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**PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release**

Lisa Hagens
Volunteer Marketing Director
Northland 300
952-380-8911
lisahagens11@msn.com

NORTHLAND 300 SNOWMOBILERS RAISE \$182,000 PLUS FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS!

Riding for a Reason! Lack of snow didn't stop Northland 300 snowmobilers from raising funds and riding for a cause near and dear to their heart, Special Olympics Minnesota. Opening Ceremonies held Thursday, January 26 at Superior Shores Resort in Two Harbors kicked off the 24th annual event. Special Olympics athletes from the Two Harbors area ran in the "Flame of Hope" for the first time in 2012. Special Guest Mayor of Two Harbors, Randy Bolen, wished 74 riders well. Jim Glaser sang the National Anthem and Two Harbors American Legion Color Guard were present. A special invocation was given by Father Michael Lyons from Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Two Harbors. Riders departed in teams, stopping at checkpoints along the way before arriving in Tower where sleds were dropped and the riding began on area lakes and trails.

Announced at Saturday's evening banquet, 2012 Northland 300 snowmobilers raised \$182,456 (\$146,022 Cash + \$36,434 In-Kind) for Special Olympics Minnesota.

The Baker's Dozen (top 13 fundraisers) raised a total of \$73,703:

1. Mike Richards	\$10,225
2. Ken Deminsky	\$9,190
3. Deb Auer	\$5,294
4. Janel Vorel	\$3,807
5. Jim Reger	\$3,366
6. Meaghan Dahl	\$3,259
7. Pooker Meister	\$3,025
8. Lisa Hagens	\$2,601
9. Chad Zawacki	\$2,439
10. Bob Adamek	\$2,255
11. Kris Possehl	\$2,239
12. Steve Matthews	\$2,198
13. Kathy Karkula	(Undisclosed but qualified)

Northland 300 Special Awards were presented to:

Jim Reger – “John Marschall Tough Luck Award” (for tough luck but not stupidity)

Meaghan Dahl – “Tom Patterson Northlander of the Year Award” (for going above and beyond the call of duty)

Marc Williams – “Steve Jaeger Spirit Award” (for believing in the Team Spirit)

Casey Heller – “CJ Ramstad Unsung Hero Award (for the participant who quietly does good for the ride)

Meaghan Dahl – “Old Into Gold Award” (for turning in the most used cell phones)

Marc Williams and Kathy Karkula were recognized for being involved with the Northland 300 for all 24 years.

Northland 300 Sponsor Awards were presented to Gold Medal Sponsors: Fortune Bay Resort Casino, Hitching Post Motorsports, Jimmy’s Food & Drink, ProPaint Metro, Inc, Riteway Forms and Mfg, Superior Shores Resort, Walman Optical and Daniel J. Young, Esq; Silver Medal Sponsors: Ken Deminsky, Foley & Mansfield, Western Petroleum (Castrol) and Merrill Lynch; Bronze Medal Sponsors: Brainerd International Raceway, Caliber, Discount Tire-Stillwater, IBEW Local 110, Jude Vending, NAPA Auto Parts, Kevin Gallahue/PSA Charities, SMW Entertainment, Sportech/ERX Motor Park, Tech Toads, Tire Proz & Wheel Experts, U-Haul Trucks, Ultimate Mechanical Services, Janel & Tom Vorel, 3P’s-Perfect Party Planners and Northland 300 Partners: Arpwave, BT Design, DeEtte Leckner, MN United Snowmobilers Association, MSPN, Rock Star Gourmet, Inc. and The Toro Company.

Winners of the 2012 Northland 300 Raffle:

1ST PRIZE: Vera Olsen, Two Harbors, MN (2011 Yamaha Grizzly 550 FI ATV-Sponsored by Hitching Post Motorsports)

2ND PRIZE: Mike Walker, New Richmond, WI (\$1000 Cash-Sponsored by Ken Deminsky, Northland 300 Participant)

3RD PRIZE: Bill St. Martin, Mendota, MN (Brainerd International Raceway Performance Driving School for One Person-Sponsored by Brainerd International Raceway)

4TH PRIZE: Terry Kubach, White Bear Lake, MN (\$700 Travel Voucher-Sponsored by IBEW Local 110)

5TH PRIZE: Ken Deminsky, Champlin, MN (Champagne Weekend for Two at Superior Shores Resort-Donated by Superior Shores Resort, Two Harbors, MN)

6TH PRIZE: Bob Hoppe, Vadnais Heights, MN (Fortune Bay Weekend for Two-Sponsored by Fortune Bay Casino Resort)

7TH PRIZE: Shawn Novak, Savage, MN (\$500 Gas Card-Sponsored by Ken Deminsky, Northland 300 Participant)

8TH PRIZE: Roxi Lovgrer, Somerset, WI (\$500 Cub Grocery Card-Sponsored by Foley & Mansfield, PLLP)

9TH PRIZE: Don Briner, Canyon, MN (\$400 Gift Certificate-Tire Proz-Donated by Tire Proz - Stillwater & Hudson)

10TH PRIZE: Tim Peters, Minneapolis, MN (\$350 Store Gift Certificate-Stillwater Discount Package-Sponsored by Discount Tires - Stillwater)

Northland 300 participants have raised more than \$3.6 Million for Special Olympics Minnesota in 24 years.

Special Olympics Minnesota provides year round sports training and competition for people with intellectual disabilities that contribute to life-long physical fitness, personal growth and achievements.

For additional information, visit www.northland300.org or www.specialolympicsminnesota.org or contact Kathy Karkula at 612-789-2081 or karkulak@hotmail.com.