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**WINGS Benefit Ride Raises Over \$66,000**

On June 4, 2006 at 9:00 a.m., WINGS volunteers were prepared for the onslaught of pre-registrants and registrants for WINGS 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Benefit Ride. By 11:00 over 520 people had signed up. Over the course of the day participants drove 80 miles to stops like Horizontal's, Lily Lake Resort, JR's Broken Inn, Kevan's and JD Bootlegger's in Antioch. The end party at Bootlegger's featured raffles, a sloppy joe lunch, live music and, of course, poker. Cash prizes of \$250, \$100, and \$75 were handed out. DJ Matt Cox of J&M Productions provided hours of DJ service at no charge. All of the proceeds will go to support WINGS housing and services for women and children fleeing domestic violence and homelessness.

"This year we were amazed at the number of people who came out to take part in the ride," said Jennifer Djordjevic, WINGS director of public relations. "Each year this event continues to grow thanks to a committee that works hard to create a well run, fun and organized event."

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WINGS raffled off the chance to for one lucky winner to take home a Harley Davidson Road King Classic or \$10,000 cash. Royal American Bank, now Midwest Bank, stepped in to underwrite the tax, title, license and registration fee. So far, winner, Clarence Beardsley of Arlington Heights who bought 5 tickets on Sunday, has not made a decision. Three other cash prizes were awarded in the amounts of \$500, \$250 and \$100.

In all WINGS brought in almost \$9,000 more than last year's event. "We are so grateful for the continued support of the biker community", said Djordjevic. "We hope people will come back next year and bring a more friends with them."

WINGS offers transitional housing and emergency shelter. The Safe House, a 15,000 square foot facility opened in January of 2005 and has already helped over 150 individuals flee from domestic violence. Funds in the amount of \$675,000 from the state of Illinois however, have yet to come through.

When full, the facility can house up to 45 women and children each night and will provide women with medical, legal, and financial advocacy as well as therapeutic counseling and access to housing and other resources.

In addition the agency has 24 apartments and homes located in Skokie, Northbrook, Des Plaines, Park Ridge, Schaumburg, Hoffman Estates, Mount Prospect, Arlington Heights, Palatine, and Barrington, and most recently Chicago, which provide transitional housing for over 90 women and children each night.

For more information about WINGS or to sign up for the event's 2007 committee, please call Jennifer at 847-908-0910 x10. Visit WINGS on-line at [www.wingsprogram.com](http://www.wingsprogram.com).

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