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November 21, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Dianne Brush, Community Services Specialist, at 234-6117

**OFFICERS RAISE MONEY FOR NEEDY FAMILIES**  
*Donations are "Growing" in Many Ways*

During the holiday season, members of the Pocatello Police Department raise money to help needy families. This year the members are trying a different type of fundraiser. Officers are taking a cue from Santa in an effort to create excitement for this year's "Secret Santa" project.

Since department policy prohibits sworn officers from displaying facial hair, officers have been given approval to grow a goatee in exchange for a \$40.00 donation to the "Secret Santa" fund. The goatees must be in compliance with department standards and can be worn until January 5, 2012. A similar contribution will allow civilian employees to wear "business casual" dress on Thursdays and Fridays.

"Department members are really getting behind this effort. A lot of the guys like to grow a little facial hair in the winter and now they can do that and donate to a great cause!" states Sergeant. Eric Anderson, who is also sporting growth. All funds raised by department members will be matched by the local chapters of the Police Union and the Fraternal Order of Police. The Police Department hopes to raise \$2,000.00 by December 15<sup>th</sup> to support two needy families in our community who have been identified to benefit from the Secret Santa project.

Anyone wishing to contribute to this cause may contact Police Support Services at 234-6115 or Sgt. Anderson at 234-6129.

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Officers sprouting growth are available for photos or interviews.

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