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Twin Cities sets new bike sharing record

The Minneapolis Foundation and Nice Ride Minnesota organized the #NicestDayEver to celebrate the Foundation's Centennial

MINNEAPOLIS (June 28, 2015) — Twin Cities cyclists pedaled their way to a new bike sharing record on Saturday—and raised money to provide bikes to kids in need while they were at it. Local cyclists logged 5,613 trips with Nice Ride Minnesota, the most ever recorded by Nice Ride in a 24-hour period.

Nice Ride and The Minneapolis Foundation teamed up to push for the new record, organizing the #NicestDayEver on Saturday to celebrate the Foundation's 100th anniversary. For every Nice Ride trip taken anywhere in the Twin Cities that day, the Foundation pledged to donate \$1 to Free Bikes 4 Kidz. As a birthday gift to the community, the Foundation also made a grant to Nice Ride for its community-based program and underwrote the cost of complimentary 24-hour Nice Ride passes that were distributed on Saturday at half a dozen Nice Ride stations throughout Minneapolis.

“Minneapolis is famous for being a place where people will go the extra mile for a good cause—especially on bikes,” said Sandra Vargas, President and CEO of The Minneapolis Foundation. “We’re thrilled to cap off our first century of community building by helping the Twin Cities set this record, while simultaneously supporting a local nonprofit that is making a difference for our kids.”

Nice Ride's previous single-day ridership record was set on July 26, 2014, with 4,486 trips logged. “It’s been a phenomenal year for Nice Ride,” said Nice Ride spokesman Anthony Ongaro. “Minneapolis is one of the most bike-friendly cities in the nation, and that has a lot to do with the commitment that residents and local organizations—including The Minneapolis Foundation—have shown to this community over the years.”

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About The Minneapolis Foundation: For 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.mpls100.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