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Gilbert, Apache Junction, Scottsdale, and Phoenix Residents Win Big in Spring 2007 Health & Wealth Raffle

Young Mom, Healthcare Worker, and Single Dad Win Grand Prize Homes

Raffle proceeds support St. Joseph's Hospital and Barrow Neurological Institute

PHOENIX – April 19, 2007 – A young mother of two, a hospice healthcare worker, and a single father of a teenager with Asperger's syndrome have won the Grand Prize T.W. Lewis luxury homes in the Spring 2007 Health & Wealth Raffle. Names of the four Grand Prize winners were announced this week following the Raffle Final Drawing for 10,098 winners conducted by the accounting firm CBIZ Miller Wagner on Thursday, April 12.

"This Spring 2007 Health & Wealth Raffle marks the fourth year we have announced the names of Grand Prize and top prize winners. But, as exciting as this is for the winners, it is even more exciting to see how the Health & Wealth Raffle is expanding our ability to fund clinical programs, medical education, and research projects at St. Joseph's and Barrow," said Mary Jane Crist, chief executive officer of St. Joseph's Foundation and Barrow Neurological Foundation.

Kathy Rice, Raffle manager, agreed. "We are so fortunate to have a world-renowned medical facility such as St. Joseph's and Barrow in our own backyard. Thanks to the support of residents statewide, Raffle dollars are already working to save lives and improve the quality of life for patients dealing with serious illnesses and conditions. And when talking with the winners over the past few days, I heard over and over that while they are excited about winning a big prize, they really love the fact that they are helping the hospital."

The four Grand Prize winners are:

- **Yvette Sandoval of Gilbert**

Grand Prize #1 is a \$1-million prize package featuring a T.W. Lewis luxury home with a basement in the Finesterra at Valencia community in Chandler, plus a 2007 Lexus IS250 and \$200,000 cash. Sandoval has the option of taking the car and building a home in any T.W. Lewis neighborhood, or she can opt to keep the car and take the cash equivalent of \$1 million.

Yvette Sandoval, who has entered the Raffle before and never won, credits her grandfather for her incredible luck in the Spring 2007 Health & Wealth Raffle.

"I'm just so grateful. I'm ecstatic. I lost my grandfather in January, and I think he is behind this," the 28-year-old mother of two said when she learned she was the top Grand Prize winner in the Health & Wealth Raffle.

Born and raised in Bagdad, Arizona, Sandoval purchased one ticket for \$100 because she wanted to see if she could win a million dollars. She also has a personal connection to St. Joseph's and wanted to show her support for the hospital.

"When I was six-months pregnant with my daughter, Araceli, I was rear-ended and whisked to St. Joseph's Hospital. They did a thorough examination and made sure we were both healthy. Also, before I was pregnant, my nephew Rocky was flown to St. Joseph's when he was having an asthma attack. They took wonderful care of him," she recalled.

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In addition to being a full-time mother to Araceli, 3, and her son, Roman, 2, Sandoval works as a hairstylist on nights and weekends. Her husband, Robert, works in the maintenance department at SRP.

“We have a lot of talking to do,” Sandoval said regarding her prize options. “I’m going to keep the Lexus and we’ll probably take the cash equivalent for the home. We could invest that and use some of it for the kids’ college tuition. I’d also like to take my dream vacation to Hawaii!”

- **Celeste Schaumburg of Apache Junction**

Grand Prize # 2 is a T.W. Lewis luxury home in the Alicante at Valencia community in Chandler, plus a 2007 BMW 325 and \$150,000 cash. Schaumburg has the option of taking the car and building a home in any T.W. Lewis neighborhood, or she can opt to keep the car and take the cash equivalent of \$850,000.

“I’m flabbergasted. I’m just so excited, my heart is in my stomach,” said Celeste Schaumburg, a 43-year-old hospice healthcare worker, upon learning that she won Grand Prize #2 in the Health & Wealth Raffle.

A native Arizonan who has been working in healthcare for more than two decades, Schaumburg has entered the Health & Wealth Raffle each time because of the cause.

“I never expected to win and always liked the fact that by entering, I was helping a good cause. I was excited when I won a camera, a gas blower, and luggage in past Raffles, but I never expected to win such a huge prize,” she said.

Schaumburg purchased a three-pack of tickets for \$250 and said she will take the cash equivalent for the Grand Prize home.

“I plan on buying a couple of goodies and toys, like a motorcycle and a new computer. I also plan to travel,” she said.

- **Joseph Green of Scottsdale**

Grand Prize # 3 is a T.W. Lewis luxury home in the Andorra at Valencia community in Chandler, plus a 2007 Ford Edge and \$100,000 cash. Green has the option of taking the car and building a home in any T.W. Lewis neighborhood, or he can opt to keep the car and take the cash equivalent of \$700,000.

Joseph Green has entered every Health & Wealth Raffle since it began in Spring 2003 and never won a prize. This time he was lucky...he purchased a three-pack of tickets for \$250 and not only won Grand Prize #3, but he also won a DVD player and binoculars.

The 43-year-old single father said he never expected to win, and while he does not have a personal connection to St. Joseph’s Hospital and Barrow, he wanted to show his support for the hospital.

“It is such a great project,” Green said of the Raffle, “I was never discouraged when I did not win because I knew I was helping a good cause.”

Green and his 15-year-old son, Joshua, who has Asperger’s syndrome, would follow each Raffle’s results to see who the big winners were. When Green told Joshua that they had won Grand Prize #3, Joshua replied, “*Finally!*”

A native of Iowa, Green has lived in Arizona since 1982. He works as an assistant sales manager for Republic Beverage and was busy with the Scottsdale Culinary Festival when Kathy Rice, Raffle manager, called him to share the good news.

