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## MEDIA RELEASE

# Crosby crushes Aitkin in Game of Towns

**\$1,535 RAISED FOR READING PROGRAMS AT RIPPLESIDE ELEMENTARY AND CRES**

**Deerwood, Minn. – May 21, 2018** – The team representing Crosby-Ironton schools easily defeated the team from Aitkin schools in the first-ever Game of Towns Charity Competition yesterday at Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge.

Though the scoreboard read 11-3 in favor of the Rangers, the true winners were Rippleside Elementary School and Cuyuna Range Elementary School (CRES) who both received a check for more than \$750 for their reading programs. Aitkin Principal Jesse Peterson was presented a check for \$780 and CRES elementary received a check for \$755.

"Writing big checks to help schools buy books and foster a lifelong love of reading is one of my favorite things to do," Ruttger's President Chris Ruttger said. "The event was a lot of fun and we look forward to growing into an annual event."

The charity competition included a nine-hole golf scramble, tug-of-war competition, best-dressed golfer, and a community picnic and raffle. The teams from Crosby narrowly edged Aitkin for the golf team championship, best-dressed golfer, and in a gutsy, hard-fought battle overpowered Aitkin in tug-o-war.

Despite being felled as a team, Aitkin fared well in individual competitions. Team "Cinderella Story" consisting of Sam Sadlowsky, Nathan Hagestuen, DJ Hasskan and Alex Gaulke won the golf tournament with a blistering 5-under par 31. Ellie McMillan won the long-drive contest and Heather Gaulke scored with a win in the closest-to-the-pin competition. For winning the individual competitions, they earned additional cash donations to the reading programs of the schools for whom they were playing.

Game of Towns is the signature event of the Ruttger's Enhanced Reading Fund, an on-going charitable initiative dedicated to improving literacy in our community by sharing the love of reading with students. In the last 10 years, Ruttger's has donated a combined \$74,800 to Rippleside Elementary and CRES to assist with their reading programs.

"Ruttger's is thrilled and honored to support the outstanding efforts of the teachers, administrators and staff at CRES and Rippleside who work so hard to teach our kids a love of reading and learning," Ruttger said.

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About Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge... Ruttger's has been welcoming families to the shores of Bay Lake since 1898. It is a truly classic, traditional Minnesota up north vacation destination with rustic cabins, great food and bonfires with s'mores. Located in Deerwood, Minn., Ruttger's features 27 holes of golf, a full marina, spa, three restaurants, a coffee shop, and activities galore.