

STATER BROS. CHARITIES DONATES MORE THAN \$1 MILLION IN 2008

In its first year, Stater Bros. Charities donated more than \$1.4 million back into the communities served by Stater Bros. Supermarkets.

With the Stater Bros. Charities Dave Stockton Heroes Challenge, which raised more than \$427,000 in 2008 for local charities, the recent Holiday Giving Campaign that generated more than \$220,000 for local self-help organizations, and the inaugural Believe and Walk for the Cure which brought more than 1,700 walkers to the City of Redlands to help find a cure for cancer, Stater Bros. Charities has been off to a running start.

The corporate charity was officially established on Feb. 29, 2008, and has been under the direction of Executive Director Sarah Cain and President Susan Atkinson.

"It has always been our vision to help local charities receive the critical help they need," stated Atkinson. "Now, with the economy being in a crisis, our communities need even more help. It's important that each one of us does what we can to help our neighbors succeed."

Among the 43 donations that Stater Bros. Charities made in 2008 were two transport vans to the Loma Linda VA Hospital to help veterans living in the High Desert get to their doctor's appointments and to the hospital. Stater Bros. Charities also donated funds to help establish and pay the teaching staff for the "Why Try" educational outreach program, and to Operation SafeHouse which is geared to helping runaway and at-risk youth.

The 2nd Annual Stater Bros. Charities Dave Stockton Heroes Challenge, March 2 at the Victoria Club in Riverside, raised \$60,000. During the 2009 Challenge, the late Martin A. Matich received the Captain Leland F. Norton Award. A major donation will also be given to St. Bernardine's Medical Center in San Bernardino in memory of Matich by Stater Bros. Charities. Matich became CEO of Matich Corp., a construction company, in 1950. In his lifetime he gave to countless charities including his alma mater, Notre Dame, St. Bernardine's Medical Center and Loma Linda University Children's Hospital, to name a few.



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