

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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The Courage Cup Seeks to Correct Erroneous Information Disseminated by Greg Ball

The Courage Cup, a Virginia corporation is releasing the following statement to correct the false statements circulated by Mr. Greg Ball on January 24, 2007, and to assure The Courage Cup attendees and sponsors that the 2007 Courage Cup is alive and well and set for June 16, 2007 at Sheila C. Johnson Field at Great Meadow Polo Club in The Plains, Virginia.

Mr. Ball organized the original event referred to as the Courage Cup, a charity polo match to raise money for Work to Ride, a 501 (c)(3) non-profit community-based prevention program that aids disadvantaged urban youth through constructive activities centered on horsemanship, equine sports and education. However, in 2005, Mr. Ball decided to pursue his political aspirations in New York state, and transferred all event management and complete responsibility for the event to Keri Ann Meslar, who with Andrea Rodgers and Jennifer Doherty formed the current 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation with a new Board of Directors to oversee and plan the 2006 event in a professional, legal and financially sound manner. Key objectives of the new board were

- To pay off the debts owed to local business who had been left with unpaid invoices from the previous Courage Cup event
- To ensure that all the charitable proceeds go to the claimed beneficiary - Work to Ride.
- To ensure that the organization was legally established consistent with local ordinances, covered by proper insurance and a responsible entity to its stakeholders, submitting appropriate filings with the IRS

The Courage Cup board did not invite Mr. Ball to be on the board due to differences in opinion and practices regarding the management and responsibility of the organization. Mr. Ball has never been on the legally founded board of The Courage Cup.

With the creation of the non-profit corporation and under the leadership of The Courage Cup board, the 2006 Courage Cup was a huge success:

- The 2006 Courage Cup in partnership, with Great Meadow, home of the Gold Cup, and Capitol File magazine, The Courage Cup event more than doubled the

attendance of any previous Courage Cup, received the most coverage of any polo party in the region including The Washington Post and other social magazines in the DC area.

- The 2006 Courage Cup raised 8 times as much money for the inner city kids at Work to Ride than in the previous years; and the US Polo Association honored the event by using the Courage Cup event to present its prestigious national image of polo trophy and award to Lezlie Hiner and the Work to Ride Program; and for the first time The Courage Cup received national level coverage.
- In 2006, unlike previous years The Courage Cup ended the event in the black; all vendors and bills were paid; responsible and auditable books were kept.
- Following the 2006 Courage Cup, all the major sponsors and partners were not only highly complimentary of the new professionalism and management of the event, but also expressed a desire to have the event in the same time frame (mid-June) and at the same location (Great Meadow Club).

The Courage Cup continues to support Work to Ride and is again teaming up with Great Meadow Polo Club to host the 2007 Courage Cup on Saturday, June 16, 2007 where the kids of Work to Ride will play side by side some of the world's most famous polo players. Lezlie Hiner, Founder and President of Work to Ride sits on the board of The Courage Cup, and she affirms her commitment to The Courage Cup by stating that the kids of Work to Ride will participate in The Courage Cup at Great Meadow Polo Club. Work to Ride fully supports Andrea Rodgers as President of The Courage Cup, and will not participate in any event led by Mr. Ball.

The Courage Cup board credits Mr. Ball for founding the event and it recognizes his initial stewardship. The Courage Cup regrets that Mr. Ball is putting his personal interests before the event's benefactors by issuing his recent statement. Recently, Mr. Ball expressed an interest in joining the Board of The Courage Cup and getting re-involved in the event. Thus, Mr. Ball's sudden smear campaign has come as a particular shock to The Courage Cup's Board of Directors who are dedicated to make the 2007 Courage Cup an even greater success.

For more information on Work to Ride, Great Meadow Polo Club or The Courage Cup please visit our website at [www.couragecup.org](http://www.couragecup.org).

The Courage Cup  
Board of Directors

Andrea M. Rodgers, President & CEO

Koonal Gandhi, Secretary & Treasurer

Dr. Phillip A. Karber, President of Great Meadow Polo Club and Chairman of US Polo Association Marketing Committee

Lezlie Hiner, Founder and President of Work to Ride