



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ride Now for Autism is a Shore Bet for Autism Research

Philadelphia, PA, (August 13, 2007)—On October 7, 2007, *ING DIRECT Ride Now* for Autism will flood the Atlantic City Expressway with a sea of chrome. In its second year, the *ING DIRECT Ride Now* for Autism is a world-class motorcycling event dedicated to raising funds for autism research and raising awareness for autism spectrum disorders (ASDs). The ride begins at Boeing Helicopter, Ridley Park, Pa (at I-95 Exit #8), and continues, with a full police escort, to Atlantic City, NJ. In Atlantic City, participants will be treated to an exclusive party at The Deck overlooking the Farley State Marina located at the Trump Marina Hotel Casino. Registration opens at 10:00 a.m., the ride begins at 1:00 p.m. and the celebration at Trump Marina starts at 3:00 p.m.

“This event is unlike any ride in this region” said event organizer, Doug Fischer. “We have received an overwhelming amount of support from the motorcycle community, our corporate sponsors, ING DIRECT and the management team at Trump Marina. The event offers participants an experience that isn’t duplicated in any other one-day motorcycling event in the area.”

There has been a significant increase in public awareness of autism in recent months. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recently released new prevalence statistics that show one in every 150 children today will be diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder, making it a more common diagnosis than previously thought.

“We are excited to be a part of this year’s *ING DIRECT Ride Now* for Autism event and join in the mission to raise funds for autism research,” said Arkadi Kuhlmann, President and CEO of ING DIRECT USA. “All types and styles of motorcycles are encouraged to participate in the ride and help us bring hope to millions of individuals with autism.”

The registration fee for *ING DIRECT Ride Now* for Autism is \$30, which includes the ride, an exclusive *ING DIRECT Ride Now* for Autism t-shirt and pin, food, entertainment and the party at Trump Marina. To register in advance, please visit www.canridenow.org or call 1-(888) 8-AUTISM. Riders are encouraged to pre-register to facilitate planning, however on-site registration is available at either end of the event. While hundreds of bikers are expected to participate in the *ING DIRECT Ride Now* for Autism, those who cannot make the ride can still

help raise funds for autism research and join the celebration at Trump Marina.

For more information, please visit www.canridenow.org, email ridenow@comcast.net or call 1-(888) 8-AUTISM. Organizers of the 2007 *ING DIRECT Ride Now* for Autism Philadelphia motorcycling event include: Doug Fischer and Rob Rzeczkowski (Wallingford, Pa), Laurie Riggs Maxwell (Swarthmore), Joe Carr (Aston), John and Pattie Gillespie (Philadelphia), Connie Meade (Philadelphia) and Kim Goodman (Atlantic City).

ING DIRECT does business online, over the phone and by mail. Without the overhead and high operational costs of other banks, savings is passed onto customers. Their unique approach to banking is backed by ING (NYSE:ING), a global financial institution of Dutch origin offering banking, insurance and asset management to over 60 million private, corporate and institutional clients in more than 50 countries. ING employs over 112,000 people in 50 countries, including more than 10,000 in the US, and has been operating in America for over 100 years. ING DIRECT is a member of the FDIC (Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation) which insures bank deposits up to \$100,000. ING DIRECT is headquartered in Wilmington, Delaware.

ING DIRECT Ride Now for Autism Philadelphia benefits the Cure Autism Now Foundation (www.cureautismnow.org) and Autism Speaks (www.autismspeaks.org), two newly merged non-profit organizations dedicated to promoting and funding critical autism research. This combined organization is now the largest private-entity that funds biomedical research in autism. Cure Autism Now and Autism Speaks have funded more than \$50 million in research grants, outreach and scientific resources since 1995.

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Autism is a neuro-developmental disorder that now affects as many as one in every 150 children. Characterized by varying degrees of impairment in communication skills, social interactions, and restricted, repetitive and stereotyped patterns of behavior, children with autism can exhibit symptoms that run from mild to severe with widely differing symptom profiles.

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