



Fishing Fundraiser for Freedom from Addiction

When you combine fishing, faith, and a passion to free those battling addictions, amazing things can happen. For the 13th year in a row, everyone from kids to fishing celebrities attended the Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge Fishing Challenge on Saturday, June 5. The humid event was back in-person this year and registration was full more than a week before the event with 150 eager teams. Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge is a faith-based treatment center with short and long-term programs and anglers raised more than \$435,000 to help people find freedom from addiction. The cumulative amount generated from this family-friendly tournament since 2009 exceeds \$2.9 million.

More than 300 anglers fishing on Gull Lake near Brainerd caught fish and brought them to the scale at Cragun's Resort. Several hundred onlookers beat the heat by moving their chairs to the water while enjoying the weigh off and listening to the Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge choir perform.

“The event was as much a fun-raiser as it was a fund-raiser to save lives of people trapped in chemical addiction. We are seeing amazing things happen and restoring broken families,” said tournament director Bernie Barringer.

Tournament host Al Lindner said, “This is about saving lives and fishing, what a great combination! Thank you to the participants and the entire community for helping make this event a huge success and for their continued support of Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge.”

The McDonald's big walleye award went to Kyle Agre for his 9.26-pound walleye, and the Woods to Water Real Estate Big Bass Award was awarded to Mark Anderson of Baxter for a bigmouth bass weighing 3.8 pounds. Both men were awarded a giant 3-foot long Rapala Lure autographed by Al Lindner. Meanwhile, the top three student-angler teams won \$1,000 for college scholarships from Sea Foam. In all, 50 teams earned a trip through the prize tent. Prizes including guided fishing trips, rods, reels, electronics, trolling motors, and quality tackle.

Additionally, each team that raised at least \$500 was entered into a drawing for a new Lund boat powered by Mercury and outfitted with Humminbird and Minn Kota electronics. The \$20,000 rig was won by the team of Sergi Schvetzoff and Kevin Hennessey of Minnetonka.

The funds raised at this event allows Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge to accept people seeking freedom from addiction, regardless of their ability to pay. The 2022 fundraising tournament will hit the waters again next year on Saturday, June 4, 2022.