

# NEWS RELEASE

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**Contacts:**

Katie Beal  
Senior Communications Coordinator  
952-949-8526

Joyce Lorenz  
Communications Manager  
952-949-8554



OFF: 952 949 8300  
FAX: 952 949 8390  
TDD: 952 949 8399

8080 Mitchell Rd  
Eden Prairie, MN  
55344-4485

[edenprairie.org](http://edenprairie.org)

## EDEN PRAIRIE RESIDENTS CONTRIBUTE TO RECORD BREAKING NIGHT OUT

**Eden Prairie, Minn.** — On a warm summer evening in August hundreds of Eden Prairie residents, dedicated to strengthening their commitment to a safe community, gathered with friends and neighbors to celebrate **Eden Prairie Night Out 2008**.

“It was a record-breaking year,” said Eden Prairie Police Officer **Elizabeth Stroner**, coordinator of the event. “We had more participation than ever before and collected a record number of donations for PROP.”

This year, the residents of Eden Prairie planned 106 neighborhood gatherings for the Night Out event, bringing more than 5,000 people out to celebrate for the evening. That number tops all previous years, including 2007 when 89 gatherings took place.

Of the 106 Night Out celebrations this year, more than 90 neighborhoods incorporated a collection of donations for **PROP** (People Reaching out to Other People) into the evening’s festivities. In all, nearly 7,500 pounds of donated items were collected, topping last year’s total by more than 1,000 pounds!

“The PROP drive is a very important part of the Night Out event,” said Officer Stroner. “This year’s generous donations are a statement of Eden Prairie residents’ commitment to helping their neighbors in need.”

Representatives from the Eden Prairie Police and Fire departments, as well as several City officials, made stops at each of the local gatherings. As an added bonus to this year’s event, the Police and Fire departments committed to hosting an ice cream social for the neighborhood with the largest volume of donations to PROP.

The winning neighborhood, located in the 17000 block of Valley Road, collected a total of 580 pounds of donations and will be rewarded with an evening of ice cream and fun with McGruff, Sparky and Eden Prairie’s public safety officials.

Eden Prairie Night Out 2008 was by all means a record-breaking event, bringing friends and neighbors together to celebrate and strengthen the commitment to a safe community.

The City of Eden Prairie is a vibrant community of more than 60,000 people located just southwest of Minneapolis. Eden Prairie has been nationally recognized as a great place to live, work and raise a family. In 2006, MONEY Magazine named Eden Prairie the 10<sup>th</sup> “Best Place to Live” in America.

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