



Contact:
Sarah Lemagie
PR & Communications Officer
The Minneapolis Foundation
slemagie@mplsfoundation.org
Desk: (612) 672-3877
Cell: (612) 986-0916

Local cyclists turn out in droves to give back while pedaling in #TourDeNice

MINNEAPOLIS (July 10, 2016) — Local cyclists logged 4,505 bike sharing trips on Saturday, July 9, triggering donations to support community needs in the #TourDeNice.

The Minneapolis Foundation and Nice Ride teamed up to host #TourDeNice, encouraging people all over Minneapolis-Saint Paul to support local charities simply by hopping on a Nice Ride bike.

For every Nice Ride trip taken in Minneapolis-Saint Paul on Saturday, The Minneapolis Foundation pledged to donate \$1 to support local nonprofit organizations. Those funds – a total of \$4,505 – went into a “winner’s pot” that is being divided between the nonprofits represented by the top three riders (below) who competed in the #TourDeNice, a bike sharing challenge held Saturday morning in downtown Minneapolis. The top rider’s nonprofit will receive 50% of the pot, with the second-place rider’s nonprofit receiving 30% and the third-place rider receiving 20%.

The 11 riders in the nonprofit challenge, which started at Gold Medal Park, competed to see who could visit the most Nice Ride stations in two hours. Riders could also earn bonus points for returning to Gold Medal Park by 11 a.m., and for tweeting a photo of themselves during the challenge.

The winners of the challenge are:

First place

Nonprofit: Metro Meals on Wheels
Rider: Grant Boelter
Donation: \$2,252.50 (50% of winner's pot)

Second place

Nonprofit: NAMI Minnesota (National Alliance on Mental Illness)
Rider: Emily Wade
Donation: \$1,351.50 (30% of winner's pot)

Third place

Nonprofit: Think Small
Rider: Marie Huey
Donation: \$901 (20% of winner's pot)

"Thanks to the generosity of so many people during yesterday's #TourDeNice, The Minneapolis Foundation was able to support the important work that these nonprofits are doing to address critical needs in our community," said R.T. Rybak, The Minneapolis Foundation's President and CEO. "The tragedies we have seen these last few days remind us how much work we have to do in our community, and yesterday's #TourDeNice reminds us how many people in Minneapolis are taking big and small actions to make people's lives better."

"Our community is fortunate to have a strong network of nonprofits that are doing amazing work to address a wide range of local needs," said Nice Ride spokesman Ian Reed. "We're so grateful to The Minneapolis Foundation and all the riders who participated in the #TourDeNice – and for all the people who checked out Nice Ride bikes this weekend to support them."

For a complete list of riders in the nonprofit challenge, go to <http://www.minneapolisfoundation.org/tourdenice>.

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About The Minneapolis Foundation: For more than 100 years, The Minneapolis Foundation has connected people, resources, and ideas to enrich our community and the world. The Foundation manages more than \$700 million in assets, providing customized and tax-smart giving solutions that result in the average annual distribution of more than \$50 million in grants. The Foundation brings people together to unite behind common goals and spark positive change in our community. www.minneapolisfoundation.org

About Nice Ride: Launched in 2010, Nice Ride Minnesota is the nonprofit organization that operates the Twin Cities bike sharing system. Our mission is to enhance the quality of our urban life by providing a convenient, easy-to-use bike sharing program that will provide residents and visitors a healthy, fun, and reliable way to get around town. We are part of a growing community of people and organizations working for active lifestyles, vibrant cities, and livable public spaces. We're helping build that community by making it easy for everyone to ride a bike and to feel safe and welcome while riding. www.niceridemn.org