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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TEAMS COMPETE IN ANNUAL JIGSAW PUZZLE TOURNAMENT

Nearly 90 people of all ages competed in this year's North Platte Public Library (NPPL) Foundation Jigsaw Puzzle Tournament on Saturday, January 23rd at Bethel Evangelical Free Church. This year puzzlers came from as far away as Kansas and California to compete in the tournament. The annual event is a fundraising event for the North Platte Public Library Foundation. According to Sara Aden, Assistant Library Director, this year's tournament was probably the best one yet. "Our group gets better each year at the organization of the tournament and it's a good thing because each year the tournament seems to grow and gain more interest. It's a lot of fun to watch the different strategies people have while puzzling and the competition factor pushes puzzling beyond pastime into a sport", Aden said.

Puzzlers competed in one of five divisions this year. The Elementary School Division had 18 teams competing in it this year. The Jaguars from Jefferson Elementary and sponsored by Affordable Storage completed their 200 piece puzzle in 23 minutes 15 seconds. Jefferson will house a traveling elementary school trophy this year for their efforts.

The Middle School Division had 6 teams competing this year. The Dynamite Duo keeps the traveling middle school trophy at Madison this year. Their team was sponsored by Bernice Ready and they completed their 300 piece puzzle in 57 minutes 8 seconds.

Four people competed in the Adult Individual Division and the winner was Dianne by the Pieces. Dianne completed her 500 piece puzzle in 1 hour 42 minutes 56 seconds. She loves to puzzle and has always wanted to participate in a puzzle tournament. She found this one, sponsored herself, and traveled from California to compete in the tournament.

Thirteen teams competed in the Adult 2-Person Division. The winners were Stockman's Vet Team sponsored by Stockman's Veterinary Clinic. They completed their 500 piece puzzle in 1 hour 18 minutes 7 seconds. Half of this mother/daughter team traveled from Kansas to compete in their second puzzle tournament. They managed to beat their competition despite a few interruptions from their infant sidekick and their future third generation puzzler.

Three teams competed in the Adult 4-Person Division. Fitters Four, sponsored by TC Engineering, took first place by completing their 750 piece puzzle in 2 hours 24 minutes 8 seconds. This team is no stranger to the competition; at least one member has competed in all six puzzle tournaments.

Prizes were awarded to first, second, and third place winners in each division. Complete results, sponsors list, and photos from the tournament will be posted online at <http://www.npplfoundation.org>.

The event raised approximately \$4,000 for the NPPL Foundation. The NPPL Foundation would like to express its thanks to the following donors and sponsors: Affordable Storage, Bethel Evangelical Free Church, Bible Supplies, Linda Broge, Candy's Cupcakery, CG Architects, DDM Land Management, Scott & Linda Dishman, Fitzpatrick Ear Nose and Throat Clinic, Friends of the Library, Blaine and Sue Gillett, Grease Monkey of North Platte, Great Plains Regional Medical Center, Hair Loft Inc., Harlan Herrick - Gateway Realty, Huebner's Lawn & Garden, Bill Kackmeister, Knapp Electric, Cecelia Lawrence, Mike & Becky Leet, McDonalds of North Platte, Mid-Nebraska Physical Therapy & Sports Center, NebraskaLand National Bank, Cindy Norman, North Platte OB/GYN - Drs. Trierweiler, Weaver, Johng, and Bianco,

Dianne Obanion, Bernice Ready, Rob & Paulette Stefka, Stockman's Veterinary Clinic, TC Engineering Inc., U-Save Pharmacy, Westfield Pharmacy, Hallmark Floral & Gifts, and Wiseman Chiropractic Wellness Center.

The NPPL Foundation is a volunteer fundraising organization, dedicated to enhancing the services and facilities of the North Platte Public Library. Their current goal is to raise \$1 million to offset a future library bond issue.

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If you would like more information about the tournament, please contact Morgan Greenwood at 308-660-2727 or Sara Aden at adensj@ci.north-platte.ne.us or 308-535-8036.