



**Call: (509) 327-5111 or
(800) 222-TIPS (8477)**

WebTips

Submit a Tip Online: www.crimestoppersinlandnorthwest.org

January 6, 2011

For Tipsters and Community, Crime (Stoppers) Pays

Crime Stoppers wrapped up 2010 with a whopping 795 tips that solved 33 cases and earned tipsters more than \$3,400 in cash rewards.

Rewards totaling more than \$3,900 were approved, but some were never collected by the tipsters. The outlay of cash resulted from the arrests of 29 targeted fugitives, the solution of four criminal cases, and payment of five school rewards.

In total, 234 suspects were arrested after being featured on the Crime Stoppers website, Spokane-area television programs and Washington's Most Wanted, a program featuring unsolved crimes and targeted fugitives from all over Washington State.

Crime Stoppers is a national program that enhances community safety by paying cash rewards for information that solves crimes. Unlike many such programs, it does not require that suspects be convicted in order to collect the rewards, thus assuring tipsters that they can remain anonymous.

Spokane County previously had the Secret Witness program which was inaugurated in 1980. It was consolidated into the international Crime Stoppers program in 2008 when its civilian board of directors decided to expand their law enforcement partnership beyond Spokane County borders.

Since then, a Crime Stoppers program has been started in Kootenai County, Idaho, and law enforcement agencies surrounding Spokane County have been offered participation in the program as a means to enhance their investigative abilities.

Since its inception, the combined Secret Witness – Crime Stoppers program has paid out \$156,845 for information that resulted in the solution of a crime or arrest of a targeted fugitive. In many instances, local crimes would have gone unsolved had not a tipster provided a key tip that led police to its resolution.

Another arena in which cash rewards are paid is the "Keep Guns Outta Schools" program which pays tipsters \$75 for information that leads to the seizure of a dangerous weapon on school property.

Persons interested in obtaining more information about the local Crime Stoppers program can visit the website www.crimestoppersinlandnorthwest.org. For information about the international Crime Stoppers program, go to <http://www.csiworld.org>. -- rdr