



## NEWS RELEASE

Andy Skoogman, Chief Public Information Officer

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 21, 2011

**CONTACT:**

Jill Oliveira, 651-793-2726

### **MINNESOTA AMBER ALERT PROGRAM RECEIVES \$18,000 DONATION**

*Check Presented on the Eve of the Anniversary of Jacob Wetterling's Abduction*

ST. PAUL — A group of motorcycle enthusiasts is marking the 22<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the abduction of Jacob Wetterling with an \$18,000 donation to help fund the operation of the Minnesota AMBER Alert program. The group presented the check today to Patty Wetterling, Jacob's mother, and officials of the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension.

The group established a non-profit organization, 'Minnesota AMBER Alert Fundraiser,' and has held events to raise money for the Minnesota AMBER Alert program since 2003, including the nation's first ever motorcycle run to benefit AMBER Alert.

The group has raised more than \$100,000 for the program to date.

AMBER Alert State Program Coordinator Janell Rasmussen says today's donation is particularly important because Minnesota's program is run entirely on donated funds.

"Statistics show that finding an abducted child within the first few hours gives us the best chance at saving their lives," Rasmussen said. "The AMBER Alert program gives Minnesota the tool to get information out fast and to a wide audience."

Donated funds go directly to operate the AMBER Alert program. Each AMBER Alert costs \$6,000-\$12,000, including its broadcast and cancellation. Donations are also used to help defray the cost of law enforcement training and education about the program for children, businesses and the public.

Since its inception, 26 AMBER Alerts have been issued in the state of Minnesota and all have resulted in the safe recovery of a child. Because time is of the essence in abductions, the goal is to maximize public participation to locate the child as quickly as possible. This donation will further that effort.

**Editor's note:** Video and audio of today's news conference will be available after 4 p.m. by following a link on the [BCA Facebook page](#) or the [BCA website](#). Follow [DPS on Twitter](#) to receive a tweet when the video is posted.

BCA Facebook page – <http://www.facebook.com/MNBCA?ref=mf>

BCA Website – <https://bca.dps.mn.gov>

DPS on Twitter - <http://twitter.com/#!/MnDPS> [DPS](#)

###

Alcohol  
and Gambling  
Enforcement

Bureau of Criminal  
Apprehension

Driver  
and Vehicle  
Services

Emergency  
Communication  
Networks

Homeland  
Security and  
Emergency  
Management

Minnesota  
State Patrol

Office of  
Communications

Office of  
Justice Programs

Office of  
Pipeline Safety

Office of  
Traffic Safety

State Fire Marshal