

Press Release – January 23rd, 2010

BRAINERD JAYCEES PROUD OF THE CONTINUED

SUCCESS OF THE EXTRAVAGANZA

Brainerd, MN—Early estimates indicate that over 11,000 anglers were on Gull Lake's Hole in the Day Bay north of Brainerd today. 843 fish were registered in the 20th Annual Ice Fishing Extravaganza hosted by the Brainerd Jaycees. The line for the weigh-in tent was one hundred yards long within minutes of the event start at 12:00pm. As it turns out, the winning fish was caught within the first few minutes of the contest beginning, and it was a 6.26 pound walleye caught by Curtis Yess of Waseca, MN. Yess is a past President of the Waseca-area Jaycees and he was excited to catch the winning fish. "We never ran anything like this when I was a Jaycee," said Yess, "this is incredible." Yess took home a brand new GMC Pick-up Truck – new this year was the winner's choice between a GMC or a Ford F-150 Pick-up.

The walleye is the winningest fish species in the history of the Extravaganza. Yess caught his fish in 61 feet of water with a glow hook and a shiner minnow. In 100th place, winning a Suzuki KingQaud 400 ATV was Greg Steffel of Olivia, MN. He caught a 0.70 pound walleye. In last place (150th) was Dylan Kloek of Royalton, MN. He landed on the prize board with a 0.63 pound perch.

More than 10,000 volunteer hours go into planning the world's largest charitable ice fishing tournament. Among the 450 volunteers is Brent Morris, the chairman of the contest this year. He said, "I'm excited that we had such a great turn-out and the event went off without a hitch. That's a tribute to our volunteers and the great planning and history this event has developed over its 20-year history."

Angler Travis Nelson competed in his 15th Extravaganza and even though he didn't catch a fish he was happy to support the event, "It's all for a good cause," said Nelson. He's referring to the fact that 100% of the proceeds are donated to area 501c3 organizations with the largest beneficiary being Confidence Learning Center – a facility for people with developmental disabilities. "We think the fact that it's a charitable event contributes greatly to its success," said Morris.

All of the official event information can be found online at www.icefishing.org including a complete winner's list. Next year's event will be held on Saturday, January 22, 2011.