was a humbling experience for all to know that most of these families were simply asking for necessities like clothing, diapers and dishes. Cathy organized the wrapping and delivery of the gifts that not only brought joy to these families, but also harmony to the ECC. Her enthusiasm, positive attitude and passion to assist these families provided the motivation for ECC employees to put their difficulties from the merger aside and come together as a unified group eager to help others in the community that they serve. Cathy is an honored member of our organization and a source of pride for our department.

The Officer of the year award went to Officer Jeff Schwab, in recognition for his outstanding accomplishments while working in the Family and Sexual Violence Unit. Jeff's excellent interpersonal communication skills have proven beneficial when working with victims who have refused to cooperate with investigations in the past. He displays respect and professionalism to these victims and has a special skill to gain their trust. The rapport that he has established is so strong that there was even an instance where a victim, which he had dealt with in the past, was being held hostage by a suspect for several hours. When she was able to sneak a call in for help, she did not call 911, but rather to Jeff's cell phone. He has demonstrated great effort and devotion to the victims of these sensitive crimes and has received accolades from the Ramsey County Attorney's Office for your dedication. His willingness to assist the sergeants in his unit is invaluable as he is able to quickly assess and prioritize their needs. He routinely assists them by

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preparing reports, writing and executing search warrants and monitoring jail calls. He has the ability to multi-task and work quickly and efficiently. He is truly an asset to FSVU and our department. With honor, Jeff Schwab is awarded Officer of the Year for his admirable and extraordinary talents that make him a most respected member of our department.

The Detective of the year award went to Sergeant Matt Toupal, in recognition of his outstanding leadership and community involvement in his dual role as investigator for the Central District and lead supervisor for the GRID (Getting Residents Involved Daily) Program. He gave many hours selflessly to both assignments and made himself available for anyone to contact him with any questions or issues, day or night. Both community and City Council members have praised his work with directing GRID during the summer of 2008. A rash of robberies in the Rice Street area was the primary focus and many arrests were made through his support and coordination of officers working this program. He was a true mentor to these officers and offered them the tools and training they needed to solve these cases aggressively. The passion that he has for helping the community is apparent from his personal visits to housing complexes and businesses that are suffering from high crime. With each visit, he made sure the parties involved had his name and number and understood that by working together, they could arrive at a solution to the problem. Matt's guidance and efforts are an inspiration to both the community and to members of our department. He is a source of great pride to our department for your commitment to our officers and to the City of Saint Paul.

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