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**PRESS RELEASE**  
**For Immediate Release**

**Stater Bros. Charities Announces 2009 ... "Heroes of the Heartland" Award Recipients**  
*These awards are in conjunction with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Stater Bros. Charities Dave Stockton Heroes Challenge*

**SAN BERNARDINO, CALIFORNIA** – Stater Bros. Charities is pleased to announce the 2009 Heroes of the Heartland Award Recipients as part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Stater Bros. Charities Dave Stockton Heroes Challenge. The Heartland Awards are given to individuals who exemplify a caring commitment to the community they live in. The Stater Bros. Charities Awards Banquet will be held on Sunday, March 1, 2009 at 5 p.m. at the Victoria Club in Riverside, California.

The following individuals are the 2009 Heroes of the Heartland Award Recipients: Former San Bernardino County Sheriff-Coroner **Gary Penrod**, Redlands Realtor **Lois K. Lauer**, Founder of Calimesa's Garden Of Angels **Debi Faris** and Executive Director of Apple Valley's Happy Trails Children's Foundation **Joel Dortch**. Stater Bros. Charities is donating \$5,000 in honor of each of these individuals to the following charities of their choice.

- **Gary Penrod – A donation will be presented to C.O.P.S. Southern California Chapter** - Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc. provides resources to assist in the rebuilding of the lives of surviving families and affected co-workers of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty as determined by Federal criteria. Furthermore, C.O.P.S. provides training to law enforcement agencies on survivor victimization issues and educates the public of the need to support the law enforcement profession and its survivors.
- **Lois K. Lauer – A donation will be presented to Victoria Elementary School** - Victoria Elementary School continues its tradition as an outstanding example of how students representing 18 different cultures and languages are able to successfully work together to grow academically, socially and emotionally in an atmosphere of high expectations and acceptance. The elementary school is located in Redlands California.
- **Debi Faris – A donation will be presented to Garden of Angels** - Since 1996, the Garden of Angels has buried the bodies of 76 abandoned and unclaimed children from Southern California at Desert Lawn Memorial Park in Calimesa. Garden of Angels is committed to the prevention of newborn abandonment and has recently launched an educational campaign which includes public service announcements and print ads, plus a fifteen minute educational video designed to reach out to young people in community schools, as they discuss health, life issues and teen pregnancy in their classroom. Debi Faris founded this organization.
- **Joel Dortch – A donation will be presented to Happy Trails Children's Foundation** – The Happy Trails Children's Foundation takes a leadership role in partnership with the community to prevent child abuse by operating the Cooper Home which helps 44 boys between the ages of 10 and 15 have a safe environment to live in. Located in Apple Valley, Cooper Home houses children who have been severely abused and removed from their parents' care by the Child Protective Services. Since the Cooper Home opened in 1997, more than 350 children have received shelter, care and treatment services. Joel Dortch serves as the Executive Director of Happy Trails Children's Foundation.

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About Stater Bros. Charities

Since 1936, Stater Bros. Markets has been a pillar of support in the community. Last year, Stater Bros. established Stater Bros. Charities, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The purpose of Stater Bros. Charities is to give back to the communities Stater Bros. Markets is privileged to serve. In 2008, Stater Bros. Charities donated \$1.4 million to local causes. With an emphasis on programs that benefit hunger relief, children's welfare, education for both youth and adults, services for the elderly and care for our Nation's Veterans, Stater Bros. Charities will be able to help with some of the most critical needs facing this region.

About Stater Bros. Markets

Stater Bros. Markets was founded in 1936 in Yucaipa, California, and has grown steadily through the years to become the largest privately owned Supermarket Chain in Southern California and the largest employer in both San Bernardino County and Riverside County, with annual sales in 2008 of \$3.74 billion. The Company currently operates 166 Supermarkets, and there are over 19,000 members of the Stater Bros. "Family" of Employees.

**STATER BROS. CHARITIES PROVIDES PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT TO  
APPROVED NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS IN COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**