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WINGS Gears Up for Annual Motorcycle Raffle and Ride

On June 3, 2006 WINGS will host its 7th Annual Benefit Ride at Bootleggers in Antioch, IL. At 5:00 pm one lucky winner will walk away with \$10,000 cash or a 2007 Harley Davidson Road King Classic. Registration for the event is \$20 per person and includes lunch and one poker hand – those registering before May 1st will get a commemorative t-shirt and pin and a chance at a \$100 bonus prize. Raffle tickets for the bike also run \$20 a piece.

All proceeds from the event and the sales of raffle tickets will benefit WINGS housing and services it provides to women and children struggling with homelessness and domestic violence in the north and northwest suburbs of Chicago.

Jennifer Djordjevic, Director of Public Relations for WINGS, says, “Last year volunteers and supporters helped raise nearly \$75,000 for the women and children at WINGS. This year we hope to pass that number as well as increase the number of participants.”

Last year the event drew over 500 riders. This year the event has expanded to include a vendor fair and additional raffle prizes. The ride will also feature the band Kickin Kountry, food, and a DJ. The grand raffle will take place at 5:00 however; the winner does not need to be present.

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Cornerstone Bank in Palatine has offered to underwrite the sales tax, title, license and registration fees for the winner.

In addition to the festivities WINGS, is has done a mass mailing to past participants as well as developed a monthly e-news alert to let participants know how things are going before the big day. A new website www.wingsbenefitride.com is also being launched in the next few weeks.

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 hundreds of individuals flee from domestic violence. When full, the facility can house up to 45 women and children each night and provides women with medical, legal, and financial advocacy as well as therapeutic counseling and access to housing and other resources.

“We are in need of more funding to sustain the operations of the Safe House,” said Darr. “That’s why support of our fundraising efforts is more important than ever right now. Whether purchasing a raffle ticket or making a donation, people will be making a difference and ultimately helping women and children escape the devastation of domestic violence.”

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

For more information about WINGS or the 7th Annual Benefit Ride visit www.wingsbenefitride.com. To purchase raffle tickets, please call Jennifer at 847-908-0910 x10.

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