

Press Release – January 23rd, 2007

Jaycees Report Successful Ice Fishing Extravaganza

More than 10,000 anglers were on Gull Lake this past Saturday (Jan. 20) for the 17th Annual Brainerd Jaycees \$150,000 Ice Fishing Extravaganza.

The line at the weigh in stand measured 100 yards long just moments after the noon start of the contest. A cannon sounded at 3:00pm signaling the end of competition and by 3:30pm, a winner was declared. Tim Piehl of Baxter MN saw his name at the top of the leader board with a Northern Pike weighing 4.91 pounds. His catch was the heaviest of the 1130 fish registered, earning him a Ford 4X4 truck, the largest valued prize from the listing of 150 prizes. The 100th place prize of \$10,000 cash went to Brian Oneil of Waconia MN. Weighing in at last place was Derek Sabota, Plymouth MN, but that didn't matter to him because it was good enough to take home a new Suzuki ATV.

The Jaycees estimate more than 10,000 volunteer hours were involved with the event that has raised more than \$2 million for charities while attracting media attention from around the world. The Christian Science Monitor and CNBC News will soon feature this year's Extravaganza. Most recently, it was featured on Kent Hrbek Outdoors television.

Among the estimated 500 volunteers on the ice was Taylor Fitterer, the Jaycee Extravaganza's 17th chairperson, "I am happy to say we had a great turn out with little or no flaws in our system. Contestants had a great time, our volunteers did a great job. I could not have asked for it to have gone any better."

Those who did not land a prize-winning fish tend to share a common sentiment. "It's all for charity," said Bruce Olson who made the trek from Chicago IL. "We had a lot of fun and now some other folks will have that chance too."

This angler was referring to the fact that 100% of the Ice Fishing Extravaganza's proceeds will benefit charities. Confidence Learning Center will receive 70% of the funds to provide outdoor experiences for persons with developmental disabilities. It will take the Jaycees a month to audit the tournament financials but organizers anticipate donations close to \$200,000.

Fitterer attributes the success of this year's event to the many dedicated volunteers and sponsors, "I would like to thank our major sponsors; Mills motors, Hilmerson RV and Marine, Aqua View, Integra Telecom and C & L Budweiser for being such strong supporters of this wonderful event."

Next years event will take place on Saturday, January 26th, 2008.