

Good Support for JohnnyRide 2007

Thanks to the generosity of more than fifty donors, JohnnyRide 2007 will fund several scholarships again next year and make another nice deposit in the JohnnyRide Scholarship Fund. The theme for this year's event – Stroll, Walk, Run, Ride – was perhaps persuasive in getting several new participants to stroll, walk, or ride. JohnnyRide attracted no runners.

Held on an absolutely gorgeous fall day on Saturday, September 22, the JohnnyRide picnic at a new Minnehaha State Park pavilion drew about the same number as last year, but with several new faces. Picnic activities included a silent auction of donated items and a raffle for an official, signed Green Bay Packers football that raised more than \$500.

Instead of tee shirts as in the past, this year's JohnnyRide featured large, white bandanas with the JohnnyRide 2007 logo printed in blue. Everyone who participated in or attended the event received a bandana. Donors who contributed \$100 or more also received bandanas.

The fund-raising effort of JohnnyRide 2007 received a big boost with a donation of \$500 from Rita and Doug Podolak in memory of Rita's parents, Oliver DuRand (1916-2006) and Ollie Nelson DuRand (1917-2005). Rita comes from the Oliver-Simeon-Felix Durand line. In making her donation Rita wrote, "I don't want any fanfare, but rather [want to] challenge others to match or increase their donations to a great cause."

Another donor is still a mystery. M.C. Gorman used PayPal to make a \$20 donation, noting that the donation comes "from a distant cousin, descended from Virginie (Ephiginie) Durand." The DHF genealogy does not list anyone with the name Gorman.

The traveling trophy of Betsy the Holstein was awarded to Giselle Durand, age eight, who is the youngest member of her generation to ride a bike in JohnnyRide. The youngest participant was her brother Stuart, age 20 months, who along with his brother Ellis was pulled in a contraption behind her bike by his mother, Julie Durand. Giselle and Julie rode more than five miles.

Alice and Pat Keppel organized the picnic and silent auction and Anne Fick provided "sag wagon" support. Anne's husband Chuck has ridden in all four JohnnyRides, as has Peter Durand.

Unlike previous years, JohnnyRide 2007 was a one-day event. Next year's JohnnyRide will also be one day and is scheduled for Saturday, September 20 in the Twin Cities.

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