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## NEWS RELEASE

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BC Ambulance Service

### **CUSTOMER THANKS STAFF FOR SAVING HIS LIFE**

RICHMOND—The British Columbia Ambulance Service (BCAS) presented three Vital Link Awards and three Good Samaritan Awards to local heroes today to recognize their actions in saving a life.

On June 8, 2008, Albert Strnad was leaving the Save-on-Foods on Ackroyd Street in Richmond when he collapsed. Operations Manager Donato Capozzi was the first aid attendant on duty and immediately recognized the signs of cardiac arrest. With the BCAS Emergency Medical Dispatcher (EMD) on the phone assisting him, Capozzi started chest compressions while fellow colleague, Lynn Koyzan, performed ventilations. Capozzi was thankful when Margaret Chong, an off-duty Cardiac Surgical nurse, also assisted with compressions until BCAS paramedics arrived and took over the patient's care.

“If this happened anywhere else, it could have been very different for me; I have a lot to be extremely thankful for,” said Strnad. “My wife and I really want to meet all the bystanders that helped and say thank-you to the paramedics.”

A cardiac arrest victim is four times more likely to survive if they receive bystander CPR; however, this basic procedure is not performed in approximately 85 per cent of all cardiac arrest cases. By promoting the examples where CPR has successfully saved a life, BCAS hopes that more people will be motivated to learn this life-saving skill.

“On behalf of the people of Richmond, I want to thank all of the Save-on-Foods employees for their quick thinking and selfless actions,” said Richmond MLA Olga Ilich. “Good Samaritans play an important and valuable role in ensuring the safety of each of us.”

“We know that even with the best technology and timely deployment of paramedics, the best chance for survival is through bystander CPR,” said BCAS Acting Superintendent Tim Philley. “These individuals worked together as a team and they all deserve recognition.”

Six awards were presented at the Save-on-Foods store to Donato Capozzi, Lynn Koyzan, Margaret Chong, Lazina Sahib, Cynthia Brown and Randy Sturrock, with Mr. Strnad and his wife present. BCAS Superintendent Tim Philley, BCAS Unit Chief Clarke McGuire and the attending BCAS paramedics, Ron Van Houten (ALS) and Adam Greene presented the awards in front of Store Manager Mark Berry, Regional Manager Alan Bordeleau, the Health and Safety Officers and their peers.

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