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“At first I thought it wasn’t real,” he said. “I have six sisters and two brothers and thought maybe they were playing a joke on me. But then when I realized it was real, Joshua and I were high-fiving each other. We’re both very excited!”

Green said he could use a new car and is considering his options. He most likely will take the cash equivalent for the Grand Prize home and then invest the funds and possibly purchase a home closer to where they reside.

- **G. Shorty of Phoenix**

Grand Prize #4 is a Marquis Private Jet Card, which provides 25 hours of flight time on one of the NetJets fleet for up to six people, and \$50,000 cash. Shorty has the option of taking the cash equivalent of \$185,000.

Several other winners shared their stories:

- **Joanne Foster, of Scottsdale, won a 2007 Land Rover Range Rover Sport plus \$19,000 cash.**

“I’m still getting used to the fact that I won a new car, and not just any vehicle...the Land Rover Range Rover is a machine!” Joanne Foster, 44, said.

The native New Yorker moved to Arizona a year ago from Florida and purchased a three-pack of tickets for \$250 by herself, and then a few days later, she split the cost of another three-pack of tickets with a friend. The winning ticket came from the first three-pack she purchased.

“I purchased the first three-pack of tickets the day I received documentation that my divorce was final,” Foster said. “I thought that something good happened to me that day, and since the hospital does such great work, it would be a good way of giving back to a good cause.”

An independent contractor in the insurance industry, Foster said she will take the car, sell it and then invest the funds and possibly take a trip abroad.

- **Mary Curry, of Gilbert, won a 2007 Jaguar S Type 3.0 plus \$16,000 cash.**

The grandmother of 13 cried and was shaking with excitement when she learned she was a big winner in the Health & Wealth Raffle.

A native of South Dakota, Curry spent more than 33 years working in California as a registered nurse for Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center. She purchased a three-pack of tickets for \$250 because she believed in the cause. Now retired, she and her husband, David, are considering whether or not they will keep the Jaguar.

“We’ve entered every Raffle and once won luggage, but we have never won a big prize,” Curry, 63, said. “My two sisters want me to share the car with them, and I told them they could each get a ride.”

Upon finding out that she was a big winner, Curry and her husband spent several hours surfing the Internet to learn more about their prize car.

“It is such an exciting experience, but it has left me drained. The night we learned we won, I asked my husband what *he* was going to make for dinner,” she said.

- **Kathy DeCoster, of Glendale, won a 2007 Honda Civic plus \$6,000 cash.**

When Kathy DeCoster purchased one ticket in the Spring Health & Wealth Raffle, she did not tell anyone that she entered because she never expected to win.

“I wanted to show my support for St. Joseph’s and Barrow,” the 43-year-old mother of four said. “They were so good to us and I’m just so appreciative.”

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DeCoster's youngest son, Kyle, now 7, was in and out of hospitals for the first two years of his life with very high fevers.

"No one could figure out what was wrong with him. When we switched to St. Joseph's, my husband, Ken, and I were so impressed with how they treated us. They did whatever they could to make him comfortable. Even when we went back a month later, the nurses remembered his name. They treated us like family," she said.

A disease specialist at St. Joseph's ran several tests and finally suggested that Kyle's sinus cavities may have been too big for him at the time.

"She told us that he would probably be okay by the time he reached two years old and that is exactly what happened," she said.

A second-generation Arizonan who was born at St. Joseph's, DeCoster entered the Raffle once before in Spring 2003 but did not win a prize. "I just wanted to show my support. I didn't enter to win a prize," she said.

She said her family was shocked and excited when they learned she entered the Raffle and won a big prize.

"We'll probably keep the car for our daughter, Brittany. She is enrolled at Arizona State University and will be going to medical school," she said.

DeCoster works as a cabinetry and furniture designer. She said if they sell the car back to the dealer, they will allocate the funds towards a new home they are building and college tuition.

- **Charlie Brown, of Phoenix, won a 2007 Cadillac DTS plus \$13,000 cash.**

"This is the first time I have ever won anything," Charlie Brown, 71, said. "The timing is perfect. I have a 2001 Cadillac and was considering buying a new car."

Brown purchased two three-packs of tickets for \$250 each because he thought it was "an excellent cause."

When Kathy Rice, Raffle manager, called with the good news, he put her on speakerphone so his girlfriend would believe him.

Brown is considering his options. "I may upgrade my prize car with gold wheels, rims and trim," he said.

- **Janice Ellis, of Flagstaff, won a 2007 Ford Mustang GT-H Coupe plus \$11,000 cash.**

"This is a hot muscle car. I'm 65...this may be a little more car than I need," Janice Ellis said of her new prize car.

Ellis has been purchasing Raffle tickets since 2004 because of the cause. That year, a family friend was in a car accident and treated at St. Joseph's.

"I was so impressed with the hospital and the care that my friend received," she said.

Since learning of her big prize, she has been sharing the exciting news with friends and family, but her husband was a bit skeptical.

"He came home from work and told me to tell him the truth. I not only told him it was real, I showed him a picture of the car," she said.

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Beginning today, ticket holders can access the Health & Wealth Raffle web site www.HealthWealthRaffle.org, and enter their confirmation numbers to see if they have won a prize. All winners will be notified in writing within 10 days. A complete list of winners will also be posted on the Health & Wealth Raffle web site on Tuesday.

The Fall 2007 Health & Wealth Raffle is scheduled to launch after Labor Day. More information can be found at www.HealthWealthRaffle.org.

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