

Date: November 1, 2006

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**The Corporate Cycling Challenge** announced it will be donating over \$8,000 in proceeds to Eastern Nebraska Trails Network (ENTN). This is the largest donation to date. Bob Mancuso, Jr., one of the coordinators from the Corporate Cycling Challenge Committee, said the event was a success!

The 16th annual Corporate Cycling Challenge was held Sunday, August 20, 2006 in Omaha. There were both Corporate and Open Divisions. Over 2,500 cyclists, a new record, rode in the largest one day bicycle event in the Midwest!

The Challenge included three tours --- 10-, 25-, and 42- miles long, featuring beautiful scenery and historical landmarks in a blend of urban and rural riding. The participants were a mix of all ages and abilities. The start and finish line was staged in front of the fountain at the Heartland of America Park, on 8th and Farnam in Omaha.

In the Corporate Division, the overall company winner with the most number of miles completed was Union Pacific. The Union Pacific Team for the 3rd year in a row took the top honors. Former perennial champion UNMC/NMC (University of Nebraska Medical Center/Nebraska Medical Center) came in 2<sup>nd</sup> overall. The Union Pacific employees completed over 6,174 miles – a new corporate team record. The division winners were: AAA – Union Pacific, AA – ACI Worldwide (Transaction System Architects), A – URS Corporation, and B- The Bike Rack. There were over 39,845 total miles completed by the corporate entrants and over 52,900 total miles overall completed in this year's Corporate Cycling Challenge – both new records.

Mancuso said the weather was fantastic for riding this year and it was a beautiful day to just be outside. At the finish line, the cyclists enjoyed music provided by Q 98 Five Radio Station, commentary from Tyson Pearsall from KPTM, a cookout from Hy-Vee, massages, SOBE Beverage, and Powerade! There also was a giant 30-foot Coca-Cola bottle provided by Coca-Cola guarding the fountain at the Heartland of America Park entrance!

Mancuso said the Corporate Cycling Challenge's donation of funds to ENTN is a good match. ENTN advocates and supports the development of multi-use trails throughout Omaha and the surrounding areas. Gary Gebhard, President of ENTN, said the funds will be a tremendous addition to our trail development activities.

The Corporate Cycling Challenge has donated over \$76,250 to ENTN since it's inception. This past year, ENTN donated \$25,000 to the Back to the River Project toward the Missouri River Pedestrian Bridge. Gebhard said the bridge will connect trails and communities – the 2,700 foot span bridge – will connect nearly 150 miles of trails.

Gebhard said past rides have enabled ENTN to make contributions to the Field Club Trail, the Boulevard Trail (in Dundee Area), and the Lied Platte River Bridge on the Platte River to name a few. The Lied Platte River Bridge Project was the project that finally brought together trails from Lincoln to Omaha.

Mancuso said, "An event like this isn't possible without all of the volunteers and the sponsors. We would especially like to thank our main sponsors – KPTM – Fox 42 Television Station, Q 98 Five Radio Station, Alltel Cellular, Hy-Vee, The Taste of Omaha, Olympia Cycle, Coca-Cola, Powerade, The Fall Home & Garden Expo, Budget Car & Truck Rental, Sam and Louie's New York Pizzeria, Ideal Pure Water, SOBE Beverage Drink, Dex, Accent Limousine, Activate Omaha, Omaha Police Department, Carter Lake Police Department, Heartland React, Omaha Fire Dept Medi-Bike Team, Omaha School of Massage Therapy, Douglas County Police Dept, Washington County Police Dept, Universal College of Healing Arts, Whole Body Health Chiropractic, Funk Family Chiropractic, Crossroads Massage Clinic, and Wells Blue Bunny.

Next year's 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Corporate Cycling Challenge is scheduled for Sunday, August 19, 2007! If you would like to be put on the mailing list, are interested in being a sponsor, or would like more information, contact the Corporate Cycling Challenge office at 932-RIDE (7433). You can also visit our web site at <http://corporatecycling.com>.

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