

INAUGURAL MARYLAND ENDURANCE CHALLENGE TO TAKE PLACE MAY 20TH

Bike Ride is affiliated with the UltraMarathon Cycling Association (UMCA) and World Cup Series

Frederick, MD, January 20, 2017 - Student Homelessness Initiative Partnership (SHIP) of Frederick County, a leading non-profit charity that provides urgent services to the hundreds of Frederick County Public School students that experience homelessness each year, is pleased to announce the inaugural Maryland Endurance Challenge which will take place on Saturday, May 20th, 2017. The event, a fundraiser for SHIP, will include a 12-hour, 6-hour, and 3-hour timed bike rides over pristine roads in scenic northern Frederick County, Maryland.

Starting on the picturesque campus of Mt. Saint Mary's University, cyclists competing in the 12- and 6-hour events will initially follow a thirty-three mile loop before moving over to a 6-mile loop. With the route's flat to mildly rolling terrain, it's expected that the leading competitors in the 12-hour event will exceed 180 miles over the course of that ride. Three-hour competitors will compete solely on the six-mile loop.

"We are excited to once again welcome cyclists to Frederick County", according to John Fieseler, Executive Director of Visit Frederick, the Tourism Council of Frederick County. "The routes showcase the beauty of our area and we hope riders will spend some extra time here. Cyclists and their families will have the opportunity to experience Frederick city, full of unique shops and restaurants, plus covered bridges, forests, streams and farmland in the surrounding countryside. They'll get a sense of why this is an increasingly popular destination for bicyclists and outdoor enthusiasts from the nearby DC and Baltimore metropolitan areas and beyond."

According to Larry Oslund, UMCA Board Member and Membership Chair, "We're very excited to be working with SHIP as Frederick is the perfect locale for a UMCA-sanctioned event given its proximity to all of the major metros in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions. Having a World Cup Series event in Frederick will help our members immensely in the accomplishment of their annual goals." Duncan Glenday, Event Director, added "we're keenly focused on providing the right circumstances for UMCA riders to have the optimal cycling experience complete with all of the amenities and comforts that Frederick County provides."

The Maryland Endurance Challenge is open to all cyclists. The event will start on the East Campus grounds at Mt. Saint Mary's University in northern Frederick County. Registration is available online at www.MDEnduranceChallenge.com.

For further information, contact Ed Hinde, Executive Director for SHIP of Frederick County. Telephone number (240) 385-9172 or write info@ShipFrederick.com